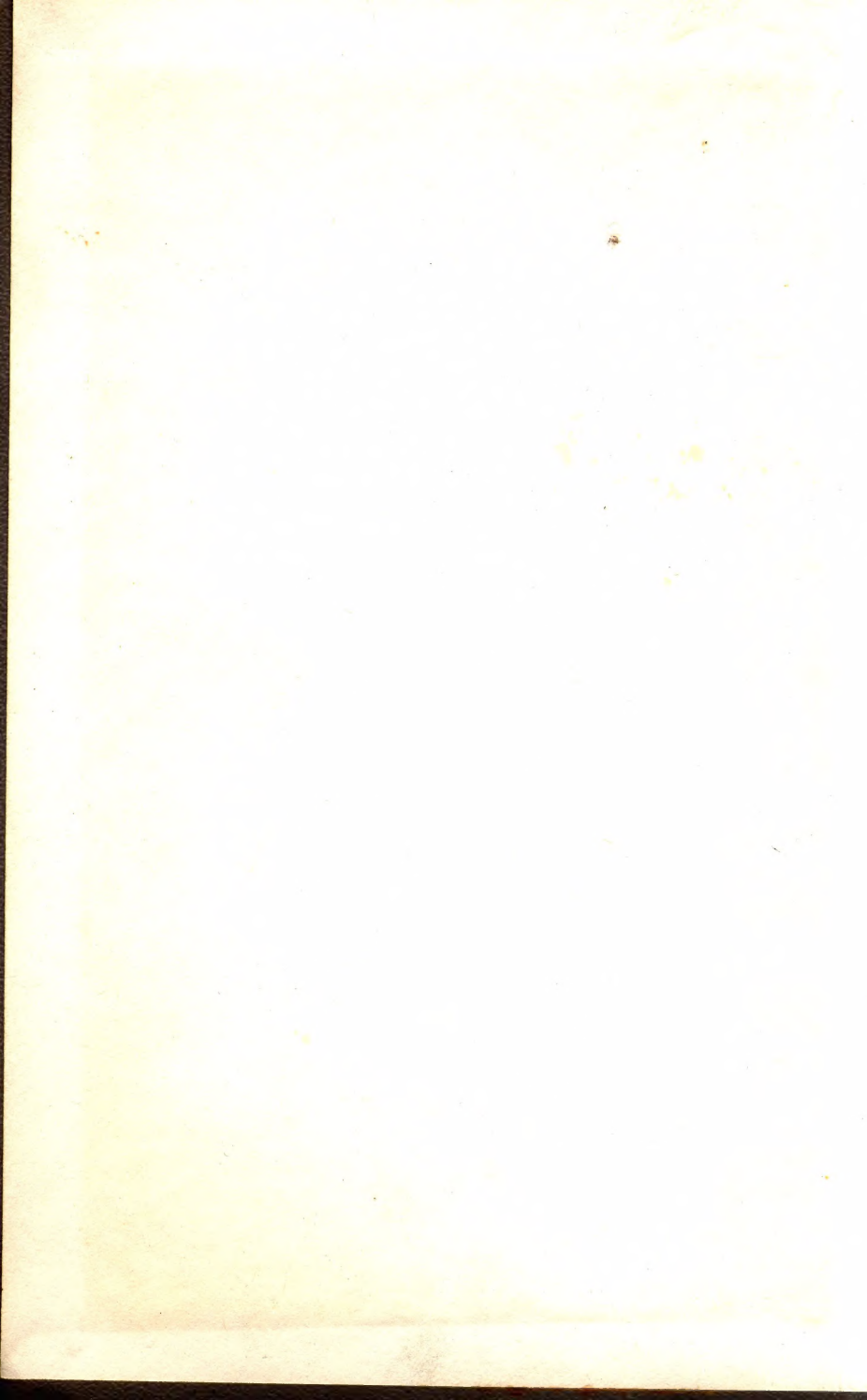
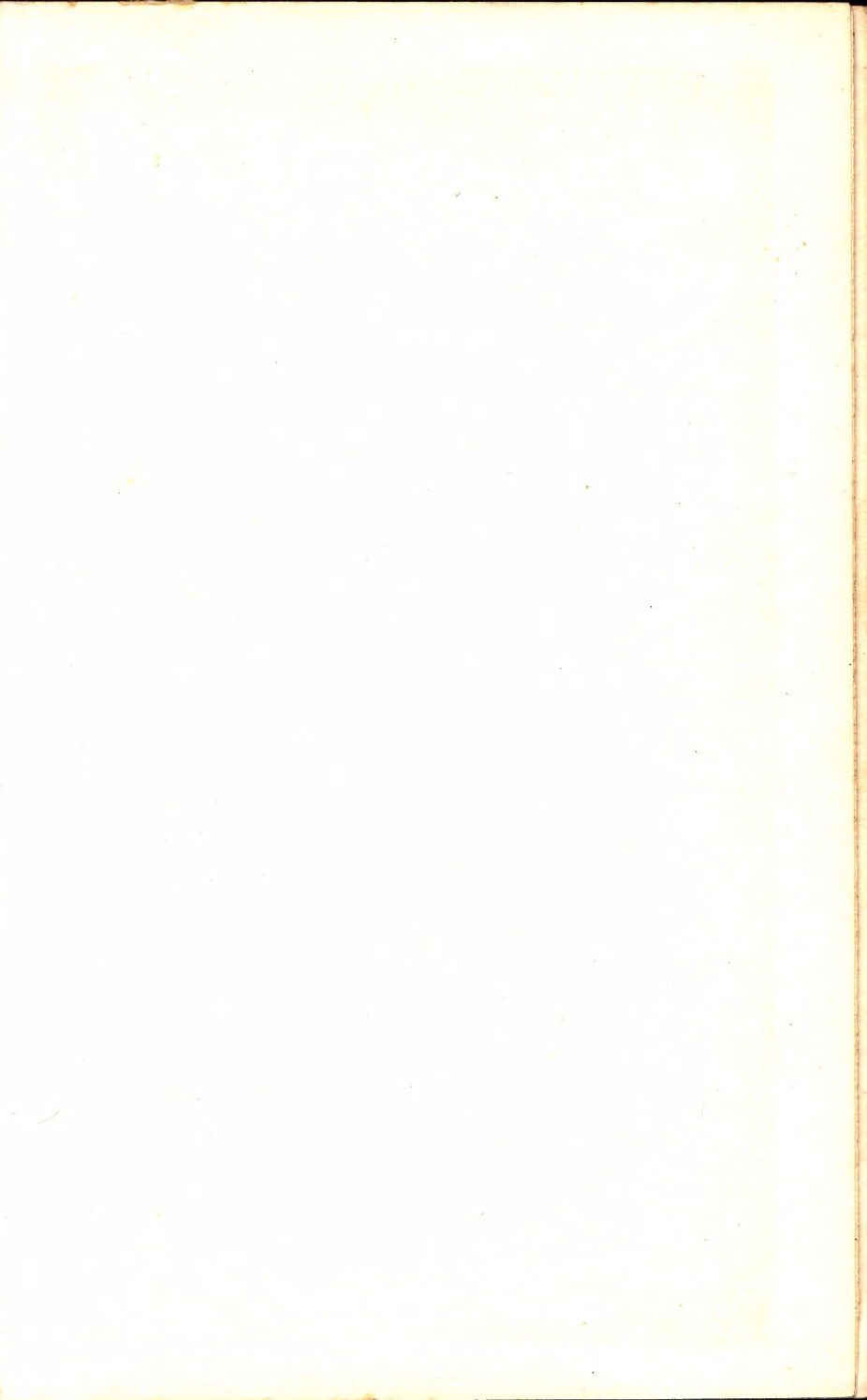
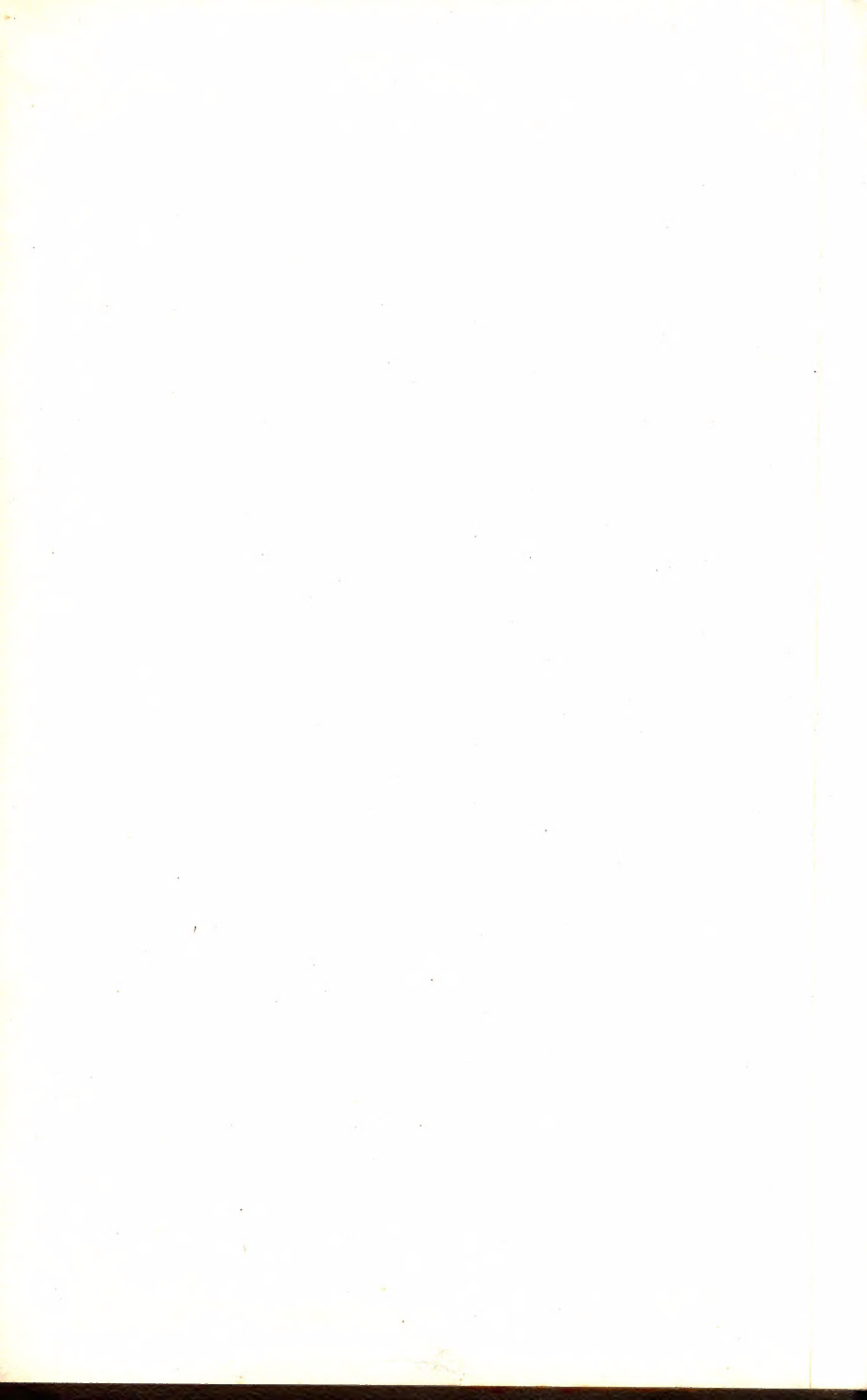


OXFORD
STUDENT'S
DICTIONARY
OF CURRENT
ENGLISH

A.S.HORNBY







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OF CURRENT
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А.С.ХОРНБИ
ПРИ УЧАСТИИ
КРИСТИНЫ РУЗ

**УЧЕБНЫЙ
СЛОВАРЬ
СОВРЕМЕННОГО
АНГЛИЙСКОГО
ЯЗЫКА**

**СПЕЦИАЛЬНОЕ ИЗДАНИЕ
ДЛЯ СССР**

**МОСКВА
ИЗДАТЕЛЬСТВО ПРОСВЕЩЕНИЕ
1983**

**ОНСФОРД
ИЗДАТЕЛЬСТВО ОНСФОРДСКОГО
УНИВЕРСИТЕТА**

A.S.HORNBY
WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF
CHRISTINA RUSE

**OXFORD
STUDENT'S
DICTIONARY
OF CURRENT
ENGLISH**

**SPECIAL EDITION
FOR THE USSR**

**MOSCOW
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Хорнби А. С.

X79 Учебный словарь современного английского языка: Спец. изд. для СССР/А. С. Хорнби при участии Кристины Руз. — М.: Просвещение, 1983. — XII, 769 с.

Словарь представляет собой учебное и справочное пособие, включает 35 000 слов и выражений, а также 50 000 примеров, иллюстрирующих словоупотребление.

Настоящее его издание является перепечаткой с небольшими изменениями английского издания словаря.

Словарь предназначен для учителей и преподавателей, студентов и учащихся старших классов.

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ОЮП санкционирует продажу словаря только на территории СССР

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Preface

This dictionary has been specially prepared for those learning English up to the Intermediate level.

Language is made up of words (the vocabulary) and of the accepted ways of putting these words together (the syntax). We learn words and expressions in the mother tongue by hearing them used, again and again, in infancy, and always in particular situations. We are strongly motivated because we have to communicate. Words may have numerous meanings for many different situations. It is only when we have heard or seen a word repeatedly that we begin to know it.

For a foreign language (eg English for a German child) or for a second language (eg English for a Nigerian child in a home where English is spoken by the family), there are other ways of identifying words. The equivalent in the mother tongue may be given by the teacher, or found by the learner in a bilingual dictionary. By this means identification is immediate and can be (but is not always) accurate. This is a first step only, however. Until the learner can use the words confidently and accurately, until he has instant recognition and recall of the word, he does not know it.

A good teacher will use well-tried methods to give the meaning of new words without the use of the mother tongue. He may use drawings and diagrams. A very competent teacher may explain a new word by using other words already known. This is what a monolingual dictionary (such as this one) attempts to do.

What, then, are the advantages of a monolingual dictionary such as this, in which English words are dealt with in English? Modern textbooks encourage learners to think, write and speak in English only. This may be difficult at first but the rewards are well worth it. It is the more natural way of acquiring competence in a language. As soon as a learner has the confidence to read simple English sentences, he can use a monolingual dictionary if it provides simple definitions and notes to help him to use the vocabulary in context.

A bilingual dictionary has some claims to usefulness. There are some words for which there is usually a clear and unambiguous equivalent (*tulip, panther, chisel, valve*). But there are thousands of words with no exact equivalent, which, even when defined clearly, need examples before they are fully known. A word in isolation is a dead

word. It comes to life when it occurs in a sentence. There are hundreds of verbs for which patterns must be learnt. *Set* is a short and easy-looking verb but if you look up *set* in this dictionary you will find that it has several meanings, that it is used in several sentence patterns, that it combines with adverbs and prepositions in meanings far removed from the simple usage of 'The sun sets in the west'. These phrasal verbs, *set about/back/down/out*, etc all need illustrative phrases or sentences to show the meaning. In this dictionary the illustrative phrases and sentences help the learner to become familiar with words in their normal contexts. He may know that the verb *sever* means 'cut'. He must learn, from seeing examples the contexts in which *sever* is correct. We do not 'sever meat at meals' but our government may 'sever diplomatic relations with a neighbouring country'.

Remember, *there are very few real synonyms in English*. Small bilingual dictionaries which give equivalents encourage errors. A good monolingual dictionary such as this one will not.

The learner may think that because a bilingual dictionary provides a quick and apparently complete answer to problems of word meanings he need not use a good monolingual dictionary. If he can be encouraged to use this dictionary systematically, he will soon see its advantages.

London 1978

A S Hornby

Acknowledgements

This dictionary is adapted from the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*. This revision has made use of A G Gimson's system of phonetic transcription used in the 1980 Revised Impression of the parent volume. We are particularly grateful to A P Cowie for his advice during the preparation of the manuscript and to the many teachers throughout the world who have offered advice and suggestions and have commented on the first impression.

Finally, we are grateful to the staff of the computer department of Oxford University Press for their untiring work on the material.

Oxford 1980

Christina A Ruse

Sample entries

word-division	ac·cus·ing·ly /ə'kju:zɪŋh/ <i>adv</i> in an accusing manner: <i>He pointed ~ at me.</i>	phonetic transcription for each headword part of speech
style marker	baby /'beɪbɪ/ <i>n</i> [C] (<i>pl</i> -bies) 1 very young child: <i>[She has a ~-boy/girl.] Which of you is the ~ (= the youngest member) of the family?</i> 2 (<i>s/</i>) girl; sweetheart. ' baby-face (d), (of an adult) (having a) youthful face. ' baby'grand , small grand piano. ' baby-hood state, period, of being a baby. ' baby-ish , of, like a baby: ~ish behaviour. ' baby-minder , woman paid to look after a	examples of usage (with stress-marks where necessary)
simple definitions	baby for long periods, (eg while the mother is out working). ' baby-sit-ter , person paid to look after a baby for a short time, (eg while the parents are at the cinema). Hence, baby-sit <i>vi</i> (-tt-).	doubled consonants
special arrangement of phrasal verbs. Parentheses () show where words may be omitted. Obliques / show where alternative words may be used	burst ² /bɜ:st/ <i>vi, vt</i> (<i>pt, pp</i> ~) (For uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 5 below.) 5 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions): burst in (on/upon) , (a) interrupt: <i>He ~ in on our conversation.</i> (b) appear or arrive suddenly. burst into , (a) send out suddenly; break out into: <i>The coat fell in the fire and ~ into flames.</i> (b) ~ into tears/laughter/song, suddenly begin to cry/laugh, etc; ~ into blossom, begin to bloom. burst out laughing/crying , suddenly begin to laugh/cry.	
	com·ment /'kɒment/ <i>n</i> [C, U] opinion given briefly in speech or writing about an event, or in explanation or criticism: <i>Have you any ~s to make on my story?</i> □ <i>vi</i> give opinions: ~ on an essay.	countable/uncountable uses of nouns example sentences showing current usage
irregular tenses with phonetic transcription	know ¹ /nəʊ/ <i>vt, vi</i> (<i>pt</i> knew /nju:/ <i>US</i> : nu:/, <i>pp</i> ~n /naʊn/) 1 have in the mind as the result of experience	American English pronunciations
cross reference to other words	pretty /'prɪtɪ/ <i>adj</i> (-ier, -iest) 1 pleasing and attractive without being beautiful or magnificent; a ~ girl/garden/picture/piece of music. 2 fine; good: <i>A ~ mess you've made of it!</i> 3 (informal) large in amount or extent: a ~ big fine for such a minor offence. a pretty kettle of fish , a state of confusion. (<i>cost</i>) a pretty penny , ⇨ penny(1).	comparative and superlative forms of adjectives idiomatic expressions in bold type

The arrangement of the entries

Headwords

Headwords are printed in **bold type**:

fact fac-tion fac-tor

The bold dot (·) in the headword shows where the word may be divided in written English. It is usual to divide a word when it needs more space than is left at the end of a line.

fac-sim-ile false-hood

Where two headwords have the same spelling they are numbered:

fan¹ /fæn/ *n*

fan² /fæn/ *vt, vi*

Compounds

Compounds (whether written as one word, with a hyphen or as two separate words) are printed in **bold type** and listed in alphabetical order after the entry for the headword:

fam-ily /'fæmli/ *n*

family doctor, general practitioner.

family name, = surname.

family planning, (use of birth control for) planning the number of children, intervals between births, etc in a family.

family tree, genealogical chart.

Derivatives

Derivatives follow the headword entry in the same way:

fa-natic /fə'nætɪk/ *n*

fa-nati-cally /-kli/ *adv*

fa-nati-cism /-sizəm/ *n* [U] excessive enthusiasm; [C] instance of this.

Idiomatic expressions

Idiomatic expressions are included at the end of the appropriate definition and are printed in **bold italic type**:

gain² /geɪn/ *vt, vi* **1** obtain (something wanted or needed): ~ *experience*; ~ *an advantage over a competitor*. **gain time**, improve one's chances by delaying something, making excuses, etc. **gain the upper hand**, be victorious.

Phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs are printed in **bold italic type** before the appropriate definition:

gain on/upon (a) get closer to (the person or thing pursued): ~ *on the other runners in a race*. (b) go faster than, get farther in advance of: ~ *on the police*.

Some verbs, such as *be*, *bring*, *come*, *get*, *go*, *make*, *take*, are used with a variety of prepositions and adverbial particles to form special expressions. These combinations are given as a separate

section at the end of the entry for the verb and are listed in alphabetical order:

close³ /kləʊz/ *vt, vi*

5 (uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*):

close down, (**a**) (of a factory, business, etc) stop production, shut completely. (**b**) (of a broadcasting station) stop transmitting: *The time is just after midnight and we are now closing down.* Hence, '**close-down** *n*

close in, *The days are closing in*, getting shorter. **close in on/upon**, (**a**) cover on all sides: *Darkness ~d in on us.* (**b**) come near(er) and attack: *The enemy ~d in on us.*

Note the use of parentheses () and obliques / in idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs.

The parentheses surround words which can be omitted when using the expression in a sentence.

fall² /fɔ:l/ *vi* **fall flat** (*on one's face*),

look² /lʊk/ *vi, vt*

look away (*from sth*),

look back (*on sth*).

The oblique is used to give optional words in an expression:

bar-gain /'bɑ:ɡɪn/ *n* [C] **a good/bad bargain**,

beaten /'bi:tɪn/ **go off/keep to the beaten track**,

Nouns

Noun entries are marked [C], [U], or [C,U].

[C] means that the noun has a singular and a plural form. It can be used with *a*, *an*, *another* and with numbers. Nouns used in these ways are *countable*.

[U] means that the noun does not have a plural form. It is used with *some*, *a lot of*, *enough*, etc. Nouns used in these ways are *uncountable*.

[C,U] means that the noun can be used as either *countable* or *uncountable*.

Adjectives

Adjectives sometimes have *comparative* or *superlative* forms by the addition of *-r*, *-st*; *-er*, *-est*; or *-ier*, *-iest*. The dictionary will tell you when this is possible by printing these endings in parentheses at the beginning of the entry.

blue¹ /blu:/ *adj* (*-r*, *-st*)

deep¹ /di:p/ *adj* (*-er*, *-est*)

funny /'fʌni/ *adj* (*-ier*, *-iest*)

A few adjectives have special comparative and superlative forms

good¹ /ɡʊd/ *adj* (better, best)

bad¹ /bæd/ *adj* (worse, worst)

Irregular forms

Whenever the forms of a *verb* (past participle, present participle, past tense) are *irregular*, these forms are given at the beginning of an entry in parentheses:

break² /breɪk/ *vt, vi* (*pt* broke /brəʊk/, *pp* broken /'brəʊkən/)

drive² /draɪv/ *vt, vi* (*pt* drove /drəʊv/, *pp* ~n /'drɪvən/)

fry /fraɪ/ *vt, vi* (*3rd person sing, present tense* fries, *pt, pp* fried)

Doubled consonants

Many *verbs* that end in a single consonant have this letter repeated to make the past participle or the present participle. Some *adjectives* repeat the last consonant in the same way. The Dictionary shows this by printing the ending in parentheses:

flap² /flæp/ *vt, vi* (-pp-)

hot /hɒt/ *adj* (-ter, -test)

Style

Speaking and writing good English is not only a problem of grammatical correctness. The word or expression must be right for the particular context. Entries are marked *formal*, *informal*, *slang*, *dated*, etc to help you.

Often, the Dictionary will tell you which word is more usual:

gal /gæl/ *n* (*dated informal*) = girl.

val-iant /'væliənt/ *adj* brave (the usual word).

American variants for spelling, pronunciation and meaning are shown by (US) before the information.

Pronunciation

Each headword and derivative has a phonetic spelling of the word immediately after the ordinary spelling. Phonetic spelling is a way of writing so that one symbol always represents only one sound. By learning the symbols you will be able to pronounce the words in the Dictionary. A list of the phonetic symbols used in this Dictionary is printed on the inside cover for easy reference.

When a word has more than one syllable, one of them is pronounced with more force than the rest. This is called *stress* and the syllable which is stressed is shown with a stress-mark /' / before it in the Dictionary. In longer words, other syllables may also be pronounced with more force than the rest but this stress is not as strong as those marked /'/. The stress-mark /_ / is used to show this. So, /' / is used to mark the *primary stress* and /_ / is used to mark the *secondary stress*:

falsi-fi-ca-tion /fɜːlsɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

fam-ili-ar-ity /fæmɪli'ærəti/

Stress-marks are also given for compounds and expressions whenever this information is useful:

'fancy-free

'gad-about,

be 'in on,

'take sb 'down a peg (or two).

The pronunciations recommended are those which research has shown are the most common and the most useful for those learning English. If English people around you repeatedly use a pronunciation not given here, either discuss the choice with them or join them in their usage.

Symbols and abbreviations used

<i>abbr</i>	abbreviation	<i>(naut)</i>	nautical
<i>adj</i>	adjective	<i>(P)</i>	Proprietary name
<i>adv</i>	adverb	<i>pl</i>	plural
<i>(anat)</i>	anatomy	<i>pp</i>	past participle
<i>(astron)</i>	astronomy	<i>prep</i>	preposition
<i>[C]</i>	countable noun	<i>pron</i>	pronoun
<i>(chem)</i>	chemistry	<i>pt</i>	past tense
<i>(C of E)</i>	Church of England	<i>(RC)</i>	Roman Catholicism
<i>(comm)</i>	commerce	<i>sb</i>	somebody
<i>conj</i>	conjunction	<i>sing</i>	singular
<i>e g</i>	for example	<i>(sl)</i>	slang
<i>esp</i>	especially	<i>sth</i>	something
<i>(fig)</i>	figurative	<i>[U]</i>	uncountable noun
<i>(Fr)</i>	French	<i>(US)</i>	American
<i>(GB)</i>	British	<i>vi</i>	verb intransitive
<i>(geom)</i>	geometry	<i>vt</i>	verb transitive
<i>i e</i>	in other words	⇔	look at (cross-reference)
<i>(It)</i>	Italian	△	taboo
<i>(maths)</i>	mathematics	□	shows a change in the part of speech in an entry
<i>(med)</i>	medicine		
<i>(mil)</i>	military		
<i>(myth)</i>	mythology		
<i>n</i>	noun		

Phonetic symbols

Vowels and Diphthongs

1	i:	as in	see /si:/	11	ɜ:	as in	fur /fɜ:(r)/
2	ɪ	as in	sit /sɪt/	12	ə	as in	ago /ə'gəʊ/
3	e	as in	ten /ten/	13	eɪ	as in	page /peɪdʒ/
4	æ	as in	hat /hæt/	14	əʊ	as in	home /həʊm/
5	ɑ:	as in	arm /ɑ:m/	15	aɪ	as in	five /faɪv/
6	ɒ	as in	got /gɒt/	16	aʊ	as in	now /naʊ/
7	ɔ:	as in	saw /sɔ:/	17	ɔɪ	as in	join /dʒɔɪn/
8	ʊ	as in	put /pʊt/	18	ɪə	as in	near /nɪə(r)/
9	u:	as in	too /tu:/	19	eə	as in	hair /heə(r)/
10	ʌ	as in	cup /kʌp/	20	ʊə	as in	pure /pjʊə(r)/

Consonants

1	p	as in	pen /pen/	13	s	as in	so /səʊ/
2	b	as in	bad /bæd/	14	z	as in	zoo /zu:/
3	t	as in	tea /ti:/	15	ʃ	as in	she /ʃi:/
4	d	as in	did /dɪd/	16	ʒ	as in	vision /'vɪʒn/
5	k	as in	cat /kæt/	17	h	as in	how /haʊ/
6	g	as in	got /gɒt/	18	m	as in	man /mæn/
7	tʃ	as in	chin /tʃɪn/	19	n	as in	no /nəʊ/
8	dʒ	as in	June /dʒu:n/	20	ŋ	as in	sing /sɪŋ/
9	f	as in	fall /fɔ:l/	21	l	as in	leg /leg/
10	v	as in	voice /vɔɪs/	22	r	as in	red /red/
11	θ	as in	thin /θɪn/	23	j	as in	yes /jes/
12	ð	as in	then /ðen/	24	w	as in	wet /wet/

/ˈ/ represents primary stress as in about /ə'baʊt/

/ɪ/ represents secondary stress as in academic /ˌækə'demɪk/

(r) In spoken British English an 'r' at the end of a written word (either as the final letter or in an *-re* ending as in *fire*) is not pronounced unless another word follows which begins with a vowel sound. To show this, the phonetic spelling has (r) at the end.

/-/ Hyphens preceding and/or following parts of a repeated transcription indicate that only the repeated part changes.

Aa

A¹, **a** /eɪ/ (pl **A's**, **a's** /eɪz/) the first letter of the English alphabet.

A1 /ˌeɪ 'wʌn/ (**a**) (of ships) first class. (**b**) (informal) excellent: *feeling A1*, in excellent health.

a² /ə strong form: eɪ/, **an** /ən strong form: æn/ indefinite article (an is used before a vowel) ⇨ the. **1** one (but no particular one): *I have a pen* (pl = *some pens*). *Have you a pen* (pl = *any pens*)? *I said 'a train was coming, not 'the train.* (2) (used when speaking or writing about number, quantity, groups, etc): *a lot of money; a little more; a few books; half a dozen; half an hour; a friend of mine, one of my friends.* (Note: When several objects, etc are parts of a known group, the indefinite article is not repeated: *a knife and fork*.) **3** each: *60 miles an hour; twice a week; 20p a metre.* **4** that which is called; every: *A horse is an animal* (pl = *Horses are animals*). **5** another; one like: *He thinks he is a Napoleon.*

aback /ə'bæk/ adv **be** *taken a'back*, be suddenly surprised or upset: *He was taken ~ at the news/by the cost of the repairs.*

aba-cus /'æbəkəs/ n [C] (pl ~es or -ci /'æbəsaɪ/) frame with beads or balls sliding on rods, for teaching numbers to children, or (still in East Asia) for calculating.

abaft /ə'ba:ft/ US: ə'bæft/ adv, prep (naut) at, in, toward, behind, the stern half (back part) of a ship.

aban-don¹ /ə'bændən/ n [U] careless free behaviour without thinking of the consequences or of convention: *dancing with gay ~.*

aban-don² /ə'bændən/ vt **1** go away from, not intending to return to: *The order was given to ~ ship*, for all on board to leave the (sinking) ship. *He ~ed his wife and child.* **2** stop (doing something): *They ~ed the game because of rain.* **3** **abandon oneself to**, allow oneself to feel, act, etc because of necessity, extreme emotion, etc: *He ~ed himself to despair.*

aban-doned adj (**a**) immoral; having no shame: *an ~ed girl.* (**b**) left or deserted (with no intention to return or reclaim): *an ~ed car/wife.*

aban-don-ment n [U]

abase /ə'beɪs/ vt **abase oneself**, (formal) lower oneself in dignity or respect.

abase-ment n [U]

abashed /ə'bæʃt/ adj (formal) very embarrassed or ashamed.

abate /ə'beɪt/ vt, vi **1** (of winds, storms, floods, pain, etc) make or become less: *The ship sailed when the storm ~d.* **2** (legal) bring to an end: *We must ~ the smoke nuisance in*

our big cities.

abate-ment n [U] abating; decrease.

ab-at-toir /'æbətwa:(r) US: æbət'twa:r/ n [C] slaughter-house (for cattle, sheep, etc).

ab-bess /'æbes/ n [C] woman (*Mother Superior*) at the head of a convent or nunnery.

ab-bey /'æbi/ n [C] (pl ~s) **1** building(s) in which monks or nuns live as a community in the service of God. **2** the community.

ab-bot /'æbət/ n [C] man (*Father Superior*) at the head of an abbey or monastery.

ab-brevi-ate /ə'bri:vieɪt/ vt shorten (a word, title, etc): ~ *January to Jan.*

ab-brevi-ation /ə'bri:vɪ'eɪʃn/ n **1** [U] abbreviating or being abbreviated. **2** [C] shortened form (esp of a word).

ABC /ˌeɪ bi: 'si:/ n the alphabet. **as easy as ABC**, very easy.

ab-di-cate /'æbdɪkeɪt/ vt, vi **1** surrender or renounce a high office, control or responsibility. **2** give up the throne: *King Edward VIII ~d in 1936.*

ab-di-ca-tion /'æbdɪ'keɪʃn/ n **1** [U] abdicating. **2** [C] instance of this.

ab-do-men /'æbdəmən/ n [C] **1** part of the body that includes the stomach and bowels. **2** last (back part) of the three divisions of an insect, spider, etc.

ab-domi-nal /'æb'dɒmɪnəl/ adj in, of, for, the abdomen: ~ *pains.*

ab-duct /'æbdʌkt/ vt take or lead (esp a woman or child) away unlawfully, by force or fraud. ⇨ *kidnap.*

ab-duc-tion /'æbdʌkʃn/ n [C, U]

abeam /ə'bi:m/ adv (naut) on a line at a right angle to the length of a ship or aircraft.

ab-er-ra-tion /'æbə'reɪʃn/ n **1** [U] (usually fig) turning away from what is expected, normal or right: *stealing something in a moment of ~.* **2** [C] instance of this; defect: *an ~ in the computer; a mental ~*, sudden instance of forgetting, eg a name that is usually easily remembered.

abet /ə'bet/ vt (-tt-) **abet (in)**, (legal) help or encourage (in vice, crime). **aid and abet sb**, (legal) help him to do something illegal.

abey-ance /ə'beɪəns/ n [U] condition of not being in force or in use for a period of time. **be in abeyance**, suspended, eg until more information is obtained. **fall/go into abeyance**, (legal) (of a law, rule, custom, etc) be stopped for a time; be no longer observed.

ab-hor /əb'hɔ:(r)/ vt (-rr-) (formal) think of with hatred and disgust: ~ *cruelty to both children and animals.*

ab-hor-rence /əb'hɒrəns US: -'hɔ:r-/ n [U] (formal) hatred, disgust: *hold something in ~.*

ab-hor-rent /əb'hɒrənt US: -'hɔ:r-/ adj (formal) hateful; causing horror: *Torture is ~ to him.*

abide /ə'baɪd/ vt, vi **1** **abide by**, (formal) be faithful to; keep: ~ *by a promise/decision.* **2** **cannot/can't/couldn't abide**, cannot/

could not tolerate; hate(d): *She can't ~ that man/beat children.*

abid-ing /ə'baɪdɪŋ/ *adj* (literary) lasting.

abil-ity /ə'bilɪti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] (possible) capacity or power (to do something physical or mental). *to the ~, best of my ability*, as well as I can. **2** [U] cleverness; intelligence: *a man of great ~*. **3** [C] mental power; talent: *a man of many abilities*.

ab-ject /ə'bdʒekt/ *adj* (formal) **1** (of conditions) poor; miserable: *living in ~ poverty*. **2** (of a person, his behaviour) disliked or thought to be worthless because cowardly or undignified: *an ~ apology*.

ab-ject-ly *adv*

ablaze /ə'bleɪz/ *adj, adv* (formal) **1** on fire: *The whole building was soon ~*. **2** (fig) shining; bright; excited: *The streets were ~ with lights*.

able /'eɪbl/ *adj* **1** *be able to do sth*, have the power, means or opportunity: *Will you be ~ to come?* ⇨ can², could. **2** (-r, -st) clever; capable; having or showing knowledge, skill: *an ~ lawyer/speech; the ~st/most ~ man I know*.

able-bodied *adj* physically strong.

-able (also **-ible**) /-əbl/ *suffix* **1** (noun + ~ = *adj*) showing qualities of: *fashionable; responsible*. **2** (verb + ~ = *adj*) that can be, fit to be: *eatable; reducible*.

-ably, -ibly /-əblɪ/ *adv*

ab-lu-tions /ə'bluːʃnz/ *n* pl ceremonial washing of the hands or the body, esp as an act of religion.

ably /'eɪblɪ/ *adv* in an able(2) manner.

ab-nor-mal /ə'bɒrːnɔːml/ *adj* different from what is normal, ordinary or expected: *~ temperatures for the time of year*.

ab-nor-mally /-məli/ *adv*

ab-nor-mality /ə'bɒrːnɔːməli/ *n* [U] quality of being abnormal; [C] (pl -ies) thing, part, that is abnormal: *physical abnormalities*.

aboard /ə'bɔːd/ *adv, prep* on, in, onto or into a ship, aircraft, or (US) a train or motor-coach: *It's time to go ~. All ~! Welcome ~!*

abode /ə'bəʊd/ *n* **of/with no fixed abode**, (legal) having no permanent home.

abol-ish /ə'bɒlɪʃ/ *vi* put an end to, do away with, eg war, slavery, an old custom.

abol-ition /ə'bɒlɪʃn/ *n* [U] abolishing or being abolished (esp used, in the 18th and 19th centuries, of Negro slavery).

abol-ition-ist /-ʃənɪst/ *n* [C] (esp) person who wished to abolish Negro slavery.

A-bomb /'eɪ bɒm/ *n* = atomic bomb.

abom-in-able /ə'bɒmɪnəbl/ *adj* **1** causing hatred and disgust. **2** unpleasant; bad: *~ weather/food*.

abom-in-ably /-əblɪ/ *adv*

abom-in-ate /ə'bɒmɪneɪt/ *vi* **1** (formal) feel hatred or disgust for. **2** dislike.

abom-in-ation /ə'bɒmɪneɪʃn/ *n* (formal) **1** [U] horror and disgust: *hold poverty in ~* **2** [C] something that produces horror and disgust: *Poverty is an ~*.

abo-rig-inal /ə'bɒrɪdʒɪnl/ *adj* (of people, living creatures, etc) belonging to, existing in, a region from earliest times, or from the time when the region was first known. □ *n* [C] earliest inhabitant, plant, etc of a region.

Abo-rig-ine /ə'bɒrɪdʒɪni/ *n* [C] Australian aboriginal person.

the abo-rig-ines /ə'bɒrɪdʒɪniːz/, the aboriginal inhabitants.

abort /ə'bɔːt/ *vi, vt* **1** come to nothing; cancel: *~ a space mission*, eg because of mechanical trouble. **2** give birth to an undeveloped foetus.

abortion /ə'bɔːʃn/ *n* **1** [U] (legal) expulsion of the foetus from the womb during the first 28 weeks of pregnancy; helping or causing this. **2** [C] instance of this: *have an illegal ~*.

abortion-ist /-ʃənɪst/, **(a)** person who brings about an abortion. **(b)** person who favours and supports legal abortion.

abort-ive /ə'bɔːtɪv/ *adj* unsuccessful: *an ~ rebellion/attempt*.

abort-ively *adv*

abound /ə'baʊnd/ *vi* have, exist, in great numbers or quantities: *The river ~s with fish. Fish ~ in the river*.

about¹ /ə'baʊt/ *adv* of degree a little more or less than; a little before or after: *~ as high as that tree; for ~ three miles; ~ six o'clock; on or ~ the fifth of May*. ⇨ exactly, just⁽⁵⁾. **be about time...**, (informal) time to do something immediately: *It's ~ time you stopped being so rude*. **be about it/the size of it**, (informal) be how I judge it, how I understand it.

about² /ə'baʊt/ *adverbial particle* **1** (used with verbs of movement) here and there, in no particular direction: *The children were rushing ~. The boys were climbing ~ on the rocks*. **2** (used with other verbs, showing position, etc): *There were books lying ~ on the floor*. **3** (used with *be*): *There was no one ~, no one to be seen*. **be (out and) a'bout (again)**, able to get out, work, etc after an illness. **be up and a'bout**, out of bed and active. **4 bring sth about**, ⇨ bring(5). **come about**, ⇨ come(13). **5** facing round; in the opposite direction: *It's the wrong way ~. A ~ turn!* (GB), *A ~ face!* (US), (mil commands) turn round to face the other way.

a,bout-face *n* [C] complete reversal of opinions, etc: *He did a complete ~face when he realized how unpopular he was!*

about³ /ə'baʊt/ *prep* **1** (used with verbs of movement) here and there, in no particular direction: *walking ~ the town; travelling ~ the world*. **2** (used with other verbs showing position, state, etc): *idle men standing ~ street corners; books and papers lying ~ the room*. **3** near to: *I dropped the key somewhere ~ here*. **4** concerning; regarding; in connection with: *He is careless ~ his personal appearance. What do you know ~ him? Tell me all ~ it*. **How! What about...**, (used to ask for information, to make a suggestion or to get a person's opinion): *How ~ going to France for our holi-*

days? **5** concerned or occupied with: *And while you're ~ it...*, and while you're doing that... **go/set about sth**, deal with it: *Do you know how to go ~ it?* **6** round (the usual word): *the fields ~ Oxford. She hung ~ his shoulders.* **7 be about to** + *inf*, be just going to (do something): *As I was (just) ~ to say, when you interrupted me...* He was ~ to start speaking, when....

above¹ /ə'baʊ/ *adv* **1** at a higher point; overhead; on high: *My bedroom is just ~. A voice from ~ shouted a welcome.* **2** earlier (in a book, article, etc): *as I mentioned/stated ~...*

above-board *adv* without deceiving; honourably. □ *adj* frank; open (8). ⇨ underhand.

above-mentioned/-named *adj* mentioned/named earlier in this book, article, list, etc.

above² /ə'baʊ/ *prep* **1** higher than: *The sun rose ~ the horizon. The water came ~ our knees. We were flying ~ the clouds.* (Note: Compare: *We flew over/across the Sahara.*) **2** greater in number, price, weight, etc: *The temperature has been ~ average recently. Applicants must be ~ the age of 21.* **3 above all**, more than anything else: *A ~ all, I love Mozart. I love jazz ~ all.* **over and above**, ⇨ over² (8). **4** too great, good, difficult, etc for: *If you want to learn, you must not be ~ asking* (= not be too proud to ask) *questions. He is ~ deceit, does not practise deceit.* **5** out of reach of (because too great, good, etc): *His conduct has always been ~ reproach/suspicion.* **6** (various uses): *the waterfall ~* (= upstream from) *the bridge. A colonel is ~ a major, higher in rank.* ⇨ also head (20).

ab-ra-ca-dabra /æbrəkə'dæbrə/ *n* [U] word used to encourage magic.

ab-ra-sion /ə'breɪʒn/ *n* **1** [U] rubbing, scraping, or wearing off. **2** [C] area where something has been worn or scraped away: *an ~ of the skin.*

ab-ras-ive /ə'breɪsɪv/ *n* [C,U] substance (eg emery) used for rubbing or grinding down surfaces. □ *adj* **1** causing abrasion. **2** (fig) harsh, rough: *an ~ voice/character.*

abreast /ə'breɪst/ *adv* (of persons, ships, etc) on a level, side by side, and facing the same way: *walking three ~; warships in line ~.* **be/keep abreast (of/with)**, up to date: *keep ~ of the news.*

abridge /ə'brɪdʒ/ *vt* make shorter, esp by using fewer words: *an ~d edition of 'David Copperfield'.*

abridge-ment, abridg-ment *n* [U] abridging; [C] thing, eg a book, that is abridged.

abroad /ə'brɔ:d/ *adv* **1** in or to a foreign country or countries; away from one's own country: *be/go/live/travel ~; visitors who have come from ~.* **2** (dated) far and wide; everywhere: *There's a rumour ~ that...* People are saying that...

abrupt /ə'brʌpt/ *adj* **1** unexpectedly sudden:

The road is full of ~ turns. **2** (of speech, writing, behaviour) rough; bad-tempered; unfriendly: *sound ~ on the telephone.* **3** (of a slope) steep.

abrupt-ly *adv*

abrupt-ness *n* [U]

ab-scess /'æbses/ *n* [C] collection of thick yellowish-white liquid (called pus) formed in a cavity in the body: *~es on the gums.*

ab-scond /əb'skɒnd/ *vi* go away, suddenly, secretly and aware of having done wrong, esp to avoid arrest.

ab-sence /'æbsəns/ *n* **1** [U] being away: *He met her during his ~ in America, while he was there. In the ~ of the Manager* (= While he is away) *Mr X is in charge of the business.* **leave of absence**, ⇨ leave². **2** [C] occasion or period of being away: *after an ~ of three months.* **3** [U] non-existence: *in the ~ of definite information.* **absence of mind**, failure to pay attention to what one is doing.

ab-sent¹ /'æbsənt/ *adj* **1 absent (from)**, not present (at): *~ from school/work.* **2** lost in thought; having one's attention elsewhere: *When I spoke to him he looked at me in an ~ way but did not answer.*

absent-minded *adj* so deep or far away in thought that one is unaware of what one is doing, what is happening, etc.

absent-minded-ly *adv*

ab-sent² /əb'sent/ *vt* (formal) stay away (from): *Why did you ~ yourself from school yesterday?*

ab-sen-tee /'æbsən'ti:/ *n* [C] person who is absent, eg a landlord who lives away from his property: (used as an adjective) *~ landlords.*

ab-sen-tee-ism /-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] frequent failure to be present, eg the practice of often being away from work without a satisfactory reason.

ab-so-lute /'æbsəlʊt/ *adj* **1** complete; perfect: *When giving evidence in a law court, we must tell the ~ truth.* **2** unlimited; having complete power: *An ~ ruler need not ask anyone for permission to do anything.* **3** real; undoubted: *It is an ~ fact. Do you have ~ proof of his guilt?*

absolute majority, more than 50%.

absolute zero, lowest temperature theoretically possible, = -273.15°C.

ab-sol-ute-ly /'æbsəlʊtli/ *adv* **1** completely: *~ impossible; ~ right.* **2** unconditionally: *He refused ~.* **3** /'æbsəlʊtli/ (informal) (in answer to a question, or as a comment) I agree; certainly.

ab-sol-ution /'æbsəlʊʃn/ *n* [U] (RC Church) freeing from consequences of sin: *grant ~ from sin.*

ab-solve /əb'zɒlv/ *vt* **absolve (from)**, declare free (from sin, guilt, a promise, duty, etc): *I ~ you from all blame/from your vows.*

ab-sorb /əb'sɔ:b/ *vt* **1** take in or suck in, eg liquid, heat, light: *paper which ~s ink.* **2** (fig) gain knowledge, etc: *The clever boy ~ed all the*

knowledge his teachers could give him. **3** use up a great deal of the attention, interest or time of: *He is completely ~ed in his work.*

ab-sorb-ent /əb'zɔ:bənt/ *adj* able to absorb: ~ cotton-wool. □ *n* [C] absorbent material.

ab-sorp-tion /əb'sɔ:pʃn/ *n* [U] absorbing or being absorbed: *Complete ~ in sport interfered with his studies.*

ab-stain /əb'steɪn/ *vi* refuse to take part, act, take, etc; *His doctor told him to ~ from beer and wine. At the last election he ~ed (from voting).*

ab-stainer, person who abstains.

total abstainer, person who never takes alcoholic drinks.

ab-stemi-ous /əb'sti:mɪəs/ *adj* (esp) taking only a little food or drink.

ab-stemi-ously *adv*

ab-stemi-ous-ness *n* [U]

ab-sten-tion /əb'stenʃn/ *n* [U] abstaining, esp not using one's vote at an election, etc; [C] instance of this: *six votes for, three against and two ~s.*

ab-sti-nence /'æbstɪnəns/ *n* [U] abstaining, eg from food, enjoyment and esp alcoholic drink.

total 'abstinence, not taking any alcoholic drink.

ab-tract¹ /'æbstrækt/ *adj* thought of separately from facts, objects or particular examples: *A flower is beautiful, but beauty itself is ~. in the abstract*, regarded in a general or theoretical way.

abstract 'art, art which does not represent an object, scene, etc in its true, normal or usual form.

abstract 'noun, (gram) one that is the name of a quality or state, eg *length, goodness, virtue*.

ab-tract² /'æbstrækt/ *n* [C] short account, eg of the chief points of a piece of writing, a book, speech, etc.

ab-tract³ /əb'strækt/ *vt* take out; separate: ~ metal from ore.

ab-stracted /əb'stræktɪd/ *adj* not paying attention; not concentrating.

ab-tract-ed-ly *adv*

ab-stra-c-tion /əb'strækʃn/ *n* **1** [U] abstracting or being abstracted. *in a moment of ~. 3* [C] idea of a quality (eg truth, beauty) separate from actual examples: *Don't lose yourself in ~s*, be realistic.

ab-struse /əb'stru:s/ *adj* (formal) whose meaning or answer is hidden or difficult to understand.

ab-struse-ly *adv*

ab-struse-ness *n* [U]

ab-surd /əb'sɜ:d/ *adj* unreasonable; foolish; ridiculous: *What an ~ suggestion!*

ab-surd-ity *n* (pl -ies) **(a)** [U] state of being absurd. **(b)** [C] absurd act or statement.

ab-surd-ly *adv*

abun-dance /ə'bʌndəns/ *n* [U] **1** great amount: *food and drink in ~. 2 an abun-*

dance of, more than enough: *an ~ of good things.*

abun-dant /ə'bʌndənt/ *adj* more than enough; plentiful: *We have ~ proof of his guilt.*

abuse¹ /ə'bju:s/ *n* **1** [U] wrong use: ~ of power; [C] instance of this: *an ~ of trust. 2* [C] unjust custom or practice that has become established. **3** [U] angry or violent attack in words; bad language; cursing: *shower ~ on somebody.*

abuse² /ə'bju:z/ *vt* **1** make a bad or wrong use of: *Don't ~ the confidence they have placed in you. 2* say severe, cruel or unjust things to or about a person.

abus-ive /ə'bju:sɪv/ *adj* using, containing, curses or swear-words: ~ language.

abus-ive-ly *adv*

abys-mal /ə'bɪzml/ *adj* (esp fig and informal) extreme: ~ ignorance.

abys-mally /-məli/ *adv*: *an ~ly small wage increase.*

abyss /ə'bɪs/ *n* [C] (pl ~es) **1** hole so deep as to appear bottomless; hell. **2** (fig) lowest degree: *the ~ of despair.*

aca-demic /'ækə'demɪk/ *adj* **1** of teaching, studying; of schools, colleges, etc; scholarly, literary or classical (contrasted with technical or scientific): ~ subjects; *the ~ year. 2* too concerned with theory and not sufficiently practical: *The question is ~*, is of no practical importance. □ *n* [C] professional scholar.

academic freedom, liberty to teach and to discuss problems without outside, eg Government, interference.

aca-demi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

aca-dem-ician /'ækə'demɪʃn/ *US*: /'ækə'də'mɪʃn/ *n* [C] member of an academy, eg of the Royal Academy of Arts.

acad-emy /'ækə'dəmi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) school for higher learning, usually for a special purpose: *a 'naval/military ~*; *an ~ of music.*

ac-cede /æk'si:d/ *vi* (formal) **accede (to)** **1** agree, eg to a request. **2** take or succeed to (a position of authority).

ac-cel-er-ate /æk'selə'reɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** increase the speed of; cause to move faster or happen earlier. **2** (of a motion or process) become faster: *Hostilities are accelerating.*

ac-cel-er-ation /æk'selə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U] act, rate, of increasing speed.

ac-cel-er-ator /æk'selə'reɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** device, eg the pedal in a car, for controlling speed. **2** (physics) device for accelerating particles or nuclei.

ac-cent¹ /'æksənt/ *US*: /'æksent/ *n* [C] **1** force when speaking (by means of stress or intonation) given to a syllable: *In the word 'today' the ~ is on the second syllable. 2* mark or symbol used in writing and printing to show a vowel sound or syllabic stress. ⇨ acute, circumflex and grave³. **3** [C], sometimes [U] individual, local or national way of pronouncing: *speaking English with a foreign ~. 4* (informal) emphasis is given to one aspect of a display, perfor-

mance, etc: *At this year's Motor Show the ~ is on sports cars.*

ac-cent² /æk'sent/ *vt* 1 pronounce with an accent(3). 2 put emphasis on (a syllable or word).

ac-cen-tu-ate /æk'sentʃueit/ *vt* give more force or importance to.

ac-cept /æk'sept/ *vt, vi* 1 (agree to) receive (something offered): *as a gift/an invitation*. 2 agree; recognize; approve: *I ~ that the change may take some time. It is an ~ed truth/fact*. It is something that everyone believes. 3 take responsibility for: *~ delivery of goods*.

ac-cept-able /-əbl/ *adj* satisfactory; welcome: *if this proposal is ~able to you*.

ac-cept-ance /æk'septəns/ *n* [U] 1 accepting or being accepted. 2 approval (the usual word): *complete ~ of the plan*.

ac-cess /'ækses/ *n* [U] 1 way (in) to a place: *The only ~ to the farmhouse is across the fields*.

2 **access to**, right, opportunity or means of reaching, using or approaching: *Students must have ~ to good books*.

ac-cess-ible /æk'sesəbl/ *adj* able to be reached, used, visited, influenced, etc: *a collection of paintings not ~ible to the general public*.

ac-cessi-bil-ity /æk'sesə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

ac-cess-ary /æk'sesəri/ *n* [C] (*pl -ies*), *adj* (US = accessory) (legal) person who helps in any act, esp a crime. **accessary before/after the fact**, ⇨ fact(1).

ac-ces-sion /æk'seʃn/ *n* 1 [U] reaching a rank, position or state: *the Queen's ~ to the throne*. 2 [C, U] (formal) (an) addition; (an) increase: *recent ~s to the school library*.

ac-cess-ory /æk'sesəri/ *n* [C] (*pl -ies*) 1 = accessory. 2 something that is extra, helpful, useful, but not an essential part of: *the accessories of a bicycle*, eg the lamp, a pump.

ac-ci-dent /'æksɪdənt/ *n* [C] 1 something that happens without a cause that can be seen at once, usually something unfortunate and undesirable: *She had an ~ with a knife. He was killed in a 'car ~. Accidents will happen*, (proverb) Some unfortunate events must be accepted as inevitable. 2 [U] chance; fate. **by accident**, by chance: *We met by ~*. **'accident-prone**, often having accidents.

ac-ci-den-tal /'æksɪdəntl/ *adj* happening unexpectedly and by chance: *an ~ meeting with a friend*.

ac-ci-den-tally /-əli/ *adv*

ac-claim /ə'kleɪm/ *vt* 1 welcome with shouts of approval; applaud loudly: *~ the winner of a race*; *~ him as a great actor*. 2 make a person a ruler: *They ~ed him King*. □ *n* [U] applause; approval: *The film received great critical ~*.

ac-cla-ma-tion /'æklə'meɪʃn/ *n* [U] (formal) loud and enthusiastic approval of a proposal, etc: *elected/carried by ~*.

ac-cli-mat-ize (also **-ise**) /ə'klaɪmataɪz/ *vt, vi* 1 get (oneself, animals, plants, etc) used to a new climate. 2 (fig) get used to a new environment, new conditions, etc: *You will soon*

become ~d.

ac-cli-mat-iz-ation (also **-isation**) /ə'klaɪmataɪz'eɪʃn/ *n* [U]

ac-col-ade /'ækəleɪd/ *US*: /ækə'leɪd/ *n* [C] 1 granting of a knighthood by a tap on the shoulder with the flat of a sword. 2 (fig) great praise; approval.

ac-com-mo-date /ə'kɒmədeɪt/ *vt* 1 have, provide, lodging or space for: *This hotel can ~ 600 guests*. 2 (formal) change a plan so that it fits with something else: *I will ~ my plans to yours*.

ac-com-mo-dat-ing /ə'kɒmədeɪtɪŋ/ *adj* willing to do things to please others; easy to reach an agreement with.

ac-com-mo-da-tion /ə'kɒmədeɪʃn/ *n* [U]

1 (GB) furnished or unfurnished room(s): *Hotel ~ was scarce during the Olympic Games*. 2 space (in a motor-vehicle).

ac-com-pa-ni-ment /ə'kɒmpəni-mənt/ *n* [C]

1 thing that naturally or often goes with another thing: *Disease is often an ~ of famine*. 2 (music) (usually) instrumental part to go with a voice, choir or solo instrument: *a song with a piano ~*.

ac-com-pa-n-ist /ə'kɒmpənɪst/ *n* [C] person who accompanies a musician or singer.

ac-com-pa-ny /ə'kɒmpəni/ *vt* (*pt, pp -ied*) 1 go with: *He was accompanied by his secretary*. 2 occur or do at the same time as: *fever ~ing a headache*. 3 (music) play, sing, an accompaniment(2) to.

ac-com-lice /ə'kɒmplɪs/ *US*: /ə'kɒm-/ *n* [C] helper or companion (in doing something illegal).

ac-com-plish /ə'kɒmplɪʃ/ *US*: /ə'kɒm-/ *vt* succeed in doing; finish successfully: *~ a task*.

ac-com-plished *adj* well trained; skilled: *an ~ed dancer*.

ac-com-plish-ment /ə'kɒmplɪʃ-mənt/ *US*: /ə'kɒm-/ *n* (formal) 1 [U] completion; finishing: *the ~ of their aims*. 2 [C] thing well done or successfully completed; skill.

ac-cord¹ /ə'kɔ:d/ *n* [U] **of one's own accord**, without being asked or forced; willingly. **in/out of accord (with)**, agreeing/not agreeing with. **with one accord**, everybody agreeing.

ac-cord² /ə'kɔ:d/ *vi, vt* (formal) 1 be in agreement or harmony: *His description does not ~ with mine*. 2 (formal) give; grant: *He was ~ed a warm welcome*.

ac-cord-ance /ə'kɔ:dəns/ *n* **in accord-ance with**, in agreement with; as is expected of: *in ~ with your wishes/the regulations*.

ac-cord-ing /ə'kɔ:dɪŋ/ *prep* **according to**,

1 on the authority of: *A ~ to the timetable, the train is due here at 12.30*. 2 in relation to size, age, etc: *He will be punished ~ to the seriousness of his crime*. 3 in the way decided and stated: *The books are arranged on the shelves ~ to subjects*.

ac-cord-ing-ly *adv* for that reason: *She asked me to come immediately and I did so ~ly*.

ac-cord-ion /ə'kɔːdɪən/ *n* [C] portable musical instrument with a box of air, metal reeds and a keyboard.

ac-cost /ə'kɒst/ *US: ə'kɒst/ vt* go up to and speak to first, esp a stranger in a public place: *I was ~ed by a beggar.*

ac-count¹ /ə'kaʊnt/ *n* 1 [C] (commerce) statement of money (to be) paid or received (for goods, services, etc): *I have an ~ with the Midland Bank, keep my money with this Bank. open an account; open a bank/post office, etc account, start to keep one's money at a bank, etc. settle one's account (with).* (a) pay what one owes. (b) (fig) do something to get revenge for an injury, etc. **square/balance accounts (with sb)**, (a) receive or pay the difference between what is owed and credit. (b) (fig) end a quarrel, etc. by giving or taking punishment. ⇨ current³, deposit¹(1), joint² and save¹(2). 2 [C] counting; calculation: *He is quick at ~s, can do arithmetic quickly.* 3 [U] benefit; profit. **turn/put sth to (good) account**, use money, abilities, talent, etc profitably. 4 **give a good account of oneself**, do well; act in a way that brings credit. 5 [C] report; description: *Don't always believe newspaper ~s of events. by one's own account*, according to what one says oneself. **by/from all accounts**, according to what everybody, all the papers, etc say. 6 [U] **take sth into account; take account of sth**, note or consider it; pay attention to it. **take no account of sth**, pay no attention to it. 7 [U] **on account of**, because of. **on this/that account**, for this/that reason: *Don't stay away on ~ of John/on John's ~. on no account*, not for any reason: *Don't on any ~ leave the baby alone in the house.*

ac-count² /ə'kaʊnt/ *vt, vi* 1 **account for**, (a) be an explanation of: *His illness ~s for his absence. Ah, that ~s for it!* (b) give an explanation of money spent. 2 consider to be: *In English law a man is ~ed innocent until he is proved guilty.*

ac-count-able /-əbl/ *adj* responsible; expected to give an explanation: *A mental patient is not ~able for his actions.*

ac-count-ancy /ə'kaʊntənsi/ *n* [U] profession of an accountant.

ac-count-ant /ə'kaʊntənt/ *n* [C] (GB) person whose profession is to keep and examine business accounts.

ac-credit /ə'kredit/ *vt* appoint or send a person as an ambassador.

ac-crue /ə'kruː/ *vi* come as a natural growth or development: *If you keep your money in the Savings Bank, interest ~s.*

ac-cu-mu-late /ə'kjʊːmjʊleɪt/ *vt, vi* make or become greater in number or quantity: *Dust soon ~s if the rooms are not swept.*

ac-cu-mu-la-tion /ə'kjʊːmjʊleɪʃn/ *n* [C, U] collection: *an ~ of books/rubbish.*

ac-cu-mu-lat-ive /ə'kjʊːmjʊlətɪv *US: -lei-/*

adj growing by being added to.

ac-cu-racy /'ækjərəsi/ *n* [U] exactness; correctness.

ac-cu-rate /'ækjərət/ *adj* 1 careful and exact: *be ~ in one's work/in what one says.* 2 free from error: *Clocks in airports should be ~.*

ac-cur-ate-ly *adv*

ac-cursed, ac-curst /ə'kɑːst/ *adj* under a curse; hateful.

ac-cu-sa-tion /'ækjʊːzeɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] accusing or being accused. 2 [C] charge of doing something wrong or illegal: *bring an ~ (of theft) against a person.*

ac-cuse /ə'kjʊːz/ *vt* say that a person has done wrong, broken the law, is to be blamed: *~ him of theft/ be ~d of stealing.*

the accused, the person(s) charged in a criminal case.

ac-cuser, person who accuses.

ac-cus-ing-ly /ə'kjʊːzɪŋli/ *adv* in an accusing manner: *He pointed ~ at me.*

ac-cus-tom /ə'kɑːstəm/ *vt* make oneself used to: *This is not the kind of treatment I'm ~ed to, not the kind I usually receive.*

ac-customed *adj* usual: *in his ~ed seat.*

ace /eɪs/ *n* [C] 1 the one on dice, playing-cards, etc; card so marked: *the ~ of spades,* 2 (informal) person who is first rate or an expert. 3 **within an ace of**, (of bad or unlucky incidents) only just escaping: *within an ~ of death/of being killed.*

acetic /ə'siːtɪk/ *adj* of vinegar.

acety-lene /ə'setəliːn/ *n* [U] (chem) colourless gas (C₂H₂) which burns with a bright light, used for welding and cutting metal: *an ~ torch.*

ache /eɪk/ *n* [C] dull continuous pain: *have a 'head-~; suffer from head-~s.* (Note: *Ache* is only combined with *back*, *ear*, *face*, *head*, *heart*, *stomach*, *tummy* and *tooth*. For others, use *a pain in the chest*, etc.) □ *vi* 1 have a steady or continuous dull pain: *My head ~s/is aching.* 2 want very much: *He was aching for freedom/to go.*

achieve /ə'tʃiːv/ *vt* 1 complete; get (something) done: *He will never ~ anything, will not do anything successfully.* 2 gain or reach by effort: *~ success/distinction in public life.*

achiev-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be achieved.

achieve-ment /ə'tʃiːvmənt/ *n* 1 [U] achieving: *the ~ of one's aims.* 2 [C] thing done successfully, with effort and skill: *The inventor was rewarded by the Government for his scientific ~.*

acid /'æɪsɪd/ *adj* 1 sour; sharp to the taste: *A lemon is an ~ fruit. Vinegar has an ~ taste.* 2 (fig) sarcastic: *an ~ wit; ~ remarks.* □ *n* [C, U] (chem) substance that contains hydrogen, which can react with metals to form a salt: *Some ~s burn holes in wood and cloth.*

'acid test, (fig) test that proves the value of something.

acid-ify /ə'sɪdɪfaɪ/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp -ied) make or become acid.

acid-ity /ə'sidəti/ *n* [U] state or quality of being acid.

ac-knowl-edge /ə'knɒlɪdʒ/ *vt* **1** admit the truth, existence or reality of: *He refused to ~ defeat/that he was defeated.* **2** report that one has received (something): *~ (receipt of) a letter.* **3** express thanks for: *We must ~ his services to his country.* **4** show that one recognizes (somebody) by giving a greeting, a smile, a nod of the head, etc: *I met her in town but she didn't even ~ my wave.*

ac-knowl-edge-ment, ac-knowl-edg-ment /ə'knɒlɪdʒmənt/ *n* **1** [U] act of acknowledging: *We are sending you a gift in ~ of your kindness.* **2** [C] something given or done to acknowledge: *We have had no ~ of our letter, no reply.*

acme /'ækmi/ *n* [C] highest point of perfection, etc.

acne /'ækni/ *n* [U] disease (common among adolescents) in which there are pimples and blackheads on the face and neck.

acorn /'eɪkɔ:n/ *n* [C] seed or fruit of the oak tree.

acous-tic /ə'ku:stɪk/ *adj* of sound, the science of sound and the sense of hearing. □ **n** [C] studio, hall, etc from the consideration of how well music, speech, etc can be heard.

acous-tics *n* (a) (used with a *sing verb*) the scientific study of sound. (b) (used with a *pl verb*) the physical qualities of sound; the design of a hall etc, that makes it good, poor, etc for hearing music or speeches: *The ~s of the new concert hall are excellent.*

ac-quaint /ə'kwent/ *vt* **1** **acquaint sb/oneself with**, make known: *~ oneself/ become ~ed/make oneself ~ed with one's new duties.* **2** **be acquainted (with sb)**, have met (him) personally: *We are not ~ed.*

ac-quaint-ance /ə'kwentəns/ *n* **1** [U] knowledge or information gained through experience. **make sb's acquaintance**, get to know him, eg by being introduced. ⇨ **nod**. **2** [C] person whom one knows (less intimate than a friend): *He has a wide circle of ~s.*

ac-quiet-sce /'ækwɪs/ *vi* accept silently or without protest.

ac-qui-escence /'lesəns/ *n* [C] (act of) acquiescing.

ac-quire /ə'kwɪə(r)/ *vt* gain by skill or ability, by one's own efforts or behaviour: *~ a good knowledge of English/a reputation for dishonesty.* **an acquired taste**, fondness for particular food or drink after tasting it several times: *Are olives an ~d taste?*

ac-qui-si-tion /'ækwɪzɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] (formal) gaining; collecting: *He devotes his time to the ~ of knowledge.* **2** [C] person or thing acquired: *Mr Brown will be a valuable ~ to (= a valuable new member of) the teaching staff of our school.*

ac-quis-itive /ə'kwɪzətɪv/ *adj* fond of, in the habit of, collecting, buying, more and more things.

ac-quit /ə'kwɪt/ *vt* (-tt-) **1** **acquit sb (of/on sth)**, give a legal decision that (he) is not guilty, eg of an offence. **2** (formal) behave: *He ~ed himself well/like a hero.*

ac-quit-tal /ə'kwɪtl/ *n* [C,U] judgement that a person is not guilty: *The verdict was three convictions and two ~s.*

acre /'eɪkə(r)/ *n* [C] measure of land, about 4000 square metres.

acre-age /'eɪkərɪdʒ/ *n* [U] area of land measured in acres.

ac-rid /'ækrɪd/ *adj* (of smell or taste) sharp; bitter.

ac-ri-moni-ous /'ækrɪ'məniəs/ *adj* (formal) (of arguments, etc) showing hate, disappointment.

ac-ri-mony /'ækrɪməni/ *US: -məni/ n* [U] (formal) temper, manner, language, showing hate, disappointment.

ac-ro-bat /'ækrəbət/ *n* [C] person who can do clever or unusual physical acts, eg on a tightrope or trapeze.

ac-ro-batic /'ækrə'bætɪk/ *adj* of or like an acrobat.

ac-ro-bat-ics *n pl* (used with a *sing verb*) acrobatic tricks or feats.

ac-ro-nym /'ækrənɪm/ *n* [C] word formed from the initial letters of a name, eg *NASA* /'næsə/, *National Aeronautics and Space Administration*.

across¹ /ə'krɒs/ *US: ə'krɔ:s/ adv* from one side to the other: *Can you swim ~? The river is a mile ~, wide.*

across² /ə'krɒs/ *US: ə'krɔ:s/ prep* (For combinations with verbs, ⇨ the verb entries, eg come, get, put, run.) **1** from side to side of: *walk ~ the street; draw a line ~ a sheet of paper.* **2** on the other side of: *My house is just ~ the street.* **3** so as to form a cross; so as to cross or intersect: *He sat with his arms ~ his chest.*

a,cross-the-'board, including all groups, members, etc in a business or industry: *an ~ the-board wage increase.*

act¹ /ækt/ *n* [C] **1** thing done: *To kick a dog is a cruel ~.* **2** process of, instant of, doing; action. (**catch sb**) **in the (very) act (of doing sth)**, while doing it: *The thief was caught in the ~ of breaking into the house.* **3** law made by a government: *an ~ of Parliament.* **4** main division of a play: *a play in five ~s.* **5** one of a series of short performances in a programme: *a circus/variety ~.* **put on an act**, pretend (in order to get one's own way, etc).

Act of God, something which is the result of uncontrollable natural forces, eg storms, floods, earthquakes.

act² /ækt/ *vi, vt* **1** do something: *The time for talking is past; we must ~ at once.* **act on** (a suggestion/sb's advice/an order), do what is suggested, advised, etc. **2** do what is required or normal: *The brakes wouldn't ~ properly.* **3** do one's professional or official duty: *The police refused to ~, would not interfere.* **act for/on behalf of**, represent (a person) as a

solicitor, barrister in a legal case: *A solicitor ~s for his clients.* **4** take the part of, eg a character in a play or cinema film, or in real life: *Who is ~ing (the part of) Hamlet? She's not really crying; she's only ~ing (= pretending) in order to gain your sympathy.* **act up**, (informal) behave badly so as to attract attention.

act-ing /'æktɪŋ/ *adj* doing the duties of another person for a time: *The ~ Manager/Headmaster.* □ *n* [U] (art of) performing in a play for the theatre, cinema, TV, etc: *She did a lot of ~ while she was at college.*

ac-tion /'ækʃn/ *n* **1** [U] process of doing things; (way of) using energy, influence, etc: *The time has come for ~.* We must act now. **bring/call (sth) into action**, cause (it) to act. **put (sth) out of action**, stop (it) working; make (it) unfit for use. **take action**, begin to act. **2** [C] thing done; act: *We shall judge you by your ~s, not by your promises.* **3** [C] **bring an action against sb**, (legal) seek judgement against him in a law court. **4** [C, U] fight(ing) between bodies of troops, between warships, etc: *go into ~*, start fighting.

'action painting, form of abstract painting in which paint is splashed, dribbled, etc.

'action 'replay, repeat of a short incident (in a sporting event, etc) on television.

'action stations, (mil) positions to which soldiers, etc go when fighting is expected to begin.

ac-ti-vate /'æktɪveɪt/ *vt* make active.

ac-tive /'æktɪv/ *adj* doing things; able to do things; in the habit of doing things: *He's over 90 and not very ~.* Mount Vesuvius is an ~ volcano, is one that erupts. **under active consideration**, being considered.

the active voice, (gram) (a) form of a verbal phrase not containing *be* + a past participle, as in: *He was driving.* (Note: compare, *He was being driven.*) (b) sentence containing a transitive verb in which the noun or pronoun in front of the verb refers to the doer of the action: *The children finished off the cake.* (Note: compare, *The cake was soon finished off by the children.*)

ac-tive-ly *adv*

ac-tiv-ist /'æktɪvɪst/ *n* [C] person taking an active part, eg in a political movement.

ac-tiv-ity /'æktɪvəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] being active or lively: *When a man is over 70, his time of full ~ is usually past.* **2** [C] thing (to be) done; occupation: *My numerous activities leave me little leisure.*

ac-tor /'æktə(r)/ *n* [C] man who acts on the stage, TV or in films.

ac-tress /'æktɪs/ *n* [C] woman who acts on the stage, TV or in films.

ac-tual /'æktʃʊəl/ *adj* existing in fact; real: *Can you give me the ~ figures, not an estimate or a guess?*

ac-tu-al-ly /'æktʃʊəli/ *adv* **1** really: *the political party ~ in power.* *He looks honest, but ~*

he's a thief. **2** strange or surprising as it may seem: *He not only ran in the race; he ~ won it!*

ac-tu-al-ity /'æktʃʊələti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] actual existence; reality. **2** (usually pl) actual conditions or facts.

acu-men /ə'kju:mən/ *n* [U] ability to understand quickly and clearly: *business ~.*

acu-punc-ture /'ækjʊpʌŋktʃə(r)/ *n* [U] (med) pricking of the flesh of the human body with fine needles to relieve pain and as a local anaesthetic.

acute /ə'kju:t/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** (of sensations) very strong: ~ pain. **2** (of diseases) coming quickly to a crisis: *the ~ stage of the disease*, when the disease is severe and at a turning point. ⇨ chronic. **3** (of intellect) quick to respond: *an ~ mind.*

acute accent, mark over a vowel ('), as over *e* in *café*.

acute angle, angle of less than 90°

acute-ly *adv*

acute-ness *n* [U]

ad /æd/ *n* [C] (informal) (abbr for) advertisement(2).

ad-age /'ædɪdʒ/ *n* [C] old and wise saying.

Adam /'ædəm/ *n* **not know sb from Adam**, have no idea who he is.

'Adam's apple, part that projects in the front of the throat, esp in men, and moves up and down when one speaks.

ad-a-mant /'ædəmənt/ *adj* refusing to give in: *On this point I am ~.* Nothing can change my decision.

adapt /ə'dæpt/ *vt* make suitable for a new use, need, situation, etc: *When you go to a new country, you must ~ (yourself) to new manners and customs.* Novels are often ~ed for the stage, television and radio.

adap-ter, **adap-tor** /-tə(r)/, (a) person who adapts. (b) thing that makes it possible for something to be used in a different way from that for which it was designed, eg a fitting for an electric socket so that more than one plug(2) may be used.

adapt-able /ə'dæptəbl/ *adj* able to adapt or be adapted: *an ~ man can change according to circumstances.*

ad-ap-ta-tion /,ædæp'tetʃn/ *n* **1** [U] state of being adapted; adapting. **2** [C] thing made by adapting: *an ~ (of a novel) for the stage/for television.*

add /æd/ *vt, vi* **1** join, unite, put (one thing to another): *If you ~ 5 and 10 you get 15.* **add on**, put (more, another, extra, etc) on: ~ on 50p for postage. **add to**, increase: *This ~s to our difficulties.* **add together**, combine two or more things. **add sth up**, find the sum of: ~ up a column of figures; ~ them up. **add up (to)**, (a) give as a result when joined: *The figures add up to 365.* (b) (informal) indicate; amount to: *All that this ~s up to is that you don't want to help, so why not say so?* (c) (informal) make sense; be believable: *It just doesn't ~ up.* **2** say something more; go on to

say: 'And I hope you'll come early,' he ~ed.

'adding-machine, machine for calculating mechanically.

ad-den-dum /ə'dendəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* -də /-də/) thing (omitted) in writing, a speech, etc that is to be added.

ad-der /'ædə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** any of several small poisonous snakes, eg the *viper*, common in Europe. **2** any of several non-poisonous snakes of N America.

ad-dict /ə'dikt/ *vt* **be addicted to**, drink, smoke, etc without being able to stop wanting to: *He is ~ed to alcohol/smoking/lying/drugs.* □ *n* /'ædikt/ person who is addicted to something harmful: *a 'drug ~.*

ad-dic-tion /ə'dɪkʃn/ *n* [C, U] (instance of) being addicted: *'drug ~ion.*

ad-dic-tive /ə'dɪktɪv/ *adj* causing addiction: *~ive drugs.*

ad-di-tion /ə'dɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] action of adding: *The sign + stands for ~.* **2** [C] person or thing added or joined: *He will be a useful ~ to the staff of the school, a useful new teacher. in ad-dition (to),* as well (as).

ad-di-tional /ə'dɪʃnəl/ *adj* extra; added: *~ charges/problems ~ to the usual ones.*

ad-di-tion-ally /-əl/ *adv*

ad-di-tive /'ædɪtɪv/ *n* [C] substance added in small amounts for a special purpose: *food ~s,* eg to add colour.

ad-dress¹ /ə'dres/ *US: 'ædres/ n* **1** [C] particulars of where a person lives, works, etc and where letters, etc may be delivered: *What's your home/business ~?* **2** [C] speech or talk (to an audience).

ad-dress² /ə'dres/ *vt* **1** make a speech to; speak to, using a title: *Mr Green will now ~ the meeting. Don't ~ me as 'Colonel'; I'm only a major.* **2** write the name and address(1) on a letter, etc. **3 address sth to**, send (a remark, complaint, etc) to: *Please ~ complaints to the manager, not to me.*

ad-dres-see /'ædre'si:/ *n* [C] person to whom a speech is made.

ad-duce /ə'dju:s/ *US: ə'du:s/ vt* (formal) put forward (as proof, as an example)

ad-en-oid-al /'ædɪ'nɔɪdl/ *adj* of, concerning, the adenoids.

ad-en-oids /'ædɪnɔɪdz/ *n pl* soft growth between the back of the nose and the throat, sometimes making breathing and speaking difficult.

adept /'ædept/ *adj* expert, skilled: *~ in photography/at playing chess.*

ade-quacy /'ædɪkwəsi/ *n* [U] (formal) state of being adequate: *He often doubts his ~ as a husband and father.*

ade-quate /'ædɪkwət/ *adj* satisfactory; sufficient: *Are you getting ~ payment for the work you're doing?*

ade-quate-ly *adv*

ad-her-e /əd'hɪə(r)/ *vi* (formal) **1** stick (to): *Glue is used to make one surface ~ to another.* **2** remain faithful (to); support firmly: *~ to an*

opinion/a political party.

ad-her-ence /-əns/ *n* [U]

ad-her-ent /əd'hɪərənt/ *n* [C] supporter (of a cause, party, etc but not necessarily a member): *The idea is gaining more ~s.*

ad-hesion /əd'hɪ:ʒn/ *n* [U] being or becoming attached or united.

ad-hesive /əd'hɪ:sɪv/ *adj* able to stick or join: *~ tape/plaster.* □ *n* [C, U] substance that sticks or joins, eg *gum.*

adieu /ə'dju:/ *US: ə'du:/ int, n* [C] (*pl* ~s or ~x /ə'dju:z *US: ə'du:z/*) (formal) goodbye: *The cast of the play bid her ~.*

ad in-fi-ni-tum /,æd ɪnfɪ'naitəm/ (*Latin*) without end; for ever.

ad-jac-ent /əd'dʒeɪsənt/ *adj* next, lying near (to) but not necessarily touching: *~ to the cinema; ~ angles.*

ad-jec-tival /,ædʒɪk'taɪvl/ *adj* (gram) of or like an adjective: *an ~ phrase/clause.*

ad-jec-tive /'ædʒɪktɪv/ *n* (gram) word that names a quality, or that defines or limits a noun; eg *green, pretty, bad.*

ad-join /əd'dʒɔɪn/ *vt, vi* be next or nearest (to): *The two houses ~.*

ad-journ /əd'dʒɔ:n/ *vt, vi* **1** stop, eg discussion at a meeting, etc. for a time: *The meeting was ~ed for a week.* **2** (of a meeting, etc) stop or be stopped for a time.

ad-journ-ment *n* [C, U]

ad-judge /əd'dʒʌdʒ/ *vt* decide officially, by law.

ad-ju-di-cate /əd'dʒu:dɪkeɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** (legal) (of a judge or court) give a judgement or decision: *~ a claim for damages.* **2** (formal) sit in judgement in order to decide: *~ on/upon a disagreement.*

ad-ju-di-ca-tion /əd'dʒu:dɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

ad-ju-di-ca-tor /-tə(r)/, judge; member of a group of judges, eg in a competition.

ad-junct /'ædʒʌŋkt/ *n* [C] **1** something which is part of a more important thing. **2** (gram) word(s) or phrase added to explain, describe or define another word.

ad-just /əd'dʒʌst/ *vt* put right; put in order; regulate; make suitable or convenient for use: *Please ~ the level of sound. It takes time to get ~ed to the heat.*

,well-a-djusted, (psychology) getting on well with other persons.

adjust-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be adjusted.

ad-just-ment *n* (a) [U] adjusting; settling of, eg insurance, claims. (b) [C] act or means of adjusting.

ad-ju-tant /'ædʒʊtənt/ *n* [C] army officer responsible for general administration and discipline in a battalion.

ad lib /,æd 'lɪb/ *adv* (informal) freely. □ **ad-lib** *vi* (-bb-) (informal) improvise(1). □ *adj* made by ad-libbing: *~ comments.*

ad-min-is-ter /əd'mɪnɪstə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** control, manage, look after business affairs, etc: *~ a country,* govern it. **2** apply; put into operation; hand out; give: *~ the law; ~ help to people who*

are suffering from floods. **3** cause to take: ~ the last sacraments, i.e. to a dying man.

ad-min-is-tra-tion /əd'mɪnɪ'streɪʃn/ *n* [U] **1** management of affairs, an organization etc, esp public affairs, government policy, etc. **2** the administering of justice, an oath, a sacrament, relief, a remedy, a punishment.

ad-min-is-tra-tive /əd'mɪnɪstrətɪv/ *US*: -streɪtɪv/ *adj* of the management of affairs: *He shows no ~ ability.*

ad-min-is-tra-tor /əd'mɪnɪstreɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who administers; person with ability to organize. **2** (legal) person officially appointed to manage the property of others, to take charge of an estate, etc.

ad-mir-able /'ædmərəbl/ *adj* excellent; deserving admiration: *an ~ performance.*

ad-mir-ably /-əblɪ/ *adv*

ad-miral /'ædmərəl/ *n* [C] officer in command of a country's warships, or of a fleet or squadron.

Ad-miral-ty /'ædmərəltɪ/ *n* **1** office of admiral. **2** that branch of Government which controls the Navy.

ad-mir-ation /'ædmərəʃn/ *n* [U] feeling of pleasure, satisfaction, respect: *She speaks English so well that her friends are filled with ~.*

ad-mire /əd'maɪə(r)/ *vt* **1** show pleasure, approval or satisfaction; have a high opinion of: *admiring the royal guards.* **2** express admiration of: *Don't forget to ~ the baby.*

ad-mirer, person who admires; man who finds a woman attractive: *Mary and her many young ~s.*

ad-mir-ing *adj* showing or feeling admiration: *an admiring audience.*

ad-mir-ing-ly *adv*

ad-miss-ible /əd'mɪsəbl/ *adj* (legal) that can be allowed as proof in a law court: ~ evidence.

ad-mis-sion /əd'mɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] admitting, being admitted, to a club, a school, a theatre, a museum, etc; fee, charge or condition for this: *A ~ to the school is by examination only. A ~ free.* **2** [C] statement admitting or confessing something: *make an ~ of guilt. by/on his own admission*, as he himself admitted.

ad-mit /əd'mɪt/ *vt, vi* (-tt-) **1** allow to enter; let in: *The secretary opened the door and ~ed me (into the office).* **2** have room enough for: *The cinema is small and ~s only 300 people.* **3** acknowledge; confess; accept as true or valid: *The accused man ~ed his guilt. I ~ my mistake|that I was mistaken. admit to*, confess: *I must ~ to feeling ashamed of my conduct.*

ad-mit-tance /əd'mɪtəns/ *n* [U] act of admitting, being admitted (esp to a place that is not public); mode of entry: *No ~ except on business.*

ad-mit-ted-ly /əd'mɪtɪdli/ *adv* without denial; by general agreement: *A ~, he has not misbehaved before, but ...*

ad-mon-ish /əd'məniʃ/ *vt* (formal) give a mild warning or show disapproval: *The teach-*

er ~ed the boys for being lazy.

ad-mo-ni-tion /'ædmə'nɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

ad-nauseam /'æd'nɔ:sɪəm/ *adv* (Latin) **1** to the point of being disgusted. **2** (informal) so as to cause (great) annoyance, eg because of continuing for too long or repetition.

ado /ə'du:/ *n* [U] fuss: *Without more|much|further ~, he signed the agreement.*

adobe /ə'dəʊbi/ *n* [U] sun-dried building material (not fired in a kiln), of clay and straw: (as an adjective) *an ~ house.*

ado-lescence /'ædə'lesns/ *n* [U] period of life between childhood and maturity; growth during this period.

ado-lescent /'ædə'lesnt/ *adj, n* [C] (person) growing up (age 12 or 13 to 18).

adopt /ə'dɒpt/ *vt* **1** take (a child) into one's family as a relation, esp as a son or daughter, with legal guardianship: ~ an orphan. ⇨ foster. **2** take, eg an idea or custom, and use: *European dress has been ~ed by people in many parts of the world.* **3** accept, eg a report or recommendation: *Congress ~ed the new measures.*

adoption /ə'dɒpʃn/ *n* [U] adopting or being adopted: *the country of his ~.*

adop-tive /ə'dɒptɪv/ *adj* taken by adoption: *his ~ parents.*

ador-able /ə'dɔ:rəbl/ *adj* lovable; delightful.

ador-ably /-əblɪ/ *adv*

ador-ation /ə'dɔ:rəʃn/ *n* [U] worship; love: *his ~ for Jane.*

adore /ə'dɔ:r(r)/ *vt* **1** worship (God); love deeply and respect highly. **2** (informal) like very much: *The baby ~s being tickled.*

adorer, person who adores (another person).

ador-ing *adj* showing love: *adoring looks.*

ador-ing-ly *adv*

adorn /ə'dɔ:n/ *vt* **1** add beauty or ornament(s) to. **2** decorate (the usual word) (oneself with jewels, etc.)

adorn-ment *n* [U] adorning; [C] (formal) ornament; decoration.

ad-re-nal /ə'dri:nl/ *adj* (anat) of or near the kidneys: ~ glands.

ad-re-na-lin /ə'drenəlɪn/ *n* [U] chemical substance in the body caused by anger, fear.

adrift /ə'drɪft/ *adv, adj* (of ships and boats) afloat, not under control; loose: *cut a boat ~ from its moorings.*

adroit /ə'drɔɪt/ *adj* (formal) clever; skilful.

adroit-ly *adv*

adu-la-tion /'ædʒʊ'leɪʃn/ *n* [U] (the giving of) too much praise or respect, esp to win favour.

adult /'ædʌlt/ *adj* grown to full size or strength; (of persons) intellectually and emotionally mature: ~ education, classes for adults. □ *n* [C] **1** person or animal grown to full size and strength. **2** (legal) person old enough to vote, marry, etc.

adult-hood /'ædʌlthʊd/ *n* [U] the period or state of being adult.

adul-ter-ate /ə'dʌltəreɪt/ *vt* (formal) make

impure (by adding inferior substance).

adul-ter-ation /əˈdʌltəˈreɪʃn/ *n* [U]

adul-ter-er /əˈdʌltərə(r)/ *n* [C] man who commits adultery.

adul-ter-ess /əˈdʌltərəs/ *n* [C] woman who commits adultery.

adul-ter-ous /əˈdʌltərəs/ *adj* of adultery.

adul-tery /əˈdʌltəri/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] voluntary sexual intercourse of a married person with a person to whom he or she is not married. **2** [C] instance of this.

ad-vance¹ /ədˈvɑːns US: -ˈvæns/ *n* [C, U] **1** forward movement; progress: *Science has made great ~s during the last fifty years.* **in advance (of)**, before(hand): *Send your luggage in ~, before you yourself leave.* *Galileo's ideas were (well) in ~ of the age in which he lived.* **2** (used as an adjective) before; early: *have ~ notice*, eg of somebody's arrival.

ad-vance² /ədˈvɑːns US: -ˈvæns/ *vi, vt* **1** come or move forward: *Our troops have ~d two miles.* **2** make progress: *Civilization has ~d during this century.* **3** (of costs, values, prices) rise: *House prices continue to ~.* **4** bring forward: *The date of the meeting was ~d from the 10th to the 3rd June.* *Such actions are unlikely to ~ your promotion.* **5 make advances (to/towards)**, try to become friendly (with a girl, etc). **6** pay (money) before the due date: *He asked his employer to ~ him a month's salary.*

ad-vance-ment *n* [U]

ad-vanced /ədˈvɑːnsd US: -ˈvæn-/ *adj* far on in life or progress, etc: ~ in years, very old; ~ courses of study. ⇨ elementary.

ad-van-tage /ədˈvɑːntɪdʒ US: -ˈvæn-/ *n* **1** [C] something useful, helpful or likely to bring success, esp in competition: *the ~s of a good education.* **have/gain/win an advantage (over)**, (have, give, etc) a better position or opportunity: *Tom's university education gave him an ~ over boys who had not been to university.* **have the advantage of sb**, know a person or thing that he does not know. **2** [U] benefit; profit: *He gained little ~ from his visit to London.* **take advantage of sb**, deceive him, play a trick on him. **take (full) advantage of sth**, use it profitably, for one's own benefit: *He always takes full ~ of every opportunity.* **to advantage**, so that a thing can be seen, used, etc in the best way: *The painting is seen to better ~ from a distance.* **be/prove to sb's advantage**, be profitable or helpful to him. **3** (tennis, etc) point scored after deuce.

ad-van-tage-ous /ɪədˈvɑːntɪdʒəs/ *adj* profitable; useful.

ad-van-tage-ous-ly *adv*

ad-vent /ˈædvənt/ *n* **1** (usually the ~) coming or arrival of an important development, season, etc): *Since the ~ of atomic power, there have been great changes in industry.* **2 A~**, the coming of Christ; the season (with four Sundays) before Christmas Day. **3** the second coming of Christ at the Last Judgement.

ad-ven-ti-tious /ɪədvenˈtɪʃəs/ *adj* (formal) obtained or happening by chance: ~ aid.

ad-ven-ture /ədˈventʃə(r)/ *n* **1** [C] strange or unusual event, esp an exciting or dangerous journey or activity: *The explorer told the boys about his ~s in the Arctic.* **2** [U] risk; danger, eg in travel and exploration: *He's fond of ~.*

ad-ven-turer, **(a)** daring or adventurous person. **(b)** person who is ready to make a profit by risky or dishonest methods.

ad-ven-tur-ess /-ɪs/, woman adventurer.

ad-ven-tur-ous /ədˈventʃərəs/ *adj* **1** fond of, eager for, adventure. **2** full of danger and excitement: *an ~ voyage.*

ad-verb /ˈædvɜːb/ *n* [C] (gram) word that answers questions with *how*, *when*, *where* and explains or limits a verb, adjective or another adverb, eg *quickly*, *now*, *here*.

ad-verb-ial /ədˈvɜːbiəl/ *adj* of the nature of an adverb: *In the sentence — I put my hand out of the window, 'out of the window' is an ~ phrase.* □ *n* [C] adverb or adverbial phrase.

ad-verbi-ally *adv*

ad-ver-sary /ˈædvəsəri US: -səri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) enemy; opponent (in a contest).

ad-verse /ˈædvɜːs/ *adj* unhelpful or unuseful: ~ weather conditions.

ad-verse-ly *adv*

ad-ver-sity /ədˈvɜːsɪti/ *n* [C, U] (pl -ies) trouble: *Try to be patient/cheerful in ~.*

ad-vert /ˈædvɜːt/ *n* [C] (GB informal) (abbr of) advertisement(2).

ad-ver-tise /ˈædvɜːtaɪz/ *vt, vi* make known to people (by printing notices in newspapers, announcements on TV, etc): ~ for a typist.

ad-ver-tiser, person who advertises.

ad-ver-tise-ment /ˈædvɜːtɪsmənt US: ˈædvɜːtaɪzmənt/ *n* **1** [U] advertising: *A ~ helps to sell goods.* **2** [C] public announcement (in the press, TV, etc): *put an ~ in the newspaper.*

ad-vice /ədˈvaɪs/ *n* [U] (informed) opinion about what to do, how to behave: *You won't get well unless you follow your doctor's ~.* **act on sb's advice**, do what he suggests. **(give sb) a piece/a bit/a word/a few words of advice**, (give) an opinion about what to do, etc.

ad-vis-able /ədˈvaɪzəbl/ *adj* sensible; to be recommended: *Do you think it ~ to wait?*

ad-vise /ədˈvaɪz/ *vt, vi* **1** give advice to; recommend: *The doctor ~d a complete rest.* *What do you ~ me to do?* **2** (commerce) inform; notify: *Please ~ us when the goods are ready.* ⇨ ill-/well-advised.

ad-vis-er, person who gives advice, esp one who is regularly consulted: *an ~ to the Government.*

ad-vis-ory /ədˈvaɪzəri/ *adj* of advice; having the power to advise: *an ~ committee.*

ad-vo-cacy /ˈædvəkəsi/ *n* [U] pleading in support.

ad-vo-cate /ˈædvəkət/ *n* [C] **1** person who speaks in favour of a person or thing (esp a cause): *an ~ of equal opportunity for men and*

women. **2** (legal) person who does this professionally in a court of law in Scotland. □ *vt* /'ædvəkeɪt/ support (the usual word): *Do you ~ euthanasia?*

adze, **adz** /ædz/ *n* [C] carpenter's tool (with a blade at right angles to the handle) for cutting or shaping wood.

aer-ate /'eəreɪt/ *vt* let or put air into: ~ the soil by digging.

aer-ation /,eə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U]

aer-ial¹ /'eəriəl/ *adj* **1** existing in, moving through, from, the air: *an ~ photograph*. **2** of or like air.

aer-ial² /'eəriəl/ *n* [C] that part of a radio or TV system which receives or sends out signals.

aer(o)- /eə(ə)-/ *prefix* of aircraft: *aerodynamics*.

aero-bat-ics /,eərə'bætiks/ *n* [U] (used with a *sing verb*) performance of acrobatic feats by pilots, eg flying upside down.

aero-drome /'eədrəʊm/ *n* [C] airport (the usual word).

aero-dy-nam-ics /,eərəʊdaɪ'næmiks/ *n* [U] (used with a *sing verb*) science dealing with the flow of air and the motion of aircraft, bullets, etc through air.

aero-naut-ics /,eərə'nɔ:tiks/ *n* [U] (used with a *sing verb*) aviation (the more usual word).

aero-plane /'eərəpleɪn/ *n* [C] aircraft with one or more engines.

aero-sol /'eərəsɒl/ *US*: -sɒl/ *n* [C] container with compressed gas for spraying a mist of scent, paint, etc.

aero-space /'eərəspeɪs/ *n* [U] the earth's atmosphere and the space beyond: (used as an adjective) *an ~ vehicle*.

aes-thete /'i:sθi:t/ *US*: 'esθi:t/ *n* [C] person who claims to have great love of and understanding of what is beautiful, esp in the arts.

aes-thetic, **es-thetic** /,i:sθetɪk/ *US*: 'es-/ *adj* of the appreciation of beauty in music, painting, nature etc; (of persons) having such appreciation: ~ standards. □ *n* [C] particular set of such principles: *the ~ in which he believed*.

aes-thet-ics *n* [U] (used with a *sing verb*) branch of philosophy which tries to make clear the laws and principles of beauty.

afar /ə'fɑ:(r)/ *adv* far off or away. **from afar**, from a distance.

af-fable /'æfəbl/ *adj* polite and friendly: ~ to everybody.

af-fably /-əbli/ *adv*

affa-bil-ity /,æfə'bɪləti/ *n* [U] (formal) quality of being friendly, polite.

af-fair /ə'feə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** something (to be) done or thought about: *That's my ~, not yours*. **2** (pl) business of any kind: *A prime minister is kept busy with ~s of state*, the task of government. **state of affairs**, conditions. **3** **have an affair (with sb)**, have an emotional (and sexual) relationship. **4** (informal) event: *The plane crash was a terrible ~*.

af-fect¹ /ə'fekt/ *vt* **1** influence; have an effect on: *The cold climate ~ed his health*, injured it.

2 produce sad, grateful, etc feelings: *He was much ~ed by the sad news*. **3** (of diseases) cause a particular condition in: *The left lung is ~ed, eg by cancer*.

af-fect² /ə'fekt/ *vt* pretend to have, feel or to do: *He ~ed ignorance*.

af-fec-ted *adj* not natural or genuine (often deliberately to show false superiority): ~ed manners/speech.

af-fec-ta-tion /,æfek'teɪʃn/ *n* [C,U] (kind of) behaviour that is not natural or genuine, esp for effect: *The ~s in the way she speaks* (eg her vocabulary, accent) annoy me.

af-fec-tion /ə'fekʃn/ *n* [U] kindly feeling; love: *Every mother has ~ for/feels ~ toward her children*. **gain/win sb's affection(s)**, win the love of.

af-fec-tion-ate /ə'fekʃənət/ *adj* loving: *an ~ wife*.

af-fec-tion-ately *adv* **Yours affectionately**, formula used to end a letter, eg from a man to his sister.

af-fi-da-vit /,æfɪ'deɪvɪt/ *n* [C] (legal) written statement, made on oath, (to be) used as legal proof or evidence: *swear/make/take an ~*.

af-fili-ate /,æfɪli'eɪt/ *vt, vi* (of a society or an institution, or a member) enter into association: *The College is ~d to the University*.

af-fili-ation /,æfɪli'eɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

af-fin-ity /ə'fɪnəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [C] close connection, relation; structural similarity (between animals and plants, languages, etc or of one thing with another). **2** [C] strong liking or attraction: *She feels a strong ~ to/for him*.

af-firm /ə'fɜ:m/ *vt, vi* declare positively: ~ the truth of a statement/~ that it is true.

af-firm-ation /,æfə'meɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

af-firm-ative /ə'fɜ:mətɪv/ *adj, n* (answering) 'yes': *The answer is the ~, is 'Yes'*.

af-fix¹ /ə'fɪks/ *vt* fix or attach (the usual words): ~ a seal/stamp to a document.

af-fix² /ə'fɪks/ *n* [C] suffix or prefix, eg -ly, -able, un-, co-.

af-flict /ə'fɪkt/ *vt* cause bodily or mental harm: ~ed with rheumatism.

af-flic-tion /ə'fɪkʃn/ *n* **1** [U] suffering; distress: *help people in ~*. **2** [C] cause or occasion of suffering: *the ~s of old age*, eg deafness, blindness.

af-fluence /'æfluəns/ *n* [U] wealth.

af-fluent /'æfluənt/ *adj* wealthy: *the ~ society*, members of society who are wealthy and are concerned with prosperity.

af-ford /ə'fɔ:d/ *vt* **1** (usually with *can/could*, *be able to*) spare or find enough time or money for: *We can't ~ a holiday/can't ~ to go away this summer*. **2** (with *can/could*) run the risk of: *I can't ~ to neglect my work*. **3** (formal) provide: *The trees ~ a pleasant shade*.

af-fray /ə'freɪ/ *n* [C] fight in a public place, causing or likely to cause a disturbance of the peace: *The men were all charged with causing*

an ~ outside the football stadium.

af-front /ə'frʌnt/ *vt* insult on purpose, esp in public: *feel ~ed at having one's word doubted.*
 □ *n* [C] public insult; deliberate show of disrespect: *an ~ to his pride.*

afield /ə'fi:ld/ *adv* **far afield**, far away from home; to or at a distance.

aflame /ə'fleɪm/ *adj* (*poetic*) in flames; red as if burning: ~ to his passion.

afloat /ə'fləʊt/ *adj* **1** floating; carried along on air or water: *The ship crashed on the rocks and we couldn't get it ~ again.* **2** at sea; on board ship: *life ~*, the life of a sailor. **3** (of a business) started; making enough profit.

afoot /ə'fʊt/ *adj* in progress or operation; being prepared: *There's a scheme ~ to improve the roads.*

afore-said /ə'fɔ:sɪd/ *adj* (*legal*) said or written before.

afraid /ə'freɪd/ *adj* **1** frightened: *There's nothing to be ~ of.* **2** doubtful or anxious about what may happen: *I was ~ of hurting his feelings* [that I might hurt his feelings]. **3** **be afraid**, (with that usually omitted) (a polite way of saying or writing something that may be unwelcome): *I'm ~ we shall be late again.*

afresh /ə'freʃ/ *adv* again; in a new way: *Let's start ~.*

Afro- /ɪ'æfrəʊ/ *prefix* of Africa or Africans: *an ~ hairstyle.*

Afro-American *adj, n* [C] (of an) American of African descent.

aft /ɑ:ft/ *US: æft/* *adj* (*naut*) at or near the stern (back part) of a ship.

after¹ /'ɑ:ftə(r)/ *US: 'æf-/* *adj* **1** later; following: *in ~ years.* **2** (*naut*) toward the stern (back part) of a ship: *the ~ cabin.*

after² /'ɑ:ftə(r)/ *US: 'æf-/* *adv* later in time; behind in place: *He fell ill on Monday and died three days ~* (later is more usual). *Soon ~ (afterwards is more usual), he went to live in Wales.*

after³ /'ɑ:ftə(r)/ *US: 'æf-/* *conj* at or during a time later than: *I arrived ~ he (had) left.*

after⁴ /'ɑ:ftə(r)/ *US: 'æf-/* *prep* **1** following in time; later than: ~ dinner/dark/two o'clock. **after that**, then; next. **2** next in order to; following: *'Against' comes ~ 'again' in a dictionary.* **After you**, formula spoken to invite someone to go first. **3** behind: *Shut the door ~ you.* **4** as a result of: *I shall never speak to him again ~ what he has said about me.* **5** in spite of: *A ~ all my care, it was broken.* **after all**, in spite of all that was done, happened, etc: *He died ~ all.* **6** *noun* + **after** + *noun*, repeatedly; very often: *day ~ day.* **7** in the style of: *a painting ~ Rembrandt.* **8** (used with verbs showing pursuit, search, inquiry): *Did they ask ~ me, ask for news of me? The police are ~* (= trying to find and arrest) *my brother.* ⇨ also look²(5), name²(1) and take¹(16).

after- /ɑ:ftə(r)/ *US: 'æf-/* *prefix* second or later. **after-care**, further treatment given to a person, eg who has been ill.

after-effect, effect that occurs later, eg a delayed effect of a drug.

(the) **after-life**, (**a**) the life believed to follow death. (**b**) the later part of a person's lifetime (esp after a particular event).

after-math /-mæθ/, (*fig*) result; outcome: *Misery is usually the ~math of war.*

after-thought, [U] thinking afterwards; [C] thought that comes afterwards.

after-noon /ɑ:ftə'nu:n/ *US: 'æf-/* *n* [C] time between morning and evening: *in/during the ~; this/yesterday/tomorrow ~; on Sunday ~; (used as an adjective) an ~ sleep.*

after-wards /ɑ:ftəwɔ:dz/ *US: 'æf-/* *adv* after; later.

again /ə'gen/ *adv* **1** once more: *If you fail the first time, try ~.* **now and a'gain**, occasionally. **a'gain and a'gain; time and (time) a'gain**, repeatedly; very often. **2 not ever/never again**, not any more: *Don't ever do that ~.* **3** to or in the original condition, position, etc: *You'll soon be well ~.* *He was glad to be home ~.* **4 as many/much again**, (**a**) the same number/quantity. (**b**) twice as many/much; the same in addition. **5 then again**, (used to indicate more thought or a possible change of opinion): *Then ~, I doubt whether... Come again?* (*informal*) What did you say?

against /ə'genst/ *prep* **1** (showing opposition): *Opinion was ~ the proposal. We voted ~ the government.* (Note: compare for, in favour of.) **2** (showing collision or impact): *The rain was beating ~ the windows.* **3** in contrast to: *The trees were black ~ the morning sky.* **4** in order to prevent: *have an injection ~ smallpox.* **5** (showing support or closeness) by the side of (and touching): *Place the ladder ~ the tree. Put the piano ~ the wall. He was leaning ~ a post.*

agate /'ægət/ *n* [C,U] (sorts of) very hard stone with bands or patches of colour.

age¹ /eɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [C] length of time a person has lived or a thing has existed: *What's his ~?* How old is he? *Their ~s are 4, 7 and 9.* **be/come of age**, be/become old enough to be responsible in law. **be of an age**, reach a stage in life when one ought to do something: *He's of an ~ when he ought to try settling down,* eg get a good job, marry. **over 'age**, having passed a certain age or age limit: *He won't be allowed a child's fare; he's over ~.* **under 'age**, too young. **2** [U] later part of life (contrasted with youth): *His back was bent with ~.* **3** [C] great or long period of time, with special characteristics or events: *the atomic ~.* ⇨ also middle age, stone age. **4** (*pl*) (*informal*) very long time: *We've been waiting for ~s.*

age-bracket, period of life between two specified ages, eg between 20 and 30.

age-group, number of persons of the same age.

age limit, minimum or maximum age at which a person can take part in an activity, be-

come a member of an organization.

'age-long *adj* lasting for a very long time.

'age of consent, age at which the law recognizes a person's, esp a girl's, responsibility for agreeing to sexual intercourse, a person's right to marry, etc.

'age-old *adj* that has been known, practised, etc for a long time: *~old customs/ceremonies*.

age² /eɪdʒ/ *vt, vi* (*present participle ~ing or ag-ing, pp ~d* /eɪdʒd/) (cause to) grow old: *He's ag(e)ing fast*.

age-less *adj* eternal; always young.

-age /-ɪdʒ, -ɑːʒ/ *suffix* (used to form a noun): *postage; sabotage*.

aged¹ /eɪdʒd/ *adj* of the age of: *a boy ~ ten*.

aged² /eɪdʒd/ *n, adj* very old: *the poor and the ~; an ~ professor*.

age-ing, ag-ing /eɪdʒɪŋ/ *n* [U] process of growing old; changes that occur as the result of the passing of time.

agency /'eɪdʒənsɪ/ *n* (*pl -ies*) **1** [C] business, place of business, of an agent(1): *He found a job through an employment ~*. **2** [U] **the 'agency of**, the action, help or cause of: *Rocks are worn smooth through the ~ of water*.

agenda /ə'dʒendə/ *n* [C] (*pl ~s*) (list of) things to be done or discussed, eg by a committee: *the next item on the ~*.

agent /'eɪdʒənt/ *n* [C] **1** person who acts for, or who manages or arranges the affairs of another or others: *a 'house-~, person who buys, sells, lets and rents houses*. **2** person used to achieve something or to get a result. **3** (*science*) substance producing an effect: *Rain and frost are natural ~s that wear away rocks*.

ag-glom-er-ation /ə'glɒmə'reɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] action of collecting into a mass. **2** [C] (esp untidy or unplanned) heap or collection.

ag-grand-ize-ment (also **-ise-**) /ə'grænd-ɪzmənt/ *n* [C] increase in power, wealth, importance: *seeking personal ~*.

ag-gra-vate /'ægrəveɪt/ *vt* **1** make worse or more serious: *~ an illness/offence*. **2** (*informal*) irritate: *How aggravating!*

ag-gra-va-tion /'ægrə'veɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

ag-gre-gate /'ægrəɡət/ *n* [C] total obtained by adding together.

ag-gres-sion /ə'ɡresʃn/ *n* **1** [U] attack that has no (obvious) cause, often beginning a quarrel or war: *It was difficult to decide which country was guilty of ~*. **2** [C] instance of this.

ag-gress-ive /ə'ɡresɪv/ *adj* **1** capable of attacking or quarrelling without a reason: *an ~ man*. **2** of or for attacking: *~ weapons*. **3** not afraid of opposition, energetic and able to argue powerfully: *A man who goes from door to door selling things has to be ~ if he wants to succeed*.

ag-gress-ive-ly *adv*

ag-gress-ive-ness *n* [U]

ag-gres-sor /ə'ɡress(ə)r/ *n* [C] country, person, deliberately attacking.

ag-grieve /ə'ɡriːv/ *vt* (*formal*) (usually passive) feel great sorrow (esp because of unjust

treatment): *be ~d*.

ag-gro /'ægrəʊ/ *n* [U] (*GB sl*) aggression as shown by gangs of teenagers towards other gangs, racial minorities, etc.

ag-hast /ə'ɡɑːst *US*: ə'ɡæst/ *adj* filled with fear or surprise: *He stood ~ at the terrible sight*.

agile /'ædʒaɪl *US*: 'ædʒəl/ *adj* (of living things) moving, acting, quickly and effortlessly: *an ~ mind*.

agile-ly *adv*

agil-ity /ə'dʒɪləti/ *n* [U]

ag-ing /'eɪdʒɪŋ/ *n* ⇨ *ageing*.

agi-tate /'ædʒɪteɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** move or shake (a liquid). **2** cause anxiety to (a person, his mind or feelings): *He was ~d about his wife's health*.

3 agitate for, argue publicly in favour of, take part in a campaign for: *agitating for higher wages*.

agi-tated *adj* anxious.

agi-ta-tion /'ædʒɪ'teɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] moving or shaking (of a liquid). **2** [U] anxiety: *She was in a state of ~*. **3** [C, U] discussion or debate (for the purpose of bringing about a change); [U] social or political unrest or trouble caused by such discussion: *The Unions carried on long ~ against the government*.

agi-ta-tor /'ædʒɪteɪə(r)/ *n* [C] person who agitates for, esp political, change.

aglow /ə'gləʊ/ *adj* **1** bright with colour: *The sky was ~ with the setting sun*. **2** (of persons) showing warmth from exercise or excitement: *~ with pleasure*.

ag-nos-tic /æg'nɒstɪk/ *n* [C] person who believes that the world is not knowable, human knowledge is limited and nothing can be known beyond the senses. □ *adj* of this belief.

ag-nos-ti-cism /æg'nɒstɪsɪzəm/ *n* [U] this belief.

ago /ə'ɡəʊ/ *adv* (used to show time measured back to a point in the past; always placed after the word or words it describes and used with the past tense): *The train left a few minutes ~ / not long ~ / a long while ~. It was seven years ~ that my brother died. (Note: compare, It is seven years since my brother died.)*

agog /ə'ɡɒɡ/ *adj* full of interest; excited: *~ for news/to hear the news*.

ag-on-ized (also **-ised**) /'æɡənəɪzd/ *adj* expressing agony: *~ shrieks*.

ag-on-iz-ing (also **-ising**) /'æɡənəɪzɪŋ/ *adj* causing, showing, agony.

ag-ony /'æɡəni/ *n* (*sing, or pl -ies*) great pain or suffering (of mind or body): *She looked on in ~ at her child's sufferings*.

agora-phobia /'æɡərə'fəʊbiə/ *n* [U] extreme fear of (crossing) open spaces.

agrar-ian /ə'ɡreəriən/ *adj* of land (esp farmland) or land ownership: *~ policies*.

agree /ə'ɡriː/ *vi, vt* **1** say 'Yes'; consent: *I asked him to help me and he ~d*. **2** be of the same opinion(s): *We ~d to start early/on making an early start/that we should start early. Have you ~d about/on the price yet? Are we ~d? agree*

to differ, agree not to try to convince each other. **3** (of two or more persons) be happy together; get on well with one another (without arguing, etc): *We shall never ~.* **4** be the same: *This bill does not ~ with your original estimate.* **5** suit, eg the health of: *The climate doesn't ~ with me.* **6** (gram) correspond in number, person, etc with: *The verb ~s with its subject in number and person.* **7** (of figures, accounts, proposals, etc) accept or approve (as being correct): *The Manager has ~d your expenses.*

agree-able /ə'gri:əbl/ *adj* **1** pleasant (the usual word): *She has an ~ voice.* **2** ready to agree: *Are you ~ to the proposal?*

agree-ably /-əbli/ *adv* pleasantly: *I was agreeably surprised.*

agree-ment /ə'gri:mənt/ *n* **1** *be in agreement*, have the same opinion(s): *We are in ~ on that point. I'm quite in ~ with what you say.* **2** [C] arrangement or understanding (spoken or written) made by two or more persons, governments, etc: *sign an ~. come to/arrive at/make/reach an agreement (with sb).* *agree.*

agri-cultural /'ægrɪ'kʌltʃərəl/ *adj* of farming: ~ machinery.

agri-cul-ture /'ægrɪkʌltʃə(r)/ *n* [U] science or practice of farming.

aground /ə'graʊnd/ *adv, adj* (of ships) touching the bottom in shallow water: *The ship went ~.*

ah /a:/ *int* cry of surprise, pity, etc.

aha /a:'ha:/ *int* cry of surprise, triumph, satisfaction, etc.

ahead /ə'hed/ *adv* in front; in advance: *Standard time in Turkey is two hours ~ of Greenwich Mean Time.* **Full speed ahead!** Go forward at full speed! **get ahead**, obtain success, eg in one's career. **go ahead**, (a) make progress: *Things are going ~.* (b) (informal) continue (with what you're about to say or do). **look ahead**, think of and prepare for future needs.

ahem /ə'hem/ *int* (usual spelling form of the) noise made when clearing the throat or to get a person's attention.

ahoy /ə'hɔɪ/ *int* greeting or warning cry used by seamen.

aid /eɪd/ *vt* help (the usual word): ~ a poor family with money. **n** **1** [U] help: *He came to my ~, helped me. What is the collection in ~ of?* What is the money to be used for? ⇨ also first aid. **2** [C] something that helps. ⇨ hearing-aid; visual aid.

aide-de-camp /eɪd də 'kæmp/ *n* [C] (pl aides-de-camp) naval or military officer who helps a superior.

ail /eɪl/ *vt, vi* **1** (old use) trouble: *What ~s him?* What's wrong with him? **2** be ill: *The children are always ~ing, always in poor health.*

ail-ment /'eɪlmənt/ *n* [C] illness (the usual word).

aim¹ /eɪm/ *n* **1** [U] act of aiming, eg with a gun:

Take careful ~ at the target. **2** [C] purpose; objective: *He has only one ~ and object in life—to make a fortune before he is fifty.*

aim-less *adj* having no aim(2).

aim-less-ly *adv* in no particular direction, with no purpose, etc: *changing ~lessly from one job to another.*

aim² /eɪm/ *vt, vi* **1** point (a gun, etc) towards: *He ~ed (his gun) at the lion, fired and missed.* **2** send, direct, eg a blow: *Tom got angry with his brother and ~ed a heavy book at his head.* **3** (fig) (of criticism, praise, etc) be meant for: *My remarks were not ~ed at you.* **4** have as a plan or intention: *Harry ~s to become/at becoming a doctor.*

ain't /eɪnt/ (incorrect) short form of *are/is/am not*, and *have/has not*: *I ~ going. We ~ got any.*

air¹ /eə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] the mixture of gases that surrounds the earth and which we breathe: *Let's go out and enjoy the fresh ~. in the air*, (a) uncertain: *My plans are still in the air.* (b) (of opinions, etc) passing from one person to another: *There are rumours in the air that... in the open air*, ⇨ open¹(3). **clear the air**, (a) make the air (in a room, etc) fresh again. (b) (fig) lessen suspicion, doubt, etc by giving facts, etc. ⇨ also hot air. **2 by air**, in aircraft: *travel/send a letter by air.* **3 [U] on the air**, broadcast(ing): *The Prime Minister will be on the ~ at 9.15pm.* **go off the air**, stop broadcasting. **4** [C] (music, dated) tune, melody. **5** [C] appearance; manner: *He has an ~ of importance*, seems to be, looks, important. **give oneself/put on airs**, behave in an unnatural way in the hope of impressing people.

airs and graces, foolish, exaggerated ways of behaving.

air-bed, mattress inflated with air.

air-borne *adj* (a) transported by air. (b) (of an aircraft) in flight: *We were soon ~borne.*

air-bus, large airliner travelling short routes.

air-conditioned *adj* (of a room, building, etc) supplied with air that is purified and kept at a certain temperature and degree of humidity: an ~ conditioned room.

air-conditioner, machine for air-conditioning.

air-conditioning, process of producing an air-conditioned building, etc.

air-cooled *adj* cooled by a current of air: an ~ cooled engine.

air-craft, (used with a *sing* or *pl* verb) aeroplane(s); airship(s).

air-craft carrier, ship with a long, wide deck for aircraft to take off and land.

air-crew, crew of an aircraft.

air-cushion, (esp) layer of air supporting a hovercraft.

air duct, device, eg in an aircraft or a ship's cabin, for directing a flow of air for the comfort of passengers.

air-field, area of open, level ground, with buildings, offices, etc for operations of (esp

military) aircraft.

'air-force, military forces of a country, organized for fighting in, from, the air.

'air hostess, stewardess in an airliner.

'air letter, sheet of light paper (to be) folded and sent, without an envelope, by airmail.

'air lift, large-scale transport of persons or supplies by air, esp in an emergency.

'air-line, regular service of aircraft for public use.

'air-liner, passenger-carrying aircraft.

'air-mail, mail (to be) carried by air.

'air-plane, (US) = aeroplane.

'air-port, public flying ground for use by airlines.

'air raid, attack by aircraft that drop bombs.

'air-screw, propeller of an aircraft.

'air-ship, lighter-than-air flying-machine with engine(s).

'air space, part of the earth's atmosphere above a country: *violation of our ~ space by military aircraft.*

'air speed, speed of an aircraft relative to the air through which it is moving.

'air-strip, strip of ground for the use of aircraft, esp one made for use in war or in an emergency.

'air terminal, building(s) (in a town or city centre) to or from which passengers, etc travel to or from an airport.

'air-tight *adj* (a) not allowing air to enter or escape. (b) (*fig*) leaving no possibility of misunderstanding or not succeeding, etc.

'air-to-'air *adj* (of missiles) fired from one aircraft to hit another.

'air-to-'ground *adj* fired from an aircraft to hit a target on the ground.

'air-way, route regularly followed by airliners; company operating a service of airliners: *British Airways.*

'air-worthy *adj* safe to fly (in).

air² /eə(r)/ *vt* **1** put (clothing, etc) into the open air or into a warm place to make it quite dry: *The blankets need to be ~ed.* **2** let fresh air into (a room, etc). **3** cause others to know (one's opinions, troubles etc): *He likes to ~ his views.*

air-ing /'eəriŋ/ *n* **give sth an airing**, (a) expose it to the fresh air. (b) discuss it.

'airing-cupboard, warm cupboard in which to store bed-clothes, towels, etc.

air-less /'eəlis/ *adj* not having enough fresh air: *an ~ room.*

airy /'eəri/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** having plenty of fresh air moving through it: *a nice ~ room.* **2** of or like air.

aisle /aɪl/ *n* [C] **1** passage in a church, esp one that is divided by a row of columns from the nave; (in a small church) passage between rows of pews (= seats). **2** passage between any rows of seats, eg in a cinema.

aitch /eɪtʃ/ *n* [C] the letter H. **drop one's aitches**, not sound /h/ at the beginning of a word, eg by saying *at* for *hat*.

ajar /ə'dʒɑ:(r)/ *adj* (of doors) slightly open.

akin /ə'kɪn/ *adj* (*literary*) of similar character: *Pity is often ~ to love.*

-al /-əl/ *suffix* (*noun* + ~ = *adj*): *magical.*

ala-bas-ter /'æləbə:stə(r)/ *US*: -bə:s-/ *n* [U] soft, white stone like marble in appearance, used for ornaments.

alarm /ə'lɑ:m/ *n* **1** [C] (sound or signal giving a) warning of danger: *give/raise the ~.* **2** apparatus used to give such a warning: *a 'fire-~.* **3** [U] fear and excitement caused by the expectation of danger: *He jumped up in ~.* *□ vt* give a warning or feeling of danger to; cause anxiety to: *Everybody was ~ed at the news that war might break out.*

a'larm clock, one that can ring at a fixed time.

alarm-ing *adj* causing fear or anxiety.

alarm-ist /-ɪst/, person who is easily alarmed.

alas /ə'læs/ *int* cry of sorrow or regret.

alb /ælb/ *n* [C] white vestment (robe) reaching to the feet, worn by some Christian priests at ceremonies.

al-ba-tross /'ælbətrɒs/ *n* [C] large, white, web-footed seabird, common in the Pacific and Southern Oceans.

al-beit /ə'lbeɪt/ *conj* (*formal*) although.

al-bino /,æ'l'bi:nəʊ *US*: -'baɪ-/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) animal or person born without natural colouring matter in the skin and hair (which are white) and the eyes (which are pink).

al-bum /'ælbəm/ *n* [C] **1** blank book in which a collection of photographs, autographs, postage stamps, etc can be kept. **2** holder for a set of discs. **3** long-playing record with several pieces (often) by the same musician(s), singer(s), composer(s).

al-bu-men /'ælbjʊmən/ *n* [U] white of egg.

al-chem-ist /'ælkɪmɪst/ *n* [C] person who studied or practised alchemy.

al-chemy /'ælkɪmi/ *n* [U] chemistry of the Middle Ages, attempting to discover how to change ordinary metals into gold.

al-co-hol /'ælkəhɒl *US*: -hɔ:l/ *n* [U] (pure, colourless liquid as present in) such drinks as beer, wine, brandy, whisky.

al-co-holic /,ælkə'hɒlɪk *US*: -hɔ:l-/ *adj* of or containing alcohol. *□ n* [C] person whose desire for drink is so great that his health is affected.

al-co-hol-ism /'ælkəhɒlɪzəm/ *n* [C] (effect of the) action of alcohol on the human system.

al-cove /'ælkəʊv/ *n* [C] part of a wall set back from the rest, often having a bed or seats.

al-der-man /'ɔ:ldəməŋ/ *n* [C] (*pl* -men /-mən/) senior member of a city or borough council in England and Ireland.

ale /eɪl/ *n* [C,U] light-coloured beer.

alert /ə'lɜ:t/ *adj* fully awake and ready to act, speak, etc: ~ in answering questions. *□ n* **1** **on the alert**, ready to act, attack, etc. **2** [C] (*mil*) period of being on the alert. *□ vt* quickly tell a person to be on the alert.

al-fresco /,æ'l'freskəʊ/ *adj, adv* (of meals) in

the open air: *lunching ~*.

alga /'ælgə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~e /'ældʒi:/) water plant of very simple structure.

algebra /'ældʒɪbrə/ *n* [U] branch of mathematics in which signs and letters are used to represent quantities.

algebraic /,ældʒɪ'brenk/, **algebraical** /-kl/ *adj*

alias /'eɪliəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) name which a person, esp a criminal, uses to hide his own. □ *adv* also called.

alibi /'ælɪbaɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** (legal) plea that one was in another place at the time of an act, esp a crime: *The accused man was able to establish an ~*. **2** (informal) excuse (for failure, etc).

alien /'eɪliən/ *n* [C] person who is not a subject of the country in which he is living: *An Englishman is an ~ in the United States*. □ *adj* **1** foreign: *an ~ environment*. **2** the opposite of (behaviour, character): *Cruelty is quite ~ to her*.

alien-ate /'eɪliəneɪt/ *vt* cause (a person) to become unfriendly or indifferent (by unpopular or unpleasant actions): *The Prime Minister's policy ~d many of his followers*.

alienation /,eɪli:ə'neɪʃn/ *n* [U] (esp) mental illness of feeling no relationship with other people.

alight /ə'laɪt/ *adj* on fire; lit: *The sticks were damp and wouldn't catch ~*.

alight² /ə'laɪt/ *vi* **1** get down from a horse, etc. **2** (of a bird) come down from the air and settle (on a branch, etc).

align /ə'laɪn/ *vt, vi* **1** arrange in a line; eg of soldiers, form a line. **2** agree with (and join): *They ~ed themselves with us*.

align-ment /ə'laɪnmənt/ *n* [C,U] (an) arrangement in a straight line: *The desks are in ~/out of ~*.

alike /ə'laɪk/ *adj* like one another: *The two sisters are very much ~*. □ *adv* in the same way: *treat everybody ~*.

alimentary /,ælɪ'mentri/ *adj* of food and digestion.

the alimentary canal, (anat) parts of the body through which food passes (from the mouth to the anus).

alimony /'ælɪməni/ *US*: -məʊni/ *n* [U] money allowance (to be) paid by a man to his wife, or former wife, by a judge's order, eg after a legal separation or divorce.

alive /ə'laɪv/ *adj* **1** living: *Who's the greatest man ~?* **2** in existence: *An awareness of the dangers of air-pollution should be kept ~ by the press and TV*. **alive to**, aware of: *He is fully ~ to the dangers of the situation*. **alive with**, full of (living or moving things): *The lake was ~ with fish*.

al-kali /'ælkəlaɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) (chem) a substance (such as *soda*, *potash*, *ammonia*) that combines with acids to form salts.

al-kaline /'ælkələɪn/ *adj*

all¹ /ɔ:l/ *adj* **1** (used with *pl* nouns) the whole number of: *A ~ horses are animals*. (Note:

compare *Every horse is an animal*.) **2** (used with *uncountable nouns* and in *all the...*) the whole extent or amount: *A ~ hope is lost*. *They walked ~ the way home*. **all (of)**, the whole (of): *He spent ~ (of) that year in London*. **3** any: *It's beyond ~ doubt*. There is no reason for doubt.

all² /ɔ:l/ *adv* **1** entirely: *They were dressed ~ in black*. (Note: compare, *They were all dressed* (= All of them were dressed) in black. **2** (used with comparatives) much; so much: *You'll be all the better for a holiday*. **3** (uses with *prepositions* and *particles*, etc):

all alone, (a) not in the company of others. (b) without the help and company of other persons: *He did it ~ alone*.

all along, (a) for the whole length of: *There are trees ~ along the road*. (b) (informal) all the time: *But I knew that ~ along!*

all for, (informal) strongly in favour of: *I'm ~ for accepting the offer*.

all 'in, (a) (informal) exhausted: *He was ~ in at the end of the race*. (b) inclusive of everything: *an ~-in 'price*.

all 'out, (informal) using all possible strength, energy, etc: *He was going ~ out/was making an ~-out 'effort*.

all over, (a) in every part of: *He has travelled ~ over the world*. (b) at an end. □ also place(1).

all right, (alright is a common incorrect spelling) (a) satisfactory, satisfactorily; safe and sound; in good order. (b) (as a response to a suggestion, etc) Yes, I consent.

all the same, = nevertheless. **all the same to**, a matter of indifference to: *It's ~ the same to me whether you go or stay*.

all there, (informal) mentally alert. **not all there**, (informal) not sane.

all told, altogether; as the total: *There were six people ~ told*.

all³ /ɔ:l/ *n* [U] (used in such phrases as *my/his/their all*) everything: *He gave his ~, tried as hard as he could*.

all⁴ /ɔ:l/ *pron* **1** everything or everybody: *They were ~ broken*. *Take it ~*. *We ~ want to go*.

all of, every one, the whole: *Take ~ of them!* **one and all**, everyone. **2** (uses with *prepositions*): **above all**, □ above. **after all**, □ after. (**not**) **at all** /ə'tɔ:l/, (not) in any way: *She's not at ~ suitable*. *Are you at ~ worried?*

not at all, □ not(2). **away from it all**, away from the usual routine, daily responsibilities, etc: *Let's go camping and get away from it ~*. **once (and) for all**, now and for the last or only time. **in all**, □ in²(13). **all in all**, considering all the facts: *A ~ in ~ he's a nice man*. **not as/so** + *adj/adv* + **as all that**, not to that extent: *It's not as easy as ~ that*, not as easy as it seems. **not all that**, not to that extent: *It's not ~ that easy*.

all- /ɔ:l/ *prefix* completely: *~-powerful*.

all-'clear, signal that hostility (eg bombing) has stopped, that no-one is present to see

(a thief, etc).

all-purpose *adj* having several uses: *an all-purpose knife*.

all-round *adj* having various abilities: *an all-round athlete*. Hence, **all-rounder** *n*.

all-star *adj* with many famous actors: *an all-star cast*.

all-time *adj* best, biggest, etc known: *Sales have reached an all-time high*.

Allah *ˈælə/ n* name of God among Muslims.

al-le-ga-tion *ˌælɪˈɡeɪʃn/ n* [U] alleging; [C] statement, esp one made without proof: *You have made serious ~s, but can you prove them?*

al-lege *ˈælɛdʒ/ vt* put forward, esp as a reason or excuse, in support of a claim or in denial of a charge: *In your statement are you alleging that the accused man was seen at the scene of the crime?*

al-leg-ed-ly *ˌɪdli/ adv*

al-le-giance *ˈælɪdʒəns/ n* [U] duty, support, loyalty, due (to a ruler or government): *Members of Parliament took the oath of ~ to the Queen*.

al-le-goric *ˌælɪˈɡɒrɪk* *US*: *ˈgɔːrɪ-/*, **al-le-gori-cal** *ˌɪkl/ adj* of allegory.

al-le-gory *ˈælɪɡəri* *US*: *ˈgɔːrɪ/ n* [C] (*pl* -ies) story or description in which ideas such as patience, purity and truth are symbolized by persons who are characters in the story.

al-ler-gic *ˈælɪdʒɪk/ adj* of allergy. **allergic to**, (a) having an allergy to. (b) (*informal*) having a dislike of; unable to get on well with.

al-ler-gy *ˈælədʒɪ/ n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (*med*) (condition of) being affected by particular foods, fur, insect stings, etc.

al-le-vi-ate *ˈælɪvɪeɪt/ vt* make (pain, suffering) less or easier to bear.

al-le-vi-ation *ˈælɪvɪˈeɪʃn/ n* [U]

al-ley *ˈæli/ n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** narrow passage or street. **2** narrow enclosure for such games as bowls and skittles.

blind alley, (a) narrow street closed at one end. (b) (*fig*) profession, career with no opportunity for progress.

al-li-ance *ˈælɪəns/ n* **1** [U] association or connection. **2** [C] union, eg of states (by treaty): *enter into an ~*.

al-lied *ˈælɪd/* ⇨ ally.

al-li-ga-tor *ˈælɪɡeɪtə(r)/ n* [C] reptile (like a crocodile but with a shorter head) living in southeastern US.

al-li-ter-a-tion *ˌælɪtəˈreɪʃn/ n* [U] repetition of the first sound or letter of a succession of words, eg *safe and sound*.

al-lit-er-a-tive *ˈælɪtəˈreɪtɪv* *US*: *ˌretɪv/ adj*

al-lo-cate *ˈæləkeɪt/ vt* give, put on one side, as a share or for a purpose: *~ a sum of money to education/for the journey*.

al-lo-ca-tion *ˌæləˈkeɪʃn/ n* (a) [U] allocating or distributing. (b) [C] person or thing allocated.

al-lot *ˈəlɒt/ vt* (-tt-) make a distribution of; decide a person's share of: *Can we do the work within the time ~ted (to) us?*

al-lot-ment *n* [C] part or share, esp (in GB) a small area of public land rented as a vegetable garden.

al-low *ˈəlaʊ/ vt, vi* **1** give permission: *Smoking is not ~ed here*. **2** give, let (a person or thing) have; agree to give: *How much money are you ~ed to have?* **allow for**, take into consideration: *It will take an hour to get to the station, ~ing for traffic delays*.

al-low-able *ˌəbl/ adj* that is or can be allowed (by law, the rules, etc).

al-low-ance *ˈəlaʊəns/ n* **1** [C] sum of money, amount, allowed. **2** **make allowance(s) for**, allow for: *We must make ~s for his youth, remember that he is young, etc*.

al-loy *ˈælɔɪ/ n* [C,U] mixture of metals, esp a metal of low value mixed with a metal of higher value: *~ steel*.

al-spice *ˈɔːspɪs/ n* [U] spice made from the dried berries of a W Indian tree.

al-lude *ˈəluːd/ vi* mention (now the more usual word): *alluding to possible dangers*.

all-ur-ing *ˈəluəriŋ/ adj* attractive (the usual word).

al-lu-sion *ˈəluːʒn/ n* [C] (*formal*) indirect reference to: *His books are full of classical ~s which few people understand*.

al-lus-ive *ˈəluːsɪv/ adj* containing allusions.

al-luv-ial *ˈəluːvɪəl/ adj* made of sand, earth, etc left by rivers or floods: *~ soil*.

ally¹ *ˈælaɪ/ n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** person, state, etc allied to another. **2** person who gives help or support.

ally² *ˈəlaɪ/ vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** **ally (oneself) with/to**, unite by treaty, marriage, etc: *Great Britain was allied with the United States in both World Wars*; Hence: *the Allied* *ˈælaɪd* *Powers*. **2** **be allied to**, (of things) related to: *The English language is allied to the German language*.

al-ma-nac *ˈɔːlmənæk/ n* [C] annual book or calendar of months and days, with information about the sun, moon, tides, anniversaries, etc.

Al-mighty *ˌɔːlˈmaɪti/ n* the A~, God.

almond *ˈɑːmənd/ n* [C] (long, flat nut inside the) hard seed of a tree similar to the peach and plum.

al-moner *ˈɑːmənə(r)* *US*: *ˈælm-/ n* [C] **1** (formerly) official who gave money and help to the poor. **2** (*GB*) hospital official in charge of social service work for patients.

al-most *ˈɔːlməʊst/ adv* very nearly: *He slipped and ~ fell*. **almost no/none/no one/nothing/never**, hardly any/any one/anything/ever, scarcely any/anything: *She says ~ nothing of importance*.

alms *ˈɑːmz/ n* [U] (used with a *sing* or *pl verb*) money, clothes, food, etc given to the poor.

aloft *ˈəloʊft* *US*: *ˈəloʊft/ adv* high up, esp at the masthead of a ship, or up in the rigging.

alone *ˈələʊn/ adj, adv* ⇨ *lonely*. **1** (= *by oneself/itself*) without the company or help of others or other things: *He likes living ~ You*

can't lift the piano ~, without help. **2** noun/pronoun + **alone**, and no other: *Smith ~ knows what happened.* **3** **be (not) alone in**, not the only persons who are: *We are not ~ in thinking that.* **4** **let alone**, and even less: *He cannot afford his fares let ~ cigarettes.* **let/leave sb/sth alone**, not touch, move, interfere with: *You had better leave that big dog ~. Leave my things ~!*

along /ə'lɒŋ/ US: ə'lɒŋ/ *adv* **1** (used to show onward movement, often with the same sense as on): *Come ~! The dog was running ~ behind its owner.* **2** (used like over, across, up, down, in informal requests): *Come ~ to my office.* **all along**, ⇨ all²(3). **get along**, ⇨ get(17). □ *prep* from one end of to the other end of; through any part of the length of: *We walked ~ the road.*

along-side /ə'lɒŋ'saɪd/ *adv, prep* close to, parallel with, the side of (a ship, pier, wharf).

aloof /ə'lʊ:f/ *adv* apart. □ *adj* (of a person's character) keeping away, taking no part in: *I find him rather ~.*

aloof-ness *n* [U]

aloud /ə'laʊd/ *adv* **1** in a voice loud enough to be heard, not in a whisper: *Please read the story ~.* **2** loudly, so as to be heard at a distance: *He called ~ for help.*

al-pha /'ælfə/ *n* the first letter (A, a) in the Greek alphabet.

al-pha-bet /'ælfəbet/ *n* [C] the letters used in writing a language, arranged in order: *the Greek ~.*

al-pha-beti-cal /'ælfəbetɪkəl/ *adj* in the order of the alphabet: *The words in a dictionary are in ~ order.*

al-pha-beti-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

al-pine /'ælpain/ *adj* of the Alps; of alps: ~ *plants.*

al-ready /ɔ:l'redɪ/ *adv* (usually used to show emphasis) **1** by this/that time: *The postman has ~ been/has been ~. Has he been ~?* **2** (used to show surprise): *You're not leaving us ~, are you?* **3** previously; before now: *I've ~ been there/been there ~.*

Al-sa-tian /æl'seɪʃn/ *n* [C] large breed of dog, like a wolf, often trained for police work. (US = German shepherd).

also /ɔ:lsəʊ/ *adv* too; besides; as well: *Tom has been to Canada. Harry has ~ been to Canada.* **not only... but also**, both... and: *He not only read the book but ~ remembered what he had read.*

'also-ran, (informal) unsuccessful person.

al-tar /ɔ:l'tɑ:(r)/ *n* [C] **1** raised place (flat-topped table or platform) on which offerings are made to a god. **2** (in Christian churches) the Communion table.

al-ter /ɔ:l'tɜ:(r)/ *vt, vi* make or become different; change in character, appearance, etc: *These clothes are too large; they must be ~ed. He has ~ed a great deal since I saw him a year ago.*

al-ter-able /-əbl/ *adj* that alters or that can be

altered.

alter-ation /ɔ:l'tɜ:(r)ɪʃn/ *n* [U] altering; [C] act of changing; change that is the result of altering: *A ~s to the house will cost a lot of money.*

al-ter-na-te /ɔ:l'tɜ:nət/ *adj* (of things of two kinds) by turns, first the one and then the other: *Tom and Harry do the work on ~ days, eg Tom on Monday, Harry on Tuesday Tom on Wednesday, etc.*

al-ter-na-te-ly *adv*

al-ter-na-te /ɔ:l'tɜ:nɪt/ *vt, vi* arrange or do by turns; cause to take place, appear, one after the other: *She ~s boiled eggs with fried eggs for breakfast.* **alternate between**, pass from one state, etc to a second, then back to the first, etc: *He ~s so easily between happiness and sadness.*

'alternating 'current, electric current that regularly changes to the opposite direction and back, the number of complete changes per second being known as the frequency. ⇨ direct current.

al-ter-na-tive /ɔ:l'tɜ:nətɪv/ *adj* (of two things) that may be had, used, etc in place of something else: *There are ~ answers to your question.* □ *n* [C] **1** choice between two things: *You have the ~ of working hard and succeeding or of not working and being unsuccessful.* **2** one of more than two possibilities.

al-ter-na-tive-ly *adv* as a choice: *a fine of £5 or ~ly six weeks imprisonment.*

al-though /ɔ:l'ðəʊ/ *conj* ⇨ though.

al-ti-tude /'æltɪtju:d/ US: -tu:d/ *n* [C] (not of living things) height, esp above sea-level. **2** (pl) place high above sea-level: *It is difficult to breathe at these ~s.*

alto /'æltəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) **1** (musical part for or a person having a) male singing voice between tenor and treble; female voice of similar range (*contralto*). **2** instrument with the same range: *an ~ saxophone.*

al-to-gether /ɔ:l'tə'geðə(r)/ *adv* **1** entirely; wholly: *I don't ~ agree with him. Those will cost 90p ~.* **2** considering everything: *The weather was bad and the trains were crowded; ~, it was a bad journey.*

al-tru-ism /'æltru:ɪzəm/ *n* [U] principle of considering the well-being and happiness of others first; [C] instance of this.

al-tru-ist /'æltru:ɪst/ *n* [C] person who is altruistic.

al-tru-is-tic /'æltru:ɪstɪk/ *adj*

al-tru-is-ti-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

alu-min-ium /æljʊ'mɪniəm/ (US = **alumi-num** /ə'lʊ:mi-nəm/) *n* [U] light, white metal, used for saucepans, electrical apparatus, etc.

al-ways /ɔ:l'weɪz/ *adv* **1** at all times; without exception: *The sun ~ rises in the east. (Note: Always may be used with almost, nearly or not: He's nearly ~ at home in the evening.)* **2** again and again; repeatedly: *He ~ asks for money.*

am /after 'T: m usually 'əm, strong form: æm/

⇨ be¹.

amal-ga-mate /ə'mælgəmeɪt/ *vt, vi* (of unions, societies, races of people, business companies) mix; combine; unite.

amal-ga-ma-tion /ə'mælgə'meɪʃn/ *n* [U] mixing; combining; [C] instance of this.

amass /ə'mæs/ *vt* pile or heap up, collect: ~ a fortune / riches.

ama-teur /'æmətə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who paints pictures, performs music, plays, etc, for the love of it, not professionally. **2** person playing a game, taking part in sports, without receiving payment: (as an adjective) an ~ tennis-player / photographer. ⇨ professional.

ama-teur-ish /'æmətəriʃ/ *adj* inexpert; imperfect.

amaze /ə'meɪz/ *vt* fill with great surprise or wonder: I was ~d at the news / ~d to hear that...

amaz-ing *adj*

amaz-ing-ly *adv*: He's doing amazingly well.

amaze-ment /ə'meɪzmənt/ *n* [U] surprise: I heard with ~ that...

Amaz-on /'æməzən *US*: -zən/ *n* [C] **1** (in old Greek stories) female warrior. **2** (with a small a) tall, strong, active woman.

am-bas-sa-dor /æm'bæsədə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** minister representing the Government of his country in a foreign country: the British A ~ to Greece. **2** authorized representative.

am-bas-sa-dor-ial /æm'bæsədə'riəl/ *adj* of an ambassador or his duties.

am-bas-sa-dress /æm'bæsədriːs/ *n* [C] woman ambassador.

am-ber /'æmbə(r)/ *n* [U] hard, clear yellowish-brown gum used for making ornaments, etc; its colour.

ambi- /'æmbɪ-/ *prefix* both, double, two: *ambiguous*; *ambidextrous*.

am-bi-dex-trous /'æmbɪ'dekstrəs/, (also -ter-ous) /-tərəs/ *adj* able to use the left hand or the right equally well.

am-bi-ence /'æmbiəns/ *n* [C] environment; atmosphere: a friendly ~.

am-bi-ent /'æmbient/ *adj* (formal) (of air, etc) on all sides; surrounding.

am-bi-guity /'æmbɪ'ɡjuːəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] state of being ambiguous. **2** [C] expression, etc that can have more than one meaning.

am-bi-gu-ous /æm'bigjuəs/ *adj* having more than one interpretation: '400 cadets passed out last year' is ~.

am-bi-gu-ous-ly *adv*

am-bi-tion /æm'bɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] strong desire, esp to be successful: A man who is filled with ~ usually works hard. **2** [C] particular desire of this kind: He has great ~s. **3** [C] object of such a desire: achieve one's ~(s).

am-bi-tious /æm'bɪʃəs/ *adj* **1** full of ambition: an ~ woman; ~ to succeed in life. **2** showing or needing ambition: ~ plans; an ~ attempt.

am-bi-tious-ly *adv*

am-biva-lence /æm'bɪvələns/ *n* [U] **1**

existence of two or more opposite or conflicting feelings. **2** (esp) inability to make up one's mind.

am-biva-lent /æm'bɪvələnt/ *adj* having either or both or two contrary or similar values, meanings, etc.

amble /'æmbəl/ *vi* (of a horse) move along without hurrying; (of a person) ride or walk without hurrying. □ *n* [C] slow, gentle, pace.

am-brosia /æm'brəʊziə *US*: -əʊʒə/ *n* [U] **1** (Greek myth) the food of the gods. **2** (fig) anything that has a delightful taste or smell.

am-bu-lance /'æmbjuləns/ *n* [C] vehicle for carrying people who are ill, wounded in war or hurt in accidents.

am-bush /'æmbʊʃ/ *n* [C,U] (the placing of) troops, etc, waiting to make a surprise attack: be attacked from an ~. □ *vt* attack from such a position.

ameli-or-ate /ə'mi:liəreɪt/ *vt, vi* (formal) (cause to) become better: ~ the economic situation.

amen /eɪ'men, in church services: ə'men/ *int* word used at the end of a prayer or hymn and meaning 'May it be so'.

amen-able /ə'mi:nəbl/ *adj* **1** (of persons) willing to be guided or controlled: be ~ to kindness / advice / reason. **2** (legal) in a position where one must do certain things or be punished for not doing them: We are all ~ to the law.

amend /ə'mend/ *vt, vi* **1** improve; correct: He ~ed his speech to include recent economic statistics. **2** make changes in the wording of a rule, a proposed law, etc.

amend-able /-əbl/ *adj*

amend-ment /ə'mendmənt/ *n* [U] correcting; [C] change proposed or made to a rule, etc: ~s to the constitution.

amends /ə'mendz/ *n* *pl* **make amends (to sb) (for sth)**, make a suitable payment; apologise: make ~ to a friend for being unkind.

amen-ity /ə'mi:nəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** (pl) things, circumstances, surroundings, that make life easy or pleasant: a town with many amenities, eg a park, a public library, playing fields. **2** [U] pleasantness: the ~ of the Mediterranean climate.

am-ethyst /'æmɪθɪst/ *n* [C] precious stone which is purple or violet.

ami-able /'eɪmiəbl/ *adj* (formal) friendly: I found him a most ~ person.

ami-a-bil-ity /'eɪmiə'bɪləti/ *n* [U] friendliness (the usual word).

ami-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

amic-able /'æmɪkəbl/ *adj* done in a friendly way: discuss in an ~ way.

amic-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

amid /ə'mɪd/, **amidst** /ə'mɪdst/ *prep* among, in, the middle of.

amid-ships /ə'mɪdʃɪps/ *adv* (naut) half-way between the bows (front) and stern (back) of a ship.

amir, ameer, emir /ə'mɪə(r)/ *n* title used

by some Muslim rulers.

amiss /ə'mɪs/ *adj, adv* wrong(ly); out of order: *There's not much ~ with it.* **take sth amiss**, be hurt in one's feelings (esp too strongly): *Don't take it ~ if I show your errors.*

am-me-ter /'æmɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] meter that measures electric current in amperes.

am-mo-nia /ə'məʊniə/ *n* [U] strong, colourless gas (NH₃) with a sharp smell, used in refrigeration and to make explosives and fertilizers; solution of this gas in water.

am-mu-ni-tion /'æmjʊnɪʃn/ *n* [U] military stores, esp of explosives (shells, bombs, etc).

am-nesia /æm'ni:ziə/ *US*: -ni:zə/ *n* [U] (*med*) partial or total loss of memory.

am-nesty /'æmnəsti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) general pardon, esp for political offences: *The rebels returned home under an ~.*

amoeba /ə'mi:bə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or ~e /-bi:/) microscopic form of living matter, found in water, soil, etc.

amoebic /ə'mi:bɪk/ *adj* of, concerning, caused by, amoebas: ~ *dysentery*.

amok, amuck /ə'mɒk/ *adv* **run amok/amuck**, run about wildly (as with a desire to kill people).

among /ə'mʌŋ/, **amongst** /ə'mʌŋst/ *prep* **1** (showing position) surrounded by; in the middle of: *a village ~ the hills; hiding ~ the bushes.* (*Note: the noun or pronoun must be pl.* Compare: Sweden is situated between Norway and Finland.) **2** (showing association, connection): *You are only one ~ many who need help.* **3** (followed by a superlative) one of: *Leeds is ~ the largest industrial towns in England.* **4** (showing division, distribution, possession, activity, to, for or by more than two persons): *You must settle the matter ~ yourselves.* (*Note: between is used of two.*) **5** (used after a *prep*): *Choose one from ~ these.*

amoral /'æmərəl/ *US*: -'mɔ:rəl/ *adj* not concerned with or having morals.

am-or-ous /'æmərəs/ *adj* easily moved to love; showing love; of (esp sexual) love: ~ *looks*; ~ *poetry*.

am-or-ous-ly *adv*

amount /ə'maʊnt/ *vi* **amount to**, add up to; be equal to: *His debts ~ to £5000.* *Riding on a bus without paying the fare ~s to* (= is the same thing as) *stealing.* □ *n* [C] **1** total; whole: *He owed me £100 but could pay only half that ~, could only pay £50.* **2** quantity: *A large ~ of money is spent on tobacco every year.*

amp /æmp/ *n* [C] (abbr for) ampere.

am-pere /'æmpɛə(r)/ *US*: 'æmpɪər/ *n* [C] unit for measuring electric current.

am-phib-ian /æm'fɪbiən/ *n* [C] **1** animal able to live both on land and in water, eg a frog. **2** aircraft designed to take off from and land on either land or water. **3** vehicle able to move in water and on land.

am-phibi-ous /æm'fɪbiəs/ *adj* adapted for both land and water.

amphi-theatre (*US* = -ter) /'æmfɪ-

θətə(r)/ *n* [C] round or oval unroofed building with rows of seats rising behind and above each other round an open space, used for public games and amusements.

ample /'æmpl/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** with plenty of space: *There's ~ room for the children and toys.* **2** plentiful: *He has ~ resources, is wealthy.* **3** sufficient: *£5 will be ~ for my needs.*

am-ply /'æmplɪ/ *adv*

am-plify /'æmplɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** make larger or fuller; esp give fuller information, more details, etc about. **2** increase the strength of, esp sound.

am-pli-fi-ca-tion /'æmplɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U]

am-pli-fier /'æmplɪfaɪə(r)/, appliance for amplifying, esp sound.

am-pu-tate /'æmpjuteɪt/ *vt* cut off, eg an arm, a leg, by surgery.

am-pu-ta-tion /'æmpjʊ'teɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

amuck /ə'mʌk/ *adv* ⇨ amok.

amu-let /'æmjʊlɪt/ *n* [C] thing worn in the belief that it will protect (against evil, etc).

amuse /ə'mju:z/ *vt* **1** make time pass pleasantly for: *amusing the baby with toys.* **2** make (a person) laugh or smile: *His funny stories ~d all of us.*

amuse-ment /ə'mju:zmənt/ *n* **1** [U] state of being amused: *To the great ~ of everybody, the actor's beard fell off.* **2** [C] something that makes time pass pleasantly: *There are plenty of ~s here—cinemas, theatres, concerts, football matches, etc.*

amusing /ə'mju:zɪŋ/ *adj* causing laughter or smiles: *an ~ story/storyteller.*

an /ən/ *strong form*: æn/ ⇨ a².

an- /æn-, ən-/ *prefix* not, without: *anonymous, anaesthetic.*

-an /-ən/ *suffix* (*proper noun* + ~ = *noun* or *adj*): *Mexican; Italian.*

anach-ron-ism /ə'nækrənɪzəm/ *n* [C] **1** something out of date either now or in a description of past events: *In the sentence 'Julius Caesar looked at his wrist-watch and lifted the telephone receiver' there are two ~s.* **2** person, attitude, institution, etc regarded (unfavourably) as out of date: *Is the House of Lords an ~?*

anach-ron-is-tic /ə'nækrə'nɪstɪk/ *adj*

ana-con-da /'ænə'kɒndə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) large snake, esp the boa-constrictor.

anae-mia (*US* = *anemia*) /ə'ni:mɪə/ *n* [U] state of not having enough blood; poor condition of the blood, causing paleness.

anae-mic (*US* = *anemic*) /ə'ni:mɪk/ *adj* suffering from anaemia.

an-aes-thesia (*US* = *an-es-*) /'ænis'θi:ziə/ *US*: -'θi:zə/ *n* [U] state of being unable to feel (pain, heat, cold, etc).

an-aes-thetic (*US* = *an-es-*) /'ænis'θetɪk/ *n* [C] substance, eg ether, chloroform, or technique, that produces anaesthesia: *be given an ~.* ⇨ general, local anaesthetic.

an-aes-the-tize (also *-tise*) (*US* = *an-es-*) /ə'ni:s'θetaɪz/ *vt* make unable to feel pain,

etc.

an-aes-the-tist (US = **an-es-**) /ə'ni:stə'tist/ person trained to administer anaesthetics.

ana-gram /'ænəgrəm/ *n* [C] word made by changing the order of the letters in another word (eg plum—lump).

anal /'eɪnl/ *adj* (anat) of the anus.

an-al-gesia /'ænæl'dʒi:zə/ US: -'dʒi:zə/ *n* [U] (med) absence of, condition of not feeling, pain.

an-al-gesic /'ænæl'dʒi:zik/ *n* [C] substance, eg an ointment, which relieves pain.

anal-og-ous /ə'næləgəs/ *adj* similar or parallel: *The two processes are not ~ (with each other).*

anal-og-ous-ly *adv*

ana-logue, -log /'ænəlɒg/ US: -lɒg/ *n* [C] something that is similar to another thing: *meat ~*, artificially prepared substitute for meat (usually of soya beans).

anal-ogy /ə'nælədʒi/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [C] likeness, similarity in part: *The teacher drew an ~ between the human heart and a pump.* **2** [U] process of reasoning between similar examples: *argue by/from ~; on the ~ of.*

ana-lyse (US = **-lyze**) /'ænəlaɪz/ *vt* **1** examine (a thing) in order to learn what it is made up of: *If we ~ water, we find that it is made up of two parts of hydrogen and one part of oxygen.* **2** (gram) split up (a sentence) into its grammatical parts. **3** study or examine in order to learn about: *The leader tried to ~ the causes of our failure.* **4** = psychoanalyse.

analy-sis /ə'næləsis/ *n* (pl -ses /-sɪz/) **1** [U] (eg of a book, a character, a situation) separation into parts possibly with comment and judgement: *a critical ~ of literary texts*; [C] instance of this; statement of the result of doing this. **2** = psychoanalysis.

ana-lyst /'ænəlɪst/ *n* [C] **1** person skilled in making (esp chemical) analyses: *a food analyst.* **2** = psychoanalyst.

ana-lytic /'ænəlɪtɪk/, -i-cal /-kl/ *adj* of or using analysis.

ana-lyti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

ana-lyze ⇨ analyse.

an-archic /ə'nɑ:kɪk/ *adj* (person, state) believing in or having no government.

an-arch-ism /'ænəkɪzəm/ *n* [U] political theory that government and laws are undesirable.

an-arch-ist /'ænəkɪst/ *n* [C] person who favours anarchism.

an-archy /'ænəki/ *n* [U] absence of government or control; disorder.

anath-ema /ə'næθəmə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) **1** formal declaration excommunicating a person or condemning something as evil. **2** thing that is detested.

anat-omy /ə'nætəmi/ *n* [U] science of the structure of animal bodies; study of their structures by separation into parts.

ana-tomi-cal /'ænə'tomɪkl/ *adj*

anat-om-ist /-ɪst/, (a) person who dissects

corpses. (b) person who studies anatomy.

-ance (also **-ence**) /-əns/ *suffix* (verb + ~ = *noun*): *assistance*; *confidence*.

an-ces-tor /'ænsəstə(r)/ *n* [C] any one of those persons from whom one is descended, esp one more remote than a grandparent.

an-ces-tral /'ænsəstrəl/ *adj* belonging to, having come from, one's ancestors: *his ~ home.*

an-ces-try /'ænsəstri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) line of ancestors.

an-chor /'æŋkə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** heavy piece of iron used for keeping a ship fastened to the sea bottom or a balloon to the ground. **2** thing or person that gives stability or security. □ *vi*, *vi* make (a ship) secure with an anchor.

an-chor-age /'æŋkərɪdʒ/ *n* [C] place where ships may anchor safely.

an-chovy /'æŋtʃəvi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) small fish of the herring family.

ancient /'eɪnfənt/ *adj* **1** belonging to times long past: ~ *Rome and Greece.* **2** (often humorous) very old: *an ~ looking hat.*

ancient history, up to AD 476 when the Western Roman Empire was destroyed.

an-ci-l-lary /'ænsɪləri/ US: 'ænsələri/ *adj* **1** helping, providing a service to those carrying on the main business. **2** secondary: ~ *roads/undertakings/industries.*

and /ænd/ *strong form*:ænd/ *conj* **1** (connecting words, clauses, sentences): *a table ~ four chairs; learning to read ~ write.* (Note: when two nouns stand for things or persons closely connected, a or the is not repeated before the second noun: *a knife and fork.*) **2** (replacing an if-clause): *Work hard ~ you will pass* (= If you work hard, you will pass) *the examination.* **3** (showing repetition or continuation): *for hours ~ hours; better ~ better.* **4** (informal) to: *Try ~ come early.*

an-ec-dote /'ænikdaʊt/ *n* [C] short, usually amusing, story about a real person or event.

anemia, anemic ⇨ anaemia, anaemic.

anem-one /ə'neməni/ *n* [C] **1** small star-shaped woodland flower; cultivated varieties of this flower. **2** = sea anemone.

an-es-thesia ⇨ anaesthesia.

anew /ə'nju:/ US: ə'nu:/ *adv* again; in a new or different way: *Let's start ~.*

angel /'eɪndʒəl/ *n* **1** (esp in Christian belief) messenger from God (usually shown in pictures as a human being in white with wings). **2** lovely or innocent person. **3** (as a compliment to a kind, thoughtful, etc person): *Thanks, you're an ~!*

an-gelic /'æŋdʒəlɪk/ *adj* of or like an angel.

an-geli-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

an-gelus /'ændʒɪləs/ *n* (also **A~**) (bell rung in RC churches at morning, noon and sunset to call people to recite a) prayer to the Virgin Mary.

anger /'æŋgə(r)/ *n* [U] the strong feeling that comes when one has been wronged or insulted, or when one sees cruelty or injustice; the

feeling that makes people want to quarrel or fight: *filled with ~; done in a moment of ~*. □ *vt* make (a person) angry: *He is easily ~ed*.

angle¹ /'æŋgl/ *n* **1** space between two lines or surfaces that meet: *an acute/obtuse ~*. **2** (fig) point of view: *What ~ are you using in the story?* □ *vt* make an angle of; bend.

angle² /'æŋgl/ *vi* **1** fish with a hook and bait. **2** (fig) use tricks, hints, etc in order to get something: *angling for an invitation to the party*.

angler /'æŋglə(r)/ *n* [C] person who fishes with a rod and line.

Ang-li-can /'æŋglɪkən/ *n* [C], *adj* (member) of the Church of England.

ang-li-cize (also **-ise**) /'æŋglɪsaɪz/ *vt* make English or like English: *~ a French word*.

Anglo- /'æŋgləʊ/ *prefix* English: *~French relations*, between Britain and France.

'Anglo-Saxon *n* [C], *adj* (person) of English descent; race of people who settled in England before the Norman Conquest; their language (also called *Old English*).

Anglo-mania /'æŋgləʊ'meɪniə/ *n* [U] excessive love of and admiration for English customs, etc.

Anglo-phile /'æŋgləʊfaɪl/ *adj*, *n* [C] (person) loving England or English things to excess.

Anglo-phobe /'æŋgləʊfəʊb/ *adj*, *n* [C] (person) hating England or English things to excess.

Anglo-phobia /'æŋgləʊ'fəʊbiə/ *n* [U] excessive hatred of England and of English things.

angry /'æŋɡrɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** filled with, showing anger: *He was ~ at being kept waiting*. **2** (of a cut, sore, wound) red; inflamed. **3** (of the sea, sky, clouds) stormy; threatening.

angri-ly *adv*

an-guish /'æŋɡwɪʃ/ *n* [U] severe mental suffering: *She was in ~ until she knew that her husband had survived the heart operation*.

an-guished *adj* expressing suffering: *~ed looks*.

angu-lar /'æŋɡjʊlə(r)/ *adj* **1** having angles or sharp corners. **2** (of persons) thin and bony. **3** (of a person's nature, etc) rather stiff and awkward.

ani-mal /'æɪnɪml/ *n* [C] **1** living thing that can feel and move about: *Men, horses, birds, flies, fish, snakes are all ~s*. **2** four-footed animal such as a dog or horse. **3** any animal other than man. **4** (used as an *adjective*) physical, not spiritual; of animals(1).

the 'animal kingdom, all animal life. ⇨ kingdom(3).

ani-mate¹ /'æɪnɪmət/ *adj* living; lively.

ani-mate /'æɪnɪmət/ *vt* give life to; make lively: *There was an ~d (= lively) discussion*.

animated cartoon, cinema film made by photographing a series of drawings so that animals, etc appear to move.

ani-mation /'æɪnɪ'meɪʃn/ *n* [U] **1** liveliness; spirit. **2** process of making animated cartoons.

ani-mos-ity /'æɪnɪ'mɒsəti/ *n* (pl -ies) (formal)

1 [U] strong hatred, active hostility. **2** [C] instance of this.

an-ise /'ænis/ *n* [C] plant with sweet-smelling seeds.

ani-seed /'ænisɪd/ *n* [U] seed of anise, used for flavouring.

ankle /'æŋkl/ *n* [C] joint connecting the foot with the leg; thin part of the leg between this joint and the calf.

'ankle sock, short sock¹(1).

an-nals /'ænz/ *n* pl **1** story of events year by year. **2** record of new knowledge or discoveries written year by year. **3** yearly record of the work of a learned society.

an-nex¹, **an-nexe** /'æneks/ *n* [C] smaller building added to, or situated near, a larger one: *a hotel ~*.

an-nex² /'æneks/ *vt* **1** take possession (often by force) of (territory, etc). **2** add or join (something) (as a secondary part).

an-ni-hi-late /'əniəleɪt/ *vt* destroy completely; end the existence of (eg an army, a fleet): *The invasion force was ~ed*.

an-ni-hi-la-tion /əniə'leɪʃn/ *n* [U] complete destruction (of military or naval forces, etc).

an-ni-ver-sary /'æni'vɜ:səri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) yearly return of the date of an event; celebration of this: *my 'wedding ~; the ~ of Shakespeare's birth*.

an-no Dom-ini /'ænoʊ 'domɪni/ (Latin, shortened to **AD** /eɪ 'di:/) in the year of our Lord: *in AD 250, 250 years after the birth of Jesus*. ⇨ BC. (Note: AD is never used except when contrasting the year with the time before the birth of Jesus and for the years up to 1000.)

an-no-tate /'ænəteɪt/ *vt* add notes (to a book, etc) explaining difficulties, giving opinions, etc: *an ~d text/version*.

an-no-ta-tion /'ænə'teɪʃn/ *n* [U] annotating; [C] note or comment.

an-nounce /ə'naʊns/ *vt* **1** make known to the public: *Mr Green ~d (to his friends) his engagement to Miss White*. **2** make known the arrival of: *The secretary ~d Mr and Mrs Brown, spoke their names as they entered*. **3** say that somebody is about to speak, sing, etc. **an-ounce-ment**, something said, written or printed to make known what has happened or (more often) what will happen: *An ~ment will be made next week*.

an-nouncer, (esp) person who announces speakers, singers, etc on the radio or TV.

an-noy /ə'noɪ/ *vt* irritate; make angry: *Do stop ~ing me!*

an-noy-ing *adj* irritating: *The ~ing thing is that...*

an-noy-ance /ə'noɪəns/ *n* **1** [U] anger; being annoyed: *with a look of ~; much to our ~*. **2** [C] something that annoys.

an-nual /'ænjʊəl/ *adj* **1** coming or happening every year. **2** lasting for only one year or season. **3** of one year: *his ~ income*. □ *n* [C] **1** book, etc that appears under the same title but

with new contents every year. **2** plant that lives for one year or less.

an-nual-ly *adv*

an-nu-ity /əˈnju:əti/ *US*: -'nu:-/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) fixed sum of money paid yearly as income during a person's lifetime; form of insurance to provide such a regular, annual income.

an-nul /əˈnʌl/ *vt* (-ll-) **1** put an end to, eg an agreement, a law, etc. **2** declare (that something, eg a marriage, is) invalid.

an-nul-ment *n* [C, U]

an-ode /ˈænəʊd/ *n* [C] (*electricity*) **1** positively charged electrode (from which current enters). ⇨ **cathode**. **2** negative terminal of a battery.

anoint /əˈnoɪnt/ *vt* apply oil or ointment to (as a religious ceremony): ~ him with oil.

an-ointment *n* [C, U]

anom-al-ous /əˈnɒmələs/ *adj* different in some way from what is normal.

anomalous verb, verb that forms a question and negative without the verb *do*, eg *must*, *ought*.

anom-al-ous-ly *adv*

anom-aly /əˈnɒməli/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) person, thing, etc different from the usual type: *A bird that cannot fly is an ~.*

anon¹ /əˈnɒn/ *adv* (*old use*) soon.

anon² /əˈnɒn/ (*in footnotes*, etc) short for *by an anonymous author*.

anon-ym-ity /ˌænəˈnɪməti/ *n* [U] state of being anonymous.

anonym-mous /əˈnɒnɪməs/ *adj* without a name, or with a name that is not made known: *an ~ gift*.

anonym-mous-ly *adv*

anoph-eles /əˈnɒfəli:z/ *n* [C] (*kinds of*) mosquito, esp the kinds that spread malaria.

an-or-ak /ˈænərək/ *n* [C] jacket with a hood attached, worn as protection against rain, wind and cold.

an-other /əˈnʌðə(r)/ *adj*, *pron* (*pl* = *some/any others or some/any more*) **1** an additional (one): *Would you like ~ cup of coffee/ ~ (one)?* **2** a similar (one): *He thinks he's ~ Napoleon*, a man like Napoleon. **3** a different (one): *We can do that ~ time.* ⇨ **one**¹(3).

answer¹ /ˈɑ:nsə(r)/ *US*: 'æn-/ *n* [C] **1** something done in return; reply: *Have you had an ~ to your letter?* **in answer to**, as a reply to: *in ~ to your letter*. **2** solution; result of working with numbers, etc: *The ~ to 3 × 17 is 51.*

answer² /ˈɑ:nsə(r)/ *US*: 'æn-/ *vt*, *vi* **1** say, write or do in return or reply: *Have you ~ed his letter?* *No one ~ed.* **answer the door**, open the door when somebody has knocked or rung the bell. **answer the (tele)phone**, pick up the receiver when it has rung. **2** be suitable or satisfactory for: *Will this ~ your purpose?* **3** (uses with *prepositions and particles*):

answer 'back, be impolite, esp when told one has done wrong.

answer for, (a) be responsible for: *I can't ~ for his honesty.* (b) be punished for: *If the*

police catch you, you'll have a lot to ~ for.

answer-able /ˈɑ:nsrəbl/ *US*: 'æn-/ *adj* **1** that can be answered. **2** responsible: *A mental patient is not ~ for his actions.*

ant /ænt/ *n* [C] small insect, known to be very active, that lives in highly organized societies. ⇨ **white ant**.

'ant-eater, name of various animals that live on ants.

'ant-hill, pile of earth, etc over an underground nest of ants; cone-shaped nest of white ants.

-ant (also **-ent**) /-ənt/ *suffix* **1** (*verb* + ~ = *adjective*): *significant*; *different*. **2** (*verb* + ~ = *noun*): *assistant*; *confident*.

an-tag-on-ism /ænˈtægənɪzəm/ *n* [C, U] (instance of) fighting against or opposing: *the ~ between the two men*; *feel a strong ~ for/ toward a person*.

an-tag-on-ist /ænˈtægənɪst/ *n* [C] opponent (the usual word).

an-tag-on-is-tic /ænˈtægənɪstɪk/ *adj* **1** opposed. **2** (of forces) acting against each other.

an-tag-on-is-ti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

an-tag-on-ize (also **-ise**) /ænˈtægənaɪz/ *vt* make an enemy of; irritate a person until he attacks: *I advise you not to ~ him.*

ant-arc-tic /ˌænˈtɑ:ktɪk/ *adj* of the south polar regions.

ant,arctic ¹**circle**, the line of latitude 66½°S.

ante- /ænti/ *prefix* before, previous to: **'ante-natal**.

ante-ced-ence /ˌæntɪˈsi:dəns/ *n* [U] (*formal*) priority.

ante-ced-ent /ˌæntɪˈsi:dənt/ *adj* previous (to). □ **n** **1** [C] preceding event or circumstance. **2** (*pl*) ancestors; past history of a person or persons. **3** [C] (*gram*) noun, clause or sentence, to which a following pronoun or adverb refers.

ante-date /ˌæntɪˈdeɪt/ *vt* **1** put a date on, eg a letter, document, etc, earlier than the true one; give an earlier date than the true one to (an event). **2** come before in time: *This event ~s the arrival of Columbus by several centuries.*

ante-di-luvian /ˌæntɪdɪˈlu:vɪən/ *adj* (*fig*) very old-fashioned; out of date.

ante-lope /ˈæntləʊp/ *n* [C] deer-like, fast-running animal with thin legs.

ante merid-iem /ˌæntɪ məˈrɪdiəm/ (*Latin*) (shortened to **am** /eɪˈem/) time between midnight and noon: 7.30am.

ante-natal /ˌæntɪˈneɪtl/ *adj* existing or occurring before birth: ~ *clinics*, for pregnant women.

an-ten-na /ænˈtenə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~e /-ni:/) long, narrow organ found in pairs on the head of insects, shell-fish, etc, used for feeling, etc.

an-ter-ior /ænˈtɪəriə(r)/ *adj* coming before (in time or position).

an-them /ˈænthəm/ *n* [C] musical composition to be sung in churches. ⇨ **national anthem**.

an-ther /ˈænthə(r)/ *n* [C] part of a male flower

containing pollen.

an-thol-ogy /ˌænˈθɒlədʒi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) collection of poems or pieces of prose, or of both, by different writers, or a selection from the work of one writer.

an-thro-poid /ˌænθrəˈpɔɪd/ *adj* like man. □ *n* [C] animal like man, eg a gorilla.

an-thro-po-logi-cal /ˌænθrəˈpɒlədʒɪkl/ *adj* of anthropology.

an-thro-pol-ogist /ˌænθrəˈpɒlədʒɪst/ *n* expert in, student of, anthropology.

an-thro-pol-ogy /ˌænθrəˈpɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] science of man, esp of the beginnings, development, customs and beliefs of mankind.

anti- /ˈænti/ *US*: /ænta/ *prefix* **1** opposed to, against: *anti-social*; *anti-septic*. **2** instead of: *anti-hero*.

anti-air-craft /ˌænti ˈeəkrɑːft/ *US*: -kræft/ *adj* used against enemy aircraft: ~ guns.

anti-biotic /ˌæntɪˈbaɪɒtɪk/ *n* [C], *adj* (substance produced by moulds and bacteria, eg *penicillin*) capable of destroying or preventing the growth of bacteria.

anti-body /ˌæntɪˈbɒdi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (kinds of) substance formed in the blood which inhibits or destroys harmful bacteria, etc.

an-tici-pate /ˌænˈtɪsɪpeɪt/ *vt* **1** do, make use of, before the right or natural time. **2** do before somebody else does it: ~ a scientific discovery. **3** see what needs doing, what is likely to happen, etc and do what is necessary: *He tries to ~ all my needs*, act before I mention them. **4** expect: *We don't ~ much trouble*.

an-tici-pation /ˌænˈtɪsɪˈpeɪʃn/ *n* [U] action of anticipating; something anticipated: *Thanking you in ~*, in advance and expecting you to do what I have asked.

anti-cli-max /ˌænti ˈklaɪmæks/ *n* [C] sudden change or fall from something (expected to be) important, sensible, enjoyable etc; descent that contrasts with a previous rise.

anti-clock-wise /ˌænti ˈklokwaɪz/ *adv* in the direction opposite to the movements of the hands of a clock.

an-tics /ˈæntɪks/ *n pl* **1** unusual or clever movement, step, attitude, intended to amuse, eg by a clown at a circus. **2** odd behaviour: *strange ~ in the bath*.

anti-cyc-lone /ˌæntiˈsaɪklɒn/ *n* [C] area in which atmospheric pressure is high compared with that of surrounding areas, giving quiet, settled weather. ⇨ depression(4).

anti-dote /ˌæntɪˈdɒt/ *n* [C] medicine used against a poison or to prevent a disease from having an effect: *an ~ against/for/to snake-bite*.

anti-freeze /ˌæntɪˈfriːz/ *n* [U] substance added to another liquid to lower its freezing point, eg as used in the radiator of a motor-vehicle.

anti-hero /ˌænti ˈhɪərəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) (in fiction and drama) leading character not having the traditional characteristics of a hero, such

as courage and dignity.

an-tipa-thy /ˌænˈtɪpəθi/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] strong dislike; **2** [C] instance or object of this: *feel/show a strong ~ to a place/against a person*.

an-tipo-des /ˌænˈtɪpəˈdɪz/ *n pl* **the ~**, (two) place(s) on the opposite sides of the earth, esp the region opposite our own, eg Australia and New Zealand.

anti-quoted /ˌæntɪˈkwɔɪtɪd/ *adj* **1** obsolete; out of date. **2** (of persons) having old-fashioned ideas and ways.

an-tique /ˌænˈtiːk/ *adj* belonging to the distant past; existing since old times; in the style of past times. □ *n* [C] material, (eg a piece of furniture, a work of art) of a past period (in GB at least 50 years old, in US 100 years).

an-tiquity /ˌænˈtɪkwəti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] old times, esp before the Middle Ages: *a city of great ~*, eg Athens. **2** (*pl*) buildings, ruins, works of art, remaining from ancient times: *Greek and Roman antiquities*.

anti-sep-tic /ˌæntɪˈseptɪk/ *n* [C], *adj* (chemical substance) preventing disease, esp by destroying germs.

anti-so-cial /ˌæntɪˈsəʊʃl/ *adj* **1** opposed to social laws or to organized societies. **2** (*modern informal*) likely, tending, to interfere with or spoil public amenities: *It is ~ to leave litter in public places*.

an-tith-esis /ˌænˈtɪθəsɪs/ *n* (*pl* -ses /-sɪz/) **1** [U] direct opposite. **2** [U] opposition: *the ~ of good to evil*; [C] instance of this; contrast of ideas vividly expressed, as in 'Give me liberty, or give me death'.

an-ter /ˈæntlə(r)/ *n* [C] branch of a horn (of a stag or other deer).

an-to-nym /ˌæntənɪm/ *n* [C] word that is contrary in meaning to another: *Hot is the ~ of cold*. ⇨ synonym.

anus /ˈeɪnəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) (*anat*) opening at the end of the alimentary canal, through which solid waste matter passes out.

an-vil /ˌænvɪl/ *n* [C] **1** large, heavy block of iron on which heated metal is hammered into shape. **2** (*anat*) bone in the ear.

anxiety /ˌæŋˈzaɪəti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] emotional condition in which there is fear and uncertainty about the future: *We waited with ~ for news of her safe arrival*. **2** [C] instance of such a feeling: *All these anxieties made him look pale and tired*. **3** [U] keen desire: ~ to please his employers.

anxious /ˈæŋksəs/ *adj* **1** feeling anxiety; troubled: *I am very ~ about my son's health*. **2** causing anxiety: *We have had an ~ time*. **3** **anxious to/for/about/that**, strongly wishing: *He was ~ to meet you/~ for his brother to meet you. We were ~ that help should be sent/~ for help to be sent*.

anxious-ly *adv*

any¹ /ˈeni/ *adj* **1** (showing amount or quantity or a number, usually more than two): *Have you ~ milk? They haven't ~ children. Are there*

~ *flowers left?* (Note: *any* is used in questions and negatives; *some* is used in statements, etc: *There are some flowers. There is some milk. Any and some* are *pl* forms of *a* and *an*. ⇨ *a*²(1).) **2** (used with verbs such as *prevent* and *after without, hardly, etc*): *We did it without ~ help. I've hardly ~ left.* ⇨ also *almost*. **3** no matter which: *Come ~ day you like.* **4** (informal) *a, one*: *This is useless — it hasn't ~ handle.* **5** in '*any case*', whatever happens; even considering the facts: *It's too late now, in ~ case.* **at *any rate***, ⇨ *rate*¹(2).

any² /'eni/ *adv* at all; to even a little extent: *Is he feeling ~ better? We can't go ~ further.* (Note: *any* is used in questions, negative sentences and with *comparatives*. Compare: *We can go no further.*)

any³ /'eni/ *pron* = *some*².

any-body /'enibɒdi/ *n, pron* **1** a person, but not a particular one: *Is ~ there? We couldn't see ~.* (Note: *anybody* is used in questions and negative sentences. Compare: *Somebody's there. We could see someone in the garden.*) **2** (used in statements, etc) no matter who: *A ~ will tell you where the bus stop is.* **3** person of importance: *You must work harder if you wish to be ~.* **anybody else**, ⇨ *else*¹(1).

any-how /'enihaʊ/ *adv* **1** in any possible way; by any possible means: *The house was empty and ~ I couldn't get in.* **2** = in any case: *It's too late now, ~.*

any-one /'eniwʌn/ *n, pron* = *anybody*.

any-thing /'eniθɪŋ/ *n, pron* **1** an event, happening, but not a particular one: *Has ~ unusual happened?* (Note: *anything* is used in questions, negative sentences, etc. Compare: *Something's happened.*) **2** no matter what: *I want something to eat; ~ will do. He is ~ but mad, far from being mad.* **3** (used to intensify a meaning): *The thief ran like ~ when he saw the policeman.* (**as**) **easy as anything**, (informal) very easy.

any-way /'eniweɪ/ *adj* = *anyhow*.

any-where /'eniweə(r) *US*: -hweər/ *adv* **1** to any place: *I'm not going ~ without you. Are we going ~ (in) particular?* (Note: *anywhere* is used in questions, negative sentences, etc. Compare: *Let's go somewhere different to-morrow.*) **2** a place, but not a particular one: *That leaves me without ~ to keep all my books.* **3** no matter where: *Put the box down ~. We'll go ~ you like.*

aorta /eɪ'ɔ:tə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) chief blood-vessel through which blood is carried from the left side of the heart.

apart /ə'pɑ:t/ *adv* **1** distant: *The two houses are 500 metres ~. They are still miles ~, show no signs of agreeing.* **2** to or on one side (the usual words): *He took me ~ in order to speak to me alone.* **joking apart**, speaking seriously. **3** separate(ly): *He was standing with his feet wide ~.* **apart from**, independently of; leaving on one side: *~ from these reasons.* **tell/ know two things or persons apart**, dis-

tinguish one from the other. ⇨ also *come*¹(13), *pull*²(6), *take*¹(16).

apart-heid /ə'pɑ:theit/ *n* [U] (*S Africa*) (policy of) brutal racial discrimination and segregation aimed at the native African peoples.

apart-ment /ə'pɑ:təmənt/ *n* **1** [C] single room in a house. **2** (*pl*) set of rooms as a residence, furnished or unfurnished.

apa-thetic /æpə'tetik/ *adj* showing or having apathy.

apa-theti-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

apa-thy /æpə'thi/ *n* [U] absence of sympathy or interest.

ape /eɪp/ *n* [C] **1** tailless monkey (*gorilla, chimpanzee, orang-utan, gibbon*). **2** person who copies the behaviour of others. **3** (informal) clumsy, ill-bred person. □ *vi* copy (a person's behaviour, etc).

aperi-tif /ə'perətɪf *US*: ə'perə'tɪf/ *n* [C] alcoholic drink, (eg *sherry*) taken before a meal.

ap-er-ture /'æpətʃʊə(r)/ *n* [C] opening, esp one that admits light, eg to a camera lens.

apex /'eɪpeks/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es or *apices* /'eɪpɪsɪz/) top or highest point: *the ~ of a triangle/his career/fortunes.*

aph-ro-dis-iac /æfrə'dɪziæk/ *n, adj* [C, U] (substance, drug) exciting sexual desire and activity.

apiece /ə'pi:s/ *adv* to, for or by, each one of a group: *They cost a penny ~, each.*

apish /'eɪpɪʃ/ *adj* of or like an ape; copying a person's behaviour, etc.

aplomb /ə'plɒm/ *n* [U] self-confidence (in speech or behaviour): *He answered with perfect ~.*

apoc-ry-phal /ə'pɒkrɪfəl/ *adj* of doubtful authority or authorship.

apolo-getic /ə'pɒlədʒetɪk/ *adj* making an apology; excusing a fault or failure: *He was ~ for arriving late.*

apolo-geti-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

apolo-gize (also **-ise**) /ə'pɒlədʒaɪz/ *vi* make an apology; say one is sorry: *You must ~ to your sister for being so rude.*

apolo-gy /ə'pɒlədʒɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) statement of being sorry (for doing wrong, hurting a person's feelings): *make one's apologies (to a friend)*, eg for being late, for not being able to come. **an apology for**, a poor example of.

apo-plec-tic /ə'pɒplektɪk/ *adj* **1** causing, having, apoplexy. **2** (informal) red in the face; easily made angry.

apo-plexy /ə'pɒpleksi/ *n* [U] loss of power to feel, act, think, caused by brain damage.

apostle /ə'pɒsl/ *n* [C] **1** one of the twelve men chosen by Jesus to spread His teaching, also St Barnabas and St Paul. **2** leader or teacher of a new faith or movement.

apos-tolic /ə'pɒstɒlɪk/ *adj* **1** of the twelve apostles(1) or the times when they lived. **2** of the Pope.

apos-trophe /ə'pɒstrəfi/ *n* [C] the sign ' used to show omission of letter(s) or number(s), (as in *can't, I'm, '05*, for *cannot, I am,*

1905), for the possessive (as in *boy's*, *boys'*), and for the plurals of letters (as in *There are two f's in 'Belt'*).

apothecary /ə'pɒθɪkəri/ US: -keri/ n [C] (*pl* -ies) (old use) person who prepares and sells medicines and medical goods.

ap-pal (US also **ap-pall**) /ə'pɔ:l/ vt (-ll-) fill with fear or dismay; shock deeply: *They were ~led at the news.*

ap-pal-ling adj: ~ling news.

ap-paratus /,æpə'reɪtəs/ US: -rætəs/ n [C] (*pl* ~es) set of tools, instruments or machinery put together for a purpose.

ap-parel /ə'pærəl/ n [U] (old use or literary) dress; clothing.

ap-par-ent /ə'pærənt/ adj **1** clearly seen or understood: *It was ~ to all of us...* **2** appearing but not necessarily true or genuine: *the ~ cause but not the real one.*

ap-par-ent-ly adv

ap-par-ition /,æpə'riʃn/ n [C] the coming into view, esp of a ghost or the spirit of a dead person.

ap-peal /ə'pi:l/ vi **1** make an earnest request: *The prisoner ~ed to the judge for mercy.* **2** (legal) take a question (to a higher court, etc) for rehearing and a new decision. **3** (sport) go (to a person) for a new decision: ~ against the referee's decision. **4** attract; move the feelings of: *Do these paintings ~ to you?* □ n **1** [C] earnest call for: *make an ~ for help.* **2** [C] act of appealing (2,3): *an ~ to a higher court/to the referee.* **3** [U] (power of) attraction: *That music hasn't much ~ for me/has lost its ~.* **4** [U] asking for help or sympathy: *with a look of ~ on her face.*

ap-peal-ing /ə'pi:liŋ/ adj **1** moving; touching the feelings or sympathy: *an ~ look.* **2** attractive: *an ~ smile.*

ap-peal-ing-ly adv

ap-pear /ə'piə(r)/ vi **1** come into view, become visible: *When we reached the top of the hill, the town ~ed below us.* **2** arrive: *He promised to come at 4 but didn't ~ until 6.* **3** (a) (of an actor, singer, lecturer, etc) come before the public: *He has ~ed in every large concert hall in Europe.* (b) (of a book) be published: *When will your new novel ~?* (c) (legal) present oneself: *The defendant failed to ~ before the court.* **4** give the impression of being (but not necessarily a true or genuine one): *Why does she ~ so sad?*

ap-pear-ance /ə'piərəns/ n [C] **1** act of appearing: *make one's first ~*, (of an actor, singer, etc) appear in public for the first time. **put in an appearance**, attend for a short time (a party, meeting, etc). **2** that which shows or can be seen; what a thing or person appears to be: *The child had the ~ of being (= looked as if it were) half starved.* **3** style of dressing: *have an untidy ~.*

ap-pease /ə'pi:z/ vt make quiet, less angry or calm.

ap-pease-ment n [U]

ap-pend /ə'pend/ vt (formal) add in writing or in print; add something at the end: ~ a signature to a document.

ap-pend-age /ə'pendidʒ/ n [C] something added to, fastened to or forming a natural part of, a larger thing.

ap-pen-di-ci-tis /,æpendi'saɪtɪs/ n [U] diseased condition of the appendix².

ap-pen-dix¹ /'æpendɪks/ n [C] (*pl* -dices /-dɪsɪz/) something added, esp at the end of a book.

ap-pen-dix² /'æpendɪks/ n [C] (*pl* ~es or -dices /-dɪsɪz/) small out-growth on a bodily organ, esp the large intestine.

ap-per-tain /,æpə'teɪn/ vi (formal) belong to as a right: *the duties ~ing to his office.*

ap-pe-tite /'æpɪtaɪt/ n **1** [C,U] physical desire esp for food: *The long walk gave him a good ~.* **2** (fig) desire: *He had no ~ for the fight.*

ap-pe-tizer /'æpɪtaɪzə(r)/ n [C] something done (eg a walk) or served (eg a short alcoholic drink) in order to encourage the appetite (1).

ap-pe-tiz-ing adj exciting the appetite: *an appetizing smell from the kitchen.*

ap-plaud /ə'plɔ:d/ vi, vt **1** show approval (of) by clapping the hands: *The audience ~ed (the singer) for five minutes. He was loudly ~ed.* **2** express approval of; agree with: *I ~ your decision.*

ap-plause /ə'plɔ:z/ n [U] loud approval; hand-clapping.

apple /'æpl/ n [C] (tree with a) round fruit with firm juicy flesh and a thin skin. **the apple of one's eye**, thing or person dearly loved. ⇨ Adam's apple.

ap-pliance /ə'pleɪəns/ n [C] instrument or apparatus: *an ~ (= tool) for opening tin cans; household ~s*, eg a washing-machine.

ap-pli-cable /'æplɪkəbl/ adj that can be applied; that is suitable and proper: *Is the rule ~ to this case?*

ap-pli-cant /'æplɪkənt/ n [C] person who applies (esp for a job).

ap-p-li-ca-tion /,æplɪ'keɪʃn/ n **1** [U] making of a request: *A sample will be sent on ~.* [C] request (esp in writing). **make an application**, apply: *We made an ~ to the manager for an interview.* **2** [U] putting one thing on to another: *He suggests an ~ of this cream to small cuts only.* [C,U] substance used: *This ~ is for burns and cuts.* **3** [U] putting to a special or practical use: *the ~ of a new technical process to industry.* **4** [U] (formal) effort: *If you show ~ in your studies (= If you work hard) you will succeed.*

application form, one to be filled in when asking for a job, membership, etc.

ap-plied /ə'plaid/ adj put to practical use: ~ mathematics.

applied science, scientific study put to practical use, eg engineering.

ap-ply /ə'plai/ vt, vi (pt, pp -ied) **1** ask for: ~ to the Consul for a visa. **2** lay one thing on or in

another: ~ a plaster to a cut. **3** put into operation: *We intend to ~ economic sanctions.* **4** (cause to) have a bearing (on); concern: *What I have said does not ~ to you.* **5** **apply oneself/one's mind/one's energies (to sth/to doing sth)**, give all one's thought, energy or attention to: ~ your mind to your work. **6** make practical use of (research, a discovery).

ap-point /ə'pɔɪnt/ *vt* **1** fix or decide: *The time ~ed for the meeting was 8.30pm.* **2** choose for a post; set up by choosing members: *They ~ed Mr White (to be) manager.* *We must ~ a committee.*

ap-poin-tee /ə'pɔɪnti:/ *n* [C] person appointed to an office or position.

ap-point-ment /ə'pɔɪntmənt/ *n* **1** [U] act of appointing: *meet by ~, after fixing a time and place.* **2** [C] arrangement to meet: *make/fix an ~; keep/break an ~.* **3** [C] position or office: *He got the ~ as manager.*

ap-portion /ə'pɔːʃn/ *vt* divide; distribute (the usual words): *This sum of money is to be ~ed among the six boys.*

ap-po-site /'æpəzɪt/ *adj* very apt for a purpose or occasion: *an ~ remark.*

ap-praisal /ə'preɪzl/ *n* [C,U] opinion, judgement of how good, valuable, etc somebody or something is.

ap-praise /ə'preɪz/ *vt* (formal) fix a price for: ~ property (at a certain sum) for taxation.

ap-prec-i-able /ə'priːəbl/ *adj* that can be seen or felt: *an ~ change in the temperature.*

ap-prec-i-ably /-əbl/ *adv*

ap-prec-i-ate /ə'priːʃeɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** judge rightly the value of; understand and enjoy: *We all ~ a holiday after a year of hard work.* **2** put a high value on: *We greatly ~ all your help.* **3** (of land, goods, etc) increase in value: *The land has ~d greatly since the new motorway was built.*

ap-prec-i-ation /ə'priːʃi'eɪʃn/ *n* **1** [C,U] (statement giving) judgement, valuation: *She showed little or no ~ of good music.* **2** [U] understanding and recognition: *in sincere ~ of your valuable help.* **3** [U] rise in value, eg of land, business shares.

ap-prec-i-ative /ə'priːʃətv/ *adj* feeling or showing appreciation (2): *an ~ audience.*

ap-pre-hend /'æpri'hend/ *vt* (legal) arrest: ~ a thief.

ap-pre-hen-sion /'æpri'hensjən/ *n* **1** [U] understanding: *quick/slow of ~.* **2** [U] (also *pl*) fear; unhappy feeling about the future: *feel ~ for her safety.* **3** [C,U] (legal) arresting: *the ~ of a thief.*

ap-pre-hen-sive /'æpri'hensɪv/ *adj* worried: ~ for his safety.

ap-pren-tice /ə'prentɪs/ *n* [C] learner of a trade who has agreed to work for a number of years in return for being taught. □ *vt* put in the care of an apprentice: *The boy was ~d to a carpenter.*

ap-pren-tice-ship /-ʃɪp/, (time of) being an

apprentice.

ap-proach /ə'praʊtʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** come near(er) (to): *As winter ~ed the weather became colder.* **2** (fig) be (nearly) as good as: *Few writers can even ~ Shakespeare in greatness.* **3** go to (a person) with a request or offer: *When is the best time to ~ him about an increase in salary?* □ **n** **1** [U] act of approaching: *The enemy ran away at our ~.* **2** [C] way, path, road: *All the ~es to the Palace were guarded by soldiers.*

ap-proach-able /-əbl/ *adj* (of a person or place) that can be approached; accessible.

ap-pro-pri-ate ¹ /ə'prəʊprɪət/ *adj* **1** suited to: *That dress is not ~ for a formal wedding.* **2** in keeping with: *Write in a style ~ to your subject.*

ap-pro-pri-ate-ly *adv*

ap-pro-pri-ate ² /ə'prəʊprɪət/ *vt* **1** put on one side for a special purpose: *£20000 has been ~d for the new building.* **2** take and use as one's own: *He often ~s my ideas.*

ap-pro-pri-ation /ə'prəʊprɪ'eɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] appropriating or being appropriated; [C] instance of this. **2** [C] thing, esp a sum of money, that is appropriated: *make an ~ for payment of debts.*

ap-pro-val /ə'pruːvl/ *n* [U] feeling, showing or saying, that one is satisfied, that something is right, that one agrees: *Your plans have my ~.* *Does what I have done meet with your ~?*

ap-prove /ə'pruːv/ *vt, vi* **1** give one's approval of: *Her father will never ~ of her marriage to you.* **2** agree to: *The minutes (of the meeting) were read and ~d.* **3** confirm: *Our expenses have been ~d.*

ap-proving-ly *adv*

ap-proxi-mate ¹ /ə'prɒksɪmət/ *adj* very near (to); about right: *The ~ speed was 30 miles an hour.*

ap-proxi-mate-ly *adv*

ap-proxi-mate ² /ə'prɒksɪmət/ *vi, vt* come near to (esp in quality or number): *His description of the event ~d to the truth but there were a few errors.*

ap-proxi-ma-tion /ə'prɒksɪ'meɪʃn/ *n* [C] almost correct amount or estimate; [U] being or getting near (in number or quality).

après-ski /'æpreɪ'skiː/ *adj* of the evening period after skiing: ~ clothes.

ap-ri-cot /'eɪprɪkɒt/ *n* **1** [C] (tree with) round, orange-yellow or orange-red fruit with soft flesh and a hard stone-like seed. **2** [U] colour of this fruit when ripe.

April /'eɪprəl/ *n* fourth month of the year, with 30 days.

April fool, person who has a practical joke played on him on 'All Fools' Day (1 April).

apron /'eɪprən/ *n* [C] loose covering worn round the front part of the body to keep clothes clean; any similar covering.

apron stage, (in some theatres) part of the front of a stage extending into the audience.

apse /æps/ *n* [C] semi-circular or many-sided recess, with an arched or domed roof, esp at

the east end of a church.

apt /æpt/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** intelligent: ~ at learning a new subject. **2** well suited: an ~ remark. **3** having a tendency, likely (to do something): He's a clever boy but ~ to get into mischief.

apt-ly *adv* suitably: ~ly named.

apt-ness *n* [U]

ap-ti-tude /'æptɪtʃuːd/ *US*: -tʊd/ *n* [C,U] natural or acquired ability: He shows an ~ for languages.

aqua-lung /'ækwəlŋ/ *n* [C] (P) breathing unit (mask, cylinder(s)) used for underwater swimming or diving.

aqua-mar-ine /'ækwəmə'riːn/ *n* [C,U] bluish-green (jewel).

aquarium /'ækwəriəm/ *n* [C] (pl ~s or -ria /-rɪə/) (building with an) artificial pond or tank for keeping and showing living fish and water plants.

Aquar-ius /'ækwəriəs/ *n* the Water Carrier, the eleventh sign of the zodiac.

aquatic /'ækwætɪk/ *adj* **1** (of plants, animals, etc) growing or living in or near water. **2** (of sports) taking place on or in water, eg rowing, swimming.

aque-duct /'ækwɪdəkt/ *n* [C] artificial channel for supplying water, esp one built of stone or brick and higher than the surrounding land.

Ara-bic /'ærəbɪk/ *adj* of the Arabs. □ *n* [U] language of the Arabs.

Arabic numeral, the sign 0, 1, 2, 3, etc.

ar-able /'ærəbl/ *adj* (of land) suitable for ploughing; usually ploughed.

ar-bit-rary /'ɑːbɪtrəri/ *US*: -trɛri/ *adj* **1** based on opinion, accident or sudden decision only, not on reason: an ~ choice. **2** using unlimited power: an ~ decision against the workers.

ar-bi-trate /'ɑːbɪtreɪt/ *vt, vi* decide by arbitration: Mr Smith has been asked to ~ between the employers and their workers.

ar-bi-tra-tion /'ɑːbɪtreɪʃn/ *n* [U] settlement of a dispute by the decision of a person or persons chosen and accepted as judges or umpires: The Union agreed to (go to) ~, ie for a settlement of their claims.

ar-bi-tra-tor /'ɑːbɪtreɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] person appointed by two parties to settle a dispute.

ar-bour (*US* = **ar-bor**) /'ɑːbə(r)/ *n* [C] shady place among trees.

arc /ɑːk/ *n* [C] part of the circumference of a circle or other curved line.

ar-cade /'ɑːkeɪd/ *n* [C] covered passage, usually with an arched roof, eg a passage with shops or market stalls along one or both sides; covered market.

arch /ɑːtʃ/ *n* [C] **1** curved structure supporting the weight of what is above it, as in bridges, gateways, etc. **2** (also 'arch-way') passageway under an arch, built as an ornament or gateway: a triumphal ~. **3** any curve in the shape of an arch, eg the curved part under the foot. □ *vt, vi* **1** form into an arch: The cat ~ed

its back when it saw the dog. **2** be like an arch: The trees ~ over the river.

arch- /ɑːtʃ/ *prefix* **1** chief, first, head: arch-bishop. **2** notable; extreme: my ~-enemy.

ar-cha-e-ologi-cal (also and *US* **ar-che-ol-**) /'ɑːkɪə'lɒdʒɪkəl/ *adj* of archaeology.

ar-cha-e-ol-ogist (also and *US* **ar-che-ol-**) /'ɑːkɪə'lɒdʒɪst/ *n* [C] expert in, student of, archaeology.

ar-cha-e-ol-ogy (also and *US* **ar-che-ol-**) /'ɑːkɪə'lɒdʒɪ/ *n* [U] study of ancient things, esp remains of prehistoric times.

ar-chaic /'ɑːkɪk/ *adj* **1** (of languages, words) not now used. **2** of ancient times.

ar-chaism /'ɑːkɪzəm/ *n* [C] archaic word or expression; [U] use or imitation of what is archaic.

arch-angel /'ɑːk'eɪndʒəl/ *n* [C] angel of the highest rank.

arch-bishop /'ɑːtʃ'bɪʃp/ *n* [C] chief bishop.

arch-bishop-ric, position, rank or district of an archbishop.

arch-deacon /'ɑːtʃ'diːkən/ *n* [C] (C of E) priest next below a bishop, in charge of rural deans.

arch-deaconry, position, rank, residence, of an archdeacon.

archer /'ɑːtʃə(r)/ *n* [C] person who shoots with a bow and arrows.

arch-ery /'ɑːtʃəri/ *n* [U] (sport of) shooting with a bow and arrows.

arche-type /'ɑːkɪtaɪp/ *n* [C] perfect example.

archi-pel-ago /'ɑːkɪ'peləgəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s or ~es) (sea with a) group of many islands.

archi-tect /'ɑːkɪtekt/ *n* [C] person who designs (and supervises the construction of) buildings, etc.

archi-tect-ural /'ɑːkɪtektʃərəl/ *adj* of architecture: the ~ beauties of a city.

archi-tec-ture /'ɑːkɪtektʃə(r)/ *n* [U] art and science of building; style of building(s).

ar-chives /'ɑːkaɪvz/ *n* pl (place for keeping) public or government records; other historical records.

archi-vist /'ɑːkɪvɪst/ *n* [C] person in charge of archives.

arch-way /'ɑːtʃweɪ/ *n* ⇨ arch(2).

arc-tic /'ɑːktɪk/ *adj* of the north polar regions: the A~ Ocean; ~ weather, (fig) very cold weather.

ar-dent /'ɑːdənt/ *adj* very enthusiastic: ~ supporters of the new movement.

ar-dent-ly *adv*

ar-dour (*US* = **ar-dor**) /'ɑːdə(r)/ *n* [CU] enthusiasm (the more usual word).

ar-du-ous /'ɑːdʒʊəs/ *US*: -dʒu-/ *adj* needing and using up much energy.

ar-du-ous-ly *adv*

are /ə(r)/ *strong form*: ɑː(r)/ ⇨ be¹.

area /'eəriə/ *n* [C] **1** surface measure: If a room measures 3 × 5 metres, its ~ is 15 square metres/it is 15 square metres in ~. **2** region of the earth's surface: desert ~s of North Africa. **3** (fig) scope or range of activity: The ~s of dis-

agreement were clearly indicated at the Board Meeting.

arena /əˈri:nə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** central part, for games and fights, of a Roman amphitheatre. **2** (fig) any scene of competition or struggle: *the political ~.*

aren't /ɑːnt/ = *are not*.

ar-gu-able /ˈɑːgjuəbl/ *adj* that can be supported by facts; that can be disagreed with.

ar-gu-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

ar-gue /ˈɑːgjuː/ *vi, vt* **1** express disagreement; quarrel: *arguing over/about the decision. Don't ~ with me; my decision is final.* **2** **argue (for/against/that...)**, give reasons (in support of, for, against, esp with the aim of persuading a person): *You can ~ either way, for or against. He was arguing that poverty may be a blessing.* **3** debate: *The lawyers ~d the case for hours.*

ar-gu-ment /ˈɑːgjomənt/ *n* **1** [C] (serious) disagreement; quarrel: *endless ~s about money; an ~ with the referee.* **2** [C, U] discussion giving reasons for agreeing or disagreeing: *It is beyond ~ that...*

ar-gu-men-ta-tive /ˈɑːgjuːmentətɪv/ *adj* fond of arguing (**1**).

aria /ˈɑːriə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) melody for a single voice in an opera, etc.

-arian /-əriən/ *suffix* practiser of: *vegetarian.*

arid /ˈærɪd/ *adj* **1** (of soil, land) dry, barren. **2** (of climate, regions) having not enough rainfall to support plants, etc.

Aries /ˈeəriːz/ *n* the Ram, the first sign of the zodiac.

arise /əˈraɪz/ *vi* (*pt* arose /əˈrəʊz/, *pp* arisen /əˈrɪzn/) **1** come into existence; be noticed: *A new difficulty has ~n.* **2** result from: *Serious effects may ~ from your mistakes.* **3** (old use) get up; stand up.

ar-is-toc-racy /ˈærɪstokrəsi/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] government by persons of the highest social rank; [C] country or state with such a government. **2** [C] ruling body of nobles; the social class from which these nobles come.

ar-is-to-crat /ˈærɪstakræt *US*: əˈrɪst-/ *n* [C] member of the class of nobles; person of noble birth.

ar-is-to-cra-tic /ˈærɪstəˈkrætɪk *US*: əˈrɪstə-/ *adj* of the aristocracy; like an aristocrat: *with an ~ walk.*

ar-is-to-cra-ti-cal-ly /-kli/ *adv*

arith-me-tic /əˈrɪθmətɪk/ *n* [U] science of numbers; working with numbers.

ar-ith-met-i-cal /ˈærɪθmetɪkl/ *adj* of arithmetic.

ark /ɑːk/ *n* (biblical) covered ship in which Noah and his family were saved from the Flood.

Ark of the Covenant, wooden chest in which writings of Jewish law were kept.

arm¹ /ɑːm/ *n* [C] **1** either of the two upper limbs of the human body, from the shoulder to the hand: *She was carrying a child in her ~s. keep sb at arm's length.* (fig) avoid be-

coming familiar with him. (*welcome sb/ sth*) **with open arms**, with friendliness and enthusiasm. **walk arm-in-arm**, (of two persons) walk side by side, with the arm of one round the arm of the other. **2** sleeve: *The ~s of this coat are too long.* **3** anything shaped like or suggesting an arm: *the ~s of a chair.* **4** **the (long) arm of the law**, (fig) the authority or power of the law. **5** branch or division of a country's armed forces: *the infantry/air ~.* **6** weapon: *a fire-~.*

'arm-chair, chair with supports for the arms.

'arm-ful, as much as one arm or both arms can hold: *an ~ful of books.*

'arm-hole, hole (in a shirt, jacket, etc) through which the arm is put.

'arm-pit, hollow under the arm near the shoulder.

arm² /ɑːm/ *vt, vi* supply, fit, weapons and armour; prepare for war: *a warship ~ed with nuclear weapons.*

the armed forces/services, the military forces.

ar-ma-da /ɑːˈmɑːdə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) great fleet of warships, esp the Spanish fleet sent against England in 1588.

ar-ma-dillo /ˈɑːməˈdɪləʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) small burrowing animal of S America, with a body covered with a shell of bony plates, and the habit of rolling itself up into a ball when attacked.

ar-ma-ment /ˈɑːməmənt/ *n* **1** (usually *pl*) military forces and their equipment. **2** (usually *pl*) weapons, esp the large guns on a warship, military tank, etc: *the ~s industry.* **3** [U] process of equipping military forces; preparation for war.

ar-mis-tice /ˈɑːmɪstɪs/ *n* [C] agreement during a war or battle to stop fighting for a time.

ar-mour (*US* = **ar-mor**) /ˈɑːmə(r)/ *n* [U] **1** defensive covering, usually metal, for the body, worn in fighting: *a suit of ~.* **2** metal covering for warships, tanks, motor-vehicles, etc. **3** (collective) tanks, motor-vehicles, etc protected with armour.

armoured *adj* (a) covered with armour: *an ~ed car.* (b) equipped with tanks, vehicles, guns, etc that are protected with armour: *an ~ed column.*

armourer, manufacturer or repairer of arms and armour.

armoury /ˈɑːməni/, place where arms are kept.

arms /ɑːmz/ *n* *pl* **1** weapons: *The soldiers had plenty of ~ and ammunition. lay down (one's) arms*, stop fighting. **take up arms; rise up in arms (against)**, (literally or fig) get ready to fight. **(be) up in arms (about/over)**, (fig) be protesting strongly. **2** (heraldry) pictorial design used by a noble family, town, university, etc. ⇨ also coat of arms.

'arms-race, competition among nations for military strength.

army /'ɑ:mɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** the ~, the military forces of a country, organized for fighting on land: *be in the ~*, be a soldier. **2** large number: *an ~ of workmen/officials* *ants*.

aroma /ə'roumə/ *n* [C] sweet smell: *the ~ of a cigar*.

aromatic /,æ'rə'mætɪk/ *adj* fragrant; spicy: *the ~ bark of the cinnamon tree*.

arose /ə'raʊz/ *pt* of arise.

around /ə'raʊnd/ *adv, prep* **1** on every side, in every direction: *children running ~ in the park*. **2** about; round; here and there: *I'll be ~ (= not far away) if you should want me*.

arouse /ə'raʊz/ *vt* **1** awaken: *behaviour that might ~ suspicion*. **2** cause (somebody) to become active: *fully ~d*.

ar-raign /ə'reɪn/ *vt* (*legal*) bring a criminal charge against (a person); bring (a person) before a court for trial: *~ed on a charge of theft*.

ar-range /ə'reɪndʒ/ *vt, vi* **1** put in order: *She's good at arranging flowers*. **2** make plans in advance; see to the details of: *I have ~d to meet her at ten o'clock*. *The meeting ~d for tomorrow has been postponed*. **3** come to an agreement: *I've ~d a loan with Harry for the car*. **4** adapt (a piece of music): *~ a piece of music for the violin*.

ar-range-ment /ə'reɪndʒmənt/ *n* **1** [U] putting in order; arranging or being arranged: *The ~ of the furniture in our new house took a long time*. **2** *make arrangements*, plan; arrange: *Have you made ~s for your journey to Scotland?* **3** [U] agreement; settlement: *We can come to some sort of ~ over expenses*. **4** [C] result or manner of arranging: *an ~ (eg of orchestral music) for the piano*. *I have an ~ by which I can cash my cheques at banks anywhere in Europe*.

ar-ray /ə'reɪ/ *vt* (*literary*) **1** position (esp armed forces, troops) in order for battle. **2** dress: *~ed in ceremonial robes*. □ *n* [C] (*literary*) **1** order: *troops in battle ~*. **2** clothes: *in military ~*. **3** display (of): *an impressive ~ of statistics*.

ar-rears /ə'reɪz/ *n pl* **1** money that is owing and that ought to have been paid: *~ of rent/wages*. *be in/fall into arrears (with)*, be late in paying. **2** work still waiting to be done.

ar-rest /ə'rest/ *vt* **1** seize (somebody) by the authority of the law: *The police ~ed the thief and put him in prison*. **2** put a stop to (a process or movement): *Poor food ~s the natural growth of children*. **3** catch (a person's attention): *The bright colours of the flowers ~ed the child's attention*. □ *n* [C] act of arresting (a thief, etc): *The police made several ~s*. (*be/ place/put*) *under arrest*, (be/be made) a prisoner.

ar-rest-ing *adj* attracting attention.

ar-ri-val /ə'raɪvl/ *n* **1** [U] act of arriving: *waiting for the ~ of news*; to await ~, (on a letter, parcel, etc) to be kept until the addressee arrives. **2** [C] person or thing that arrives: *The new ~ (= The newborn child) is a boy*.

ar-rive /ə'raɪv/ *vi* **1** reach a place, esp the end

of a journey: *~ home*. **2** come: *At last the day ~d*. *Her baby ~d (= was born) yesterday*. **3** *arrive at*, reach (a decision, a price, the age of 40, manhood, etc). **4** (*modern use*) establish one's position or reputation: *The publicity he received at the airport proved he'd ~d*.

ar-ro-gance /'ærəgəns/ *n* [U] arrogant behaviour, manner.

ar-ro-gant /'ærəgənt/ *adj* behaving in a proud, superior manner; (of behaviour, etc) showing too much pride in oneself and too little consideration for others: *speaking in an ~ tone*.

ar-ro-gant-ly *adv*

ar-row /'ærəʊ/ *n* [C] **1** thin, pointed stick (to be) shot from a bow. **2** mark or sign (→) used to show direction or position, eg on a map or as a road sign.

'arrow-head, pointed end of an arrow.

ar-senal /'ɑ:sənl/ *n* [C] government building(s) where weapons and ammunition are made or stored.

ar-senic /'ɑ:snɪk/ *n* [U] (*chem*) chemical element (symbol **As**), used in glass-making, dyes, etc; strong poison.

ar-son /'ɑ:sn/ *n* [U] act of starting a fire intentionally and unlawfully.

art /ɑ:t/ *n* **1** [U] the creation or expression of what is beautiful, esp in visual form; fine skill or aptitude in such expression: *the ~ of the Renaissance*; *children's ~*; *an ~ historian*. **2** [C] something in which imagination and personal taste are more important than exact measurement and calculation: *History and literature are among the ~s (subjects) (contrasted with science)*. **3** [C,U] trickery; trick: *In spite of all her ~s, the young man was not attracted to her*. **'Bachelor/Master of 'Arts**, (abbr = **BA/MA**) person who has passed an examination, etc. for the award of a university degree in an arts (2) subject.

black art, magic (used for evil purposes).

fine art, drawing, painting, sculpture, design, music, dancing, etc.

'work of 'art, good example of painting, sculpture, etc.

'art gallery, one for the display of paintings, sculpture, etc.

'art school, one where painting, sculpture, etc are taught.

ar-te-fact ⇨ artifact.

ar-ter-i-al /ɑ:'tɛrɪəl/ *adj* **1** of or like an artery: *~ blood*. **2** (*fig*) *~ roads*, important main roads.

ar-tery /'ɑ:təri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** one of the tubes carrying blood from the heart to all parts of the body. **2** main road or river; chief channel in a system of communications, etc.

art-ful /ɑ:tfl/ *adj* cunning; deceitful; clever in getting what one wants.

art-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

art-ful-ness *n* [U]

ar-thri-tic /ɑ:'θrɪtɪk/ *adj* of arthritis.

ar-thri-tis /,ɑ:'θraɪtɪs/ *n* [U] inflammation of

a joint or joints.

ar-ti-choke /'ɑ:tɪtʃəʊk/ *n* [C] **1** globe ~, plant with a head of thick, leaf-like scales used as a vegetable. **2** Jerusalem ~, plant with white roots used as a vegetable.

ar-ti-cle /'ɑ:tɪkl/ *n* [C] **1** particular or separate thing: ~s of clothing, eg shirts, coats; toilet ~s, eg soap, toothpaste. **2** piece of writing, complete in itself, in a newspaper or periodical. **3** (legal) separate clause or item in an agreement: ~s of apprenticeship. **4** (gram): definite ~, 'the'; indefinite ~, 'a', 'an'. □ vt bind, eg an apprentice, by articles(3).

ar-ticu-late /'ɑ:tɪkjʊlət/ *adj* **1** (of speech) in which the separate sounds and words are clear. **2** (of a person) able to put thoughts and feelings into clear speech.

ar-ticu-late-ly *adv*

ar-ticu-late /'ɑ:tɪkjʊlət/ *vt, vi* **1** speak (distinctly). **2** connect by joints: bones that ~ / are ~d with others.

articulated vehicle, having parts joined in a flexible manner, eg a lorry with a trailer.

ar-ticu-la-tion /'ɑ:tɪkjʊləʃn/ *n* [U] **1** production of speech sounds: The speaker's ideas were good but his ~ was poor. **2** (connection by a) joint.

ar-ti-fact, **ar-te-fact** /'ɑ:tɪfækt/ *n* [C] something made by human being(s), eg a simple tool or weapon of archaeological interest.

ar-ti-fice /'ɑ:tɪfɪs/ *n* (formal) **1** [C] skilful way of doing something. **2** [U] cunning; ingenuity; trickery; [C] trick.

ar-ti-fi-cial /'ɑ:tɪfɪʃl/ *adj* not natural or real; made by man: ~ flowers/teeth/light.

artificial respiration, method of forcing air into the lungs, eg to a man nearly drowned.

ar-ti-fi-cial-ly /-fɪʃli/ *adv*

ar-til-lery /'ɑ:tɪləri/ *n* [U] big guns (on wheels, etc); branch of an army that uses these.

ar-ti-san /'ɑ:trɪzən *US*: 'ɑ:tɪzən/ *n* [C] skilled workman in industry or trade; mechanic.

art-ist /'ɑ:tɪst/ *n* [C] **1** person who practises one of the fine arts, esp painting. **2** person who acts with skill and good taste: an ~ in words.

ar-tiste /'ɑ:tɪst/ *n* [C] professional singer, actor, dancer, etc.

ar-tis-tic /'ɑ:tɪstɪk/ *adj* **1** done with, showing, skill and good judgement, esp in the arts. **2** ability to judge beauty in art, clothes, etc. **3** of art or artists.

ar-tis-ti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

art-istry /'ɑ:tɪstri/ *n* [U] artistic work; qualities of skill and good judgement possessed by an artist.

arty /'ɑ:tɪ/ *adj* (informal) pretending or falsely claiming to be artistic.

-ary /-əri, -rɪ/ *suffix* **1** (used to form an *adj*): planetary. **2** (pl -ies) (used to form a *noun*): dictionary.

as¹ /æz *strong form*: æz/ *adv* **as** ... **as**, in the same degree: I'm ~ tall ~ you. (Note: In a negative sentence *as* is often replaced by *so*: It's

not so difficult as I expected.)

as² /æz *strong form*: æz/ *conj* **1** when; while: I saw him ~ he was getting off the bus. A ~ he grew older he became less active. **2** (expressing reason) since; seeing that: A ~ he wasn't ready, we went without him. **3** (used in comparisons of equality): I want a box twice ~ large ~ this. It's ~ easy ~ ABC. **4** (usually replaceable by a construction with *although*): Much ~ I like you (= Although I like you), I will not marry you. **5** in the way in which: Do ~ I do. Leave it ~ it is. **6** like: Why is he dressed ~ a woman? **7** (used to avoid repetition): Harry is unusually tall, ~ are his brothers, and his brothers are also unusually tall. **8** in the capacity or character of: He was respected both ~ a judge and ~ a man. **9** (used after regard, view, represent, treat, acknowledge, etc): Most people regarded him ~ a fool. (Note: compare, Most people considered him (to be) a fool.) **10** **such as**, for instance, for example, like: Countries in the north of Europe, such ~ Finland, Norway, Sweden. **11** **as if**; **as though**, (introducing a clause of manner) **a**) (with a *pt* in the clause): He talks ~ though he knew all about it. **b**) (followed by a *to*-infinitive): He opened his lips ~ if to say something. **12** **as for**, /æz fə(r)/ with reference to (sometimes suggesting indifference or contempt): A ~ for you, I never want to see you here again. **13** (used as a conjunction, usually after *same* and *such*): Must you do the same things ~ he does? **14** Cyprus, ~ (= which fact) you all know, is in the Mediterranean. **15** **so as to**, /səʊ æz/ **a**) He stood up so ~ to (= in order to) see better. **b**) It is foolish to behave so ~ to annoy (= in ways that annoy) your neighbours. **16** **as good as**, the same thing as: He's ~ good ~ dead, almost dead, sure to die soon. **17** **as/so long as**, **a**) on condition that: You can go where you like so long ~ you get back before dark. **b**) while: You shall never enter this house ~ long ~ I live in it. **18** **as much**, so; what really amounts to that: I thought ~ much. ⇨ also far¹(2), soon(3,5), sure *adv*(2), well²(8).

as-bes-tos /æz'bestəs/ *n* [U] soft, grey, mineral substance that can be made into fire-proof fabrics or thick heat-proof sheets.

as-cend /ə'send/ *vt, vi* **1** (formal) go or come up (a mountain, river, etc): We watched the mists ~ing from the valley. The path ~s here. **2** **ascend the throne**, become king or queen.

as-cend-ancy, (also -*ency*) /ə'sendənsɪ/ *n* [U] (position of) having power.

as-cen-sion /ə'senʃn/ *n* [C] act of ascending. **the Ascension**, the departure of Jesus from the earth, on the fortieth day after the Resurrection.

as-cent /ə'sent/ *n* [C] act of ascending; way up; upward movement: The ~ of the mountain was not difficult.

as-cer-tain /'æsjə'teɪn/ *vt* find out (in order to be certain about); get to know: ~ the facts; ~ what really happened.

as-cer-tain-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be found.
as-cetic /ə'setɪk/ *adj* self-denying; leading a life of severe self-discipline. □ *n* [C] person who (often for religious reasons) leads a severely simple life without ordinary pleasures.

ascor-bic /ə'skɔ:bɪk/ *adj* **ascorbic acid**, (also known as *vitamin C*) vitamin found in citrus fruits and vegetable products, used against skin diseases.

as-cribe /ə'skraɪb/ *vt* (formal) consider to be the cause, origin, reason or author, of: *He ~d his failure to bad luck. He has ~d a wrong meaning to the word.*

asep-tic /ə'septɪk/ *adj* (of wounds, dressings, etc) free from bacteria; surgically clean.

asex-ual /eɪ'sekʃʊəl/ *adj* **1** without sex or sex organs: ~ reproduction. **2** (of a person) showing no interest in sexual relations.

asex-ual-ity /eɪ'seksʃʊəli/ *n* [U]

ash /æʃ/ *n* [C] forest-tree with silver-grey bark and hard, tough wood; [U] wood of this tree.

'ash-key, winged seed of the ash.

ash² /æʃ/ *n* [U or pl, but not with numerals] **1** powder that is left after something has burnt: *Don't drop cigarette ~ on the carpet. The house was burnt to ~s.* **2** (pl) the burnt (= cremated) remains of a human body.

'ash-tray, small (metal, glass, etc) receptacle for tobacco ash.

Ash Wednesday, first day of Lent.

ashamed /əʃ'eɪmd/ *adj* feeling shame: *You should be ~ of yourself/ of what you have done.*

ashamed-ly /əʃ'eɪmdli/ *adv*

ashen /'æʃn/ *adj* of ashes; pale; ash-coloured: *His face turned ~ at the news.*

ashore /əʃ'ɔ:(r)/ *adv* on, on to, the shore. **go ashore**, leave a ship to go on land.

ashy /'æʃi/ *adj* of or like ashes; covered with ashes; ash-coloured, pale.

Asian /'eɪʃn US: 'eɪʒn/ *n* [C], *adj* (native) of Asia.

Asi-atic /eɪʃi'ætɪk/ *n* [C], *adj* (native) of Asia (*Asian* is the preferred word).

aside /ə'saɪd/ *adv* on or to one side: *He laid the book ~, put it down and stopped reading it. Please put this ~ for me, reserve it. Joking ~, Speaking seriously,...* □ *n* [C] word(s) spoken, esp (on the stage) words that other persons (on the stage) are supposed not to hear.

as-in-ine /'æsnain/ *adj* **1** of asses. **2** (informal) stupid.

ask /ɑ:sk US: æsk/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp ~ed) **1** call for an answer to; request information or service: *Did you ~ the price? We must ~ him about it. I will ~ (him) how to get there. Please ~ (her) when she will be back.* **2** invite: *Mr Brown is at the door; shall I ~ him in?* **be asking for trouble**, ⇨ trouble *n* (1). **3** request to be allowed: *I must ~ you to excuse me/ ~ to be excused.* **4** demand as a price: *What are they ~ing for the house?*

ask-ing *n* the ~: *You may have it/ It's yours*

for the ~ing, You have only to ask for it and it will be given to you.

'asking price, price asked by the seller (of a house, etc).

askew /ə'skju:/ *adv, adj* out of the straight or usual (level) position: *have a hat on ~.*

aslant /ə'slɑ:nt US: ə'slænt/ *adv, prep* in a slanting direction: *The wrecked train lay ~ the railway track.*

asleep /ə'sli:p/ *adj, adv* **1** sleeping: *He fell ~ during the lecture.* **fast asleep**, in a deep sleep. **2** (of the arms or legs) without feeling (as when under pressure).

asp¹ /'æsp/ *n* [C] = aspen.

asp² /'æsp/ *n* [C] small poisonous snake of Egypt and Libya.

as-para-gus /ə'spærəgəs/ *n* [U] plant whose young shoots are cooked and eaten as a vegetable; the shoots.

as-pect /'æspekt/ *n* [C] **1** look or appearance (of a person or thing): *a man of fierce ~; a man with a serious ~.* **2** front that faces a particular direction: *a house with a southern ~.* **3** (fig): *study every ~ of a subject*, study it thoroughly.

as-per-ity /ə'spərəti/ *n* [U] (formal) roughness; harshness (of manner); extreme cold (of weather): *speak with ~.*

as-per-sion /ə'spə:ʃn US: -ʒn/ *n* **cast aspersions on/upon sb/ sb's honour, etc.**, say false things about him.

as-phalt /'æsfælt US: -fɔ:lt/ *n* [U] black, sticky substance used for making roofs, etc waterproof, and for making road surfaces. □ *vi* cover with asphalt.

as-phyxia /ə'sfiksɪə/ *n* [U] condition caused by not having air in the lungs; suffocation.

as-phyx-iate /ə'sfiksɪət/ *vt* make ill, cause the death of, through not having sufficient air in the lungs: *The men in the coalmine were ~ted by bad gas.*

as-phyxi-ation /ə'sfiksɪ'eɪʃn/ *n* [U]

as-pic /'æspɪk/ *n* [U] clear meat jelly: *chicken in ~.*

as-pir-ant /ə'spaɪərənt/ *n* [C] (formal) person who is ambitious for fame, etc: *an ~ to high office.*

as-pir-ate¹ /'æspərət/ *n* [C] the sound of 'h'; sound with an 'h' in it.

as-pir-ate² /'æspəreit/ *vt* say with an 'h' sound: *The 'h' in 'honour' is not ~d.*

as-pira-tion /ə'spə'reɪʃn/ *n* [C, U] ambition: *the ~s of young people.*

as-pire /ə'spaɪə(r)/ *vi* be filled with ambition: ~ to become an author.

ass /æs/ *n* [C] **1** small animal of the horse family with long ears; donkey. **2** (fig) stupid person.

as-sail /ə'seɪl/ *vt* attack (the usual word): ~ a speaker with questions/insults; be ~ed with doubts.

as-sail-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be attacked.

as-sail-ant /-ənt/ *n* [C] attacker (the usual word).

as-sas-sin /ə'sæsn/ *n* [C] person, often one

hired by others, who assassinate.

as-sas-sin-ate /ə'sæsinet/ *vt* kill a person (esp a politician, ruler), for political reasons.

as-sas-sin-ation /ə'sæsinetn/ *n* [U] murder of this kind; [C] instance of this.

as-sault /ə'sɔ:lt/ *n* [C] violent and sudden attack: *They made an ~ on the enemy's positions.*

as-sault and 'battery, (legal) beating or hitting a person. *□ vt* attack (eg a fortress) by a sudden rush.

as-semble /ə'sembl/ *vt, vi* **1** gather together; collect: *The pupils ~d/were ~d in the school hall.* **2** fit or put together (the parts of): *~ a car.*

as-sembly /ə'sembli/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** number of persons who have come together: *the Legislative A~; the school ~*, the daily meeting of staff and pupils. **2** military call, by drum or bugle, for soldiers to assemble.

as'sembly hall, one where a school meets for prayers, etc.

as'sembly line, stage of mass production in which parts of a machine, vehicle, etc move along for fixing together.

as-sent /ə'sent/ *n* [C] official agreement, eg to a proposal; (royal) agreement (to a bill passed by Parliament): *by common ~*, everybody agreeing. *□ vi* (formal) give agreement (to, eg a proposal).

as-assert /ə'sɜ:t/ *vt* **1** make a claim to: *~ one's rights.* **2** declare: *~ one's innocence* [that one is innocent].

as-assertion /ə'sɜ:t[n]/ *n* **1** [U] insisting on one's rights. **2** [C] strong statement; claim: *make an ~.*

as-assertive /ə'sɜ:tiv/ *adj* having or showing confidence: *speaking in an ~ tone.*

as-assertively *adv*

as-sess /ə'ses/ *vt* **1** decide or fix the amount of (eg a tax or a fine): *Damages were ~ed at £100.* **2** fix or decide the value of (eg property), the amount of (eg income), for purposes of taxation. **3** (fig) test the value of: *~ a speech at its true worth.*

as-sessment *n* [C, U].

as-ses-sor /ə'ses(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who assesses property, income, taxes, etc. **2** person who advises a judge, a committee, etc on technical matters.

as-set /'æset/ *n* [C] **1** (usually pl) anything owned by a person, company, etc that has money value and that may be sold to pay debts. ⇨ liability. **2** valuable or useful quality or skill: *Good health is a great ~.*

as-sign /ə'sain/ *vt* **1** give for use or enjoyment, or as a share or part in, eg of work, duty: *Those rooms have been ~ed to us. Your teacher ~s you work to be done at home.* **2** name, put forward as a time, place, reason, etc: *Has a day been ~ed for the trial? Can one ~ a cause to these events?* **3** appoint: *A~ your best man to the job.* **4** (legal) transfer property, rights, etc to.

as-sign-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be assigned:

~able to several causes.

as-sign-ment *n* [C, U]

as-similate /ə'simileit/ *vt, vi* **1** absorb (food) into the body (after digestion); be thus absorbed: *We ~ some kinds of food more easily than others.* **2** (allow people to) become part of another social group or state: *The USA has ~d people from many European countries, so that they are Americans.*

as-simila-tion /ə'simileiʃn/ *n* [U]

as-sist /ə'sist/ *vt, vi* (formal) help: *~ an applicant to fill in the forms. Two men are ~ing the police in their enquiries, answering questions which may lead to the arrest of the criminal(s), or perhaps their own arrest as the criminals.*

as-sistance /ə'sistəns/ *n* [U] help: *give/ lend ~ (to a person).*

as-sistant /ə'sistant/ *n* [C] helper: *an ~ to the Manager; a 'shop-~, one who serves customers.*

as-so-ci-ate /ə'səʊʃiət/ *adj* (of colleagues, etc) joined in function or level: *an ~ judge.* *□ n* /ə'səʊʃiət/ [C] **1** person joined with others in work, business or crime. **2** person given certain limited rights in an association. **3** companion.

as-so-ci-ate /ə'səʊʃiət/ *vt, vi* **1** join or connect: *~ one thing with another. We ~ Egypt with the Nile.* **2** be often in the company of: *Don't ~ with dishonest boys.*

as-so-ciation /ə'səʊʃi'eɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] associating; being associated; companionship (with): *I benefited so much from my ~ with him/from our ~. in association (with), together.* **2** [C] group of persons joined together for some common purpose: *the 'Auto-mobile A~.*

As-sociation 'football, (common abbr = soccer) game in which two teams of eleven players kick a round ball that must not be touched with the hands except by the goalkeeper or when throwing in.

as-sorted /ə'sɔ:tid/ *adj* of various sorts; mixed: *a pound of ~ chocolates.*

as-sort-ment /ə'sɔ:tmənt/ *n* [C] assorted collection of different examples or types: *This shop has an ~ of goods to choose from.*

as-sume /ə'sju:m US: ə'su:m/ *vt* **1** believe before there is proof: *You ~ his innocence/ him to be innocent* [that he is innocent before hearing the evidence against him]. **2** undertake: *~ office, begin to govern.* **3** take for oneself something not genuine or sincere: *~ a new name.*

as-sump-tion /ə'sʌmpʃn/ *n* **1** [C] something regarded as true or likely to happen; something thought to be true but not proved: *Their ~ that the war would end quickly was proved wrong. I am going on the ~ that ... I am supposing that ...* **2** [C] **a** assumption of, a) the act of assuming (2): *his ~ of office/ power/ the presidency.* b) the adopting of a manner, etc which is not genuine: *with an ~ of indifference, pretending not to be interested.* **3** the A~, reception into Heaven in bodily form of the

Virgin Mary; Church feast commemorating this.

as-sur-ance /ə'sʊərəns/ *n* 1 [U] (often *self-*) belief and trust in one's own powers: *He answered all the questions with ~.* 2 [C] promise; statement made to give confidence: *He gave me a definite ~ that the repairs would be finished by Friday.* 3 [U] (chiefly GB) insurance: *life ~*, because death is certain.

as-sure /ə'sʊə(r)/ *vt* 1 say positively, with confidence: *I ~ you (that) there's no danger.* 2 cause (a person) to be sure, to feel certain: *We tried to ~ the nervous old lady that flying was safe.* 3 insure, esp against death.

as-sured *adj* sure; confident.

as-sur-ed-ly /ə'sʊədli/ *adv* surely; confidently.

as-ter /'æstə(r)/ *n* [C] garden plant with flowers that have white, pink or purple petals round a yellow centre.

as-ter-isk /'æstərɪsk/ *n* [C] the mark *, used to call attention to something, to show that letters are omitted, etc.

astern /ə'stɜ:n/ *adv* in or at the stern of a ship.

as-ter-oid /'æstərɔɪd/ *n* [C] any of many small planets between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

asthma /'æsmə/ *US*: 'æzmə/ *n* [U] chronic chest disease marked by difficult breathing.

asth-matic /'æsmætɪk/ *US*: 'æz-/ *adj* suffering from asthma; of asthma.

astir /ə'stɜ:(r)/ *adv, adj* (formal) in a state of excitement: *The whole village was ~ when news came that the Queen was coming.*

as-ton-ish /ə'stɒnɪʃ/ *vt* surprise greatly: *The news ~ed everybody.*

as-ton-ish-ing *adj* very surprising.

as-ton-ish-ment *n* [U] great surprise: *I heard to my ~ment that... He looked at me in ~ment.*

astound /ə'staʊnd/ *vt* shock (the usual word).

as-tral /'æstrəl/ *adj* of or from the stars.

astray /ə'streɪ/ *adv, adj* out of, off, the right path, esp (fig) into doing wrong: *The boy was led ~ by bad friends.*

astride /ə'straɪd/ *adv, adj, prep* with one leg on each side (of): *sitting ~ his father's knee.*

as-trin-gent /ə'strɪndʒənt/ *n* [C] (kind of) substance that shrinks soft skin tissues and contracts blood-vessels. □ *adj* of or like an astringent.

astr(o)- /æstr(ə)-/ *prefix* of the stars, of outer space: *astronomy.*

as-trol-oger /ə'strɒlədʒə(r)/ *n* [C] expert in, student of, astrology.

as-tro-logi-cal /'æstrə'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* of astrology.

as-trol-ogy /ə'strɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] art of observing the positions of the stars in the belief that they influence human affairs.

as-tro-naút /'æstrənɔ:t/ *n* [C] person who travels in a spacecraft.

as-tron-omer /ə'strɒnəmə(r)/ *n* [C] expert

in, student of, astronomy.

as-tro-nomi-cal /'æstrənɒmɪkl/ *adj* 1 of the study of astronomy. 2 (informal) enormous: *an ~ salary.*

as-tron-omy /ə'strɒnəmi/ *n* [U] science of the sun, moon, stars and planets.

as-tute /ə'stju:t/ *US*: ə'stu:t/ *adj* quick at seeing how to gain an advantage: *an ~ lawyer/businessman.*

as-tute-ly *adv*

as-tute-ness *n* [U]

asylum /ə'saɪləm/ *n* [C,U] 1 (place of) refuge or safety. 2 (formerly) institution where mentally ill people were cared for, now called a *mental home* or *mental hospital*. 3 protection from cruel treatment, etc: *ask for political ~.*

at /ət/ *strong form*: æt/ *prep* 1 (a) in or near: *~ my uncle's*; *~ the station.* (Note: *In* is used for countries and large towns, and places important to the speaker.) (b) towards; in the direction of: *look ~ him*; *laugh ~ the joke*; *throw it ~ her.* (c) (showing an attempt to get or reach something): *He had to guess ~ the meaning.* (d) (showing distance): *It looks better ~ a distance.* 2 (a) (showing a point of time): *~ 2 o'clock*; *~ any moment.* ⇨ in²(4). ⇨ on²(2), once(4). (b) (of age): *He left school ~ (the age of) 15.* (c) (showing order): *~ the third attempt*; *~ first*; *~ last.* (d) (showing the rate of occurrence): *~ (all) times*; *~ regular intervals.* 3 (a) (showing occupation): *~ work*; *~ play.* **hard'at it**, working hard. (b) (used after adjectives): *good ~ translation.* (c) (state, condition): *~ war.* 4 (a) (rate): *~ full speed*; *~ a snail's pace.* (b) (value, cost, etc): *buy articles ~ 20p and sell them ~ 25p.* (c) (used with superlatives): *~ least*; *~ the worst.* 5 (showing cause): *The pupils were shocked ~ the news.*

ate /et/ *US*: eɪ/ *pt* of eat.

-ate *suffix* 1 /-ət/ (used to form a *noun*): *electorate.* 2 /-eɪ/ (used to form a *verb*): *stimulate.*

athe-ism /'eɪθɪzəm/ *n* [U] belief that there is no God.

athe-ist /'eɪθɪst/ *n* [C] person who believes that there is no God.

athe-is-tic /'eɪθɪstɪk/ *adj* of atheism or atheists.

ath-lete /'æθli:t/ *n* [C] person trained for competing in physical exercises and outdoor games, eg a person good at running, jumping, swimming, boxing.

ath-letic /'æθlɪtɪk/ *adj* 1 of athletes. 2 physically strong, with a well-balanced body: *an ~ looking young man.*

ath-let-ics *n pl* (usually used with a *sing verb*) practice of physical exercises and sports, esp competitions in running, jumping, etc.

-ation *suffix* ⇨ -tion.

atishoo /ə'tɪʃu:/ *int* spelling form used to indicate a sneeze.

-ative /-ətv/ *suffix* (used to form an *adjective* from an *-ate verb*): *illustrative.*

-atively, (used to form an *adverb*).

at-las /'ætɫəs/ *n* [C] book of maps.

at-mos-phere /'ætɒməsfiə(r)/ *n* **1** the ~, mixture of gases surrounding the earth. **2** [C] air in any place. **3** [C] feeling, eg of good, evil, from a place, conditions, etc: *There is an ~ of peace and calm in the country quite different from the ~ of a big city.*

at-mos-pheric /'ætɒməs'ferik/ *adj* of, connected with, the atmosphere: ~ conditions.

atoll /'ætɒl/ *n* [C] ring of coral reef(s) round a lagoon.

atom /'ætəm/ *n* [C] **1** smallest unit of an element that can take part in a chemical change: *A molecule of water (H₂O) is made up of two ~s of hydrogen and one ~ of oxygen.* ⇨ electron, neutron, nucleus, proton. **2** (fig) very small bit: *There's not an ~ of truth (= no truth at all) in what he said.*

atomic /ə'tɒmɪk/ *adj* of an atom, or atoms.

a.tomic 'bomb, bomb of which the destructive power comes from atomic energy.

a.tomic 'energy, = nuclear energy.

atone /ə'təʊn/ *vi* (formal) make repayment: *How can I ~ for hurting your feelings?*

atone-ment *n* (a) [U] atoning: *make ~ment for a fault.* (b) the **A-ment**, the sufferings and death of Jesus.

-ator /-etə(r)/ *suffix* object or person performing an -ate verb: *illustrator.*

atro-cious /ə'trəʊʃəs/ *adj* **1** very wicked or cruel: *an ~ crime.* **2** (informal) very bad: *an ~ dinner; ~ weather.*

atro-ciously *adv*

atroc-ity /ə'trɒsəti/ *n* (pl -ies) [U] wickedness; [C] wicked or cruel act: *Shooting prisoners of war is an ~.*

at-tach /ə'tætʃ/ *vt,vi* **1** fasten or join (one thing to another): ~ labels to the luggage; *a house with a garage ~ed.* *A ~ed you will find/ A ~ed please find....* (business style) You will find, attached to this letter... **2** **be attached to**, be fond of: *She is deeply ~ed to her young brother.* **3** consider to have; connect with: *Do you ~ much importance to what he says?* **4** go with, be joined (to): *No suspicion/blame ~es to him.* He cannot be suspected/blamed. **5** join as a member: *I am ~ed to the Sixth battalion/to the European group.*

at-tach-ment /ə'tætʃmənt/ *n* **1** [U] act of joining; being attached. **2** [C] something attached. **3** [C] affection; friendship: *have an ~ for her.*

at-taché /ə'tætʃeɪ *US*: /æ'tætʃeɪ/ *n* [C] person who is attached to the staff of an ambassador: *the naval/ military/press ~.*

attaché case /ə'tætʃeɪ keɪs/, small, flat, rectangular case for documents.

at-tack /ə'tæk/ *n* **1** [C] violent attempt to hurt, overcome, defeat: *make an ~ on the enemy;* [U] *The enemy came under ~.* **2** [C] hostile criticism in speech or writing: *a strong ~ against/on the Government's policy.* **3** [C] start, eg of disease: *an ~ of fever;* *a 'heart ~,* pain in the region of the heart, with irregular beating. □ *vt* make an attack on: ~ the enemy;

a disease that ~s children. *Rust ~s metals.*

at-tacker, person who attacks.

at-tain /ə'teɪn/ *vt,vi* (formal) achieve (the usual word): ~ one's hopes.

at-tain-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be attained.

at-tain-ment, (a) [U] act of attaining: *for the ~ment of (= in order to achieve) his purpose.* (b) [C] (usually pl) skill in some branch of knowledge, etc: *legal ~ments.*

at-tempt /ə'tempt/ *vt* make a start at doing something; try: *The prisoners ~ed to escape but failed.* *Don't ~ impossibilities.* Don't try to do impossible things. □ *n* [C] **1** **make an attempt on/upon/to do sth/at doing sth**, try; make an effort to do something: *make an ~ on the Olympic record.* *They made no ~ to escape/at escaping.* **2** **attempt at**, thing not very well done: *Her ~ at a Christmas cake had to be thrown away.*

at-tend /ə'tend/ *vi,vt* **1** give care and thought to: ~ to one's work. *You're not ~ing,* not listening, not paying attention. **2** wait (on/upon); serve; look after: *Which doctor is ~ing you?* **3** go to; be present at: ~ school/church/a meeting.

at-tend-ance /ə'tendəns/ *n* **1** [C,U] being present, at school etc: *The boy was given a prize for regular ~,* for attending school regularly. **2** [C] (with adjectives) number of persons present: *There was a large ~ at church this morning.* **3** [U], act of attending (2): *Now that the patient is out of danger, the doctor is no longer in ~.*

at-tend-ant /ə'tendənt/ *n* [C] servant or companion. □ *adj* accompanying (the usual word): *famine and its ~ diseases.*

at-ten-tion /ə'tenʃn/ *n* **1** [U] act of directing one's thoughts: *Pay ~ to what you're doing.* *He shouted to attract ~,* to make people notice him. **2** (often pl) kind or polite act: *A pretty girl usually receives more ~s than a plain girl,* finds men more willing to do things for her. **3** [U] (mil) drill position in which a man stands straight and still: *come to/stand at ~;* (as a military command): *A-!* (shortened to 'shun /ʃʌn/).

at-tent-ive /ə'tentɪv/ *adj* giving or paying attention: *A speaker likes to have an ~ audience.*

at-tent-ive-ly *adv*: *They listened ~ly to the teacher.*

at-test /ə'test/ *vt,vi* **1** be or give clear proof of: *These papers ~ the fact that...* **2** declare on oath; put (a person) on oath; cause (a person) to declare solemnly: *I have said nothing that I am not ready to ~, to say on oath.* **3** **attest to**, bear witness to: *feats which ~ to his strength of will.*

at-tic /'ætk/ *n* [C] space within the roof of a house: *two small rooms in the ~.*

at-tire /ə'taɪə(r)/ *n* [U] (literary or poetic) dress: *in holiday ~.* □ *vi* (old use) dress: ~d in white/satin.

at-ti-tude /'ætɪtju:d *US*: -tu:d/ *n* [C] **1** way of feeling, thinking or behaving: *What is your ~*

towards this question? What do you think about it, how do you propose to act? **2** manner of placing or holding the body: *He stood there in a threatening ~.*

at-tor-ney /ə'tɔːni/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) person with legal authority to act for another in business or law: *power of ~, authority so given.*

at-tract /ə'trækt/ *vt* **1** pull towards (by unseen force): *A magnet ~s steel.* **2** get the attention of: *Bright lights ~ moths. He shouted to ~ attention.* **3** find attractive; find pleasure in: *Do you feel ~ed to her? Do you like her?*

at-trac-tion /ə'trækʃn/ *n* **1** [U] power of pulling towards: *He cannot resist the ~ of the sea on a hot day/of a pretty girl.* **2** [C] that which attracts: *the ~s of a big city*, eg concerts, cinemas, large shops.

at-tract-ive /ə'træktɪv/ *adj* having the power to attract; pleasing: *a most ~ girl; ~ prices.*

at-tract-ive-ly *adv*

at-tribu-table /ə'trɪbjʊtəbl/ *adj* that can be attributed.

at-tribute ¹ /ə'trɪbjʊt/ *vt* consider as a quality of, as being the result of, as coming from: *He ~s his success to hard work.*

at-tribute ² /ə'trɪbjʊt/ *n* [C] **1** quality considered to be naturally or necessarily belonging to a person or thing: *Light is an ~ of day.* **2** object recognized as a symbol of a person or his position: *The crown is an ~ of kingship.*

at-tune /ə'tjuːn/ *US: ə'tuːn/ vt* make used to: *ears ~d to the sound of gunfire.*

au-ber-gine /'əʊbəʒiːn/ *n* [C] white fruit with a purple skin, used as a vegetable.

auburn /'əʊbən/ *adj* (usually of hair) reddish-brown.

auc-tion /'ɔːkʃn/ *n* [C,U] public sale at which goods are sold to the person making the highest offer. □ *vt* sell by auction.

auc-tion-eer /'ɔːkʃənɪə(r)/ *n* [C] person in charge of an auction.

aud-acious /ɔː'deɪʃəs/ *adj* daring; bold.

aud-acious-ly *adv*

aud-ac-ity /ɔː'dæsəti/ *n* [U] daring; cheek: *He had the ~ to ask me for a loan!*

aud-ible /'ɔːdəbl/ *adj* loud enough to be heard: *The speaker was scarcely ~.*

aud-ibly /-əbli/ *adv*

audi-ence /'ɔːdiəns/ *n* [C] **1** gathering of persons for the purpose of hearing a speaker, singer, etc: *There was a large ~ at the pop concert.* **2** persons listening, watching, reading: *The radio programme has an ~ of several million. His book has reached a wide ~.* **4** formal interview given by a ruler, the Pope, etc: *The Pope granted him an ~.*

audio- /'ɔːdiəʊ-/ *prefix* of hearing, of sound: *~-visual.*

'audio-typist, typist who types words recorded on tape.

'audio-visual 'aids, teaching aids such as record players and film projectors.

audit /'ɔːdɪt/ *n* [C] official examination of accounts to see that they are correct and organ-

ized. □ *vt* examine accounts officially.

aud-ition /'ɔːdɪʃn/ *n* [C] trial hearing to test the voice of a singer or of an actor wishing to take part in a play. □ *vt* give an audition to.

audi-tor /'ɔːdɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] person who audits.

audi-tor-ium /'ɔːdɪtɔːrɪəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) building, or part of a building, in which an audience sits.

audi-tory /'ɔːdɪtri/ *US: -tɔːri/ adj* of the sense of hearing: *the ~ nerve.*

ought /ɔːt/ *n* (literary) anything: *for ~ I know/care*, (used to show that the speaker does not know/care at all).

aug-ment /'ɔːgmənt/ *vt, vi* (formal) make or become greater; increase: *~ one's income by writing short stories.*

augur /'ɔːgə(r)/ *n* [C] (in ancient Rome) religious official who claimed to foretell future events. □ *vi, vt* foretell, be a sign of.

augury /'ɔːgʊəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) omen; sign.

augment /'ɔːgəst/ *adj* majestic; causing feelings of respect or awe.

August /'ɔːgəst/ *n* the eighth month, with 31 days.

auk /ɔːk/ *n* [C] northern seabird.

aunt /aːnt/ *US: ænt/ n* [C] **1** sister of one's father or mother. **2** wife of one's uncle.

aun-tie, aun-ty /'aːnti/ *US: 'ænti/ n* (informal) aunt.

au pair /'əʊ 'peə(r)/ *adj* (Fr) (in GB) girl from overseas who, in return for light household duties, receives board and lodging, and facilities for study.

aura /'ɔːrə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) atmosphere surrounding a person or object and thought to come from him or it: *There seemed to be an ~ of holiness about the Indian saint.*

aural /'ɔːrəl/ *adj* of the organs of hearing: *an ~ surgeon.*

au re-voir /'əʊ rə'vwɑː(r)/ *int* (Fr) till we meet again; goodbye.

aur-icle /'ɔːrɪkl/ *n* [C] (*anat*) **1** the external part of the ear. **2** either of the two upper cavities of the heart.

aus-pices /'ɔːspɪsɪz/ *n pl* *under the aus-pices of*, helped and favoured by.

aus-pi-cious /'ɔːspɪʃəs/ *adj* showing signs, giving promise, of future success; favourable.

aus-pi-cious-ly *adv*

aus-tere /'ɔːstɪə(r)/ *adj* **1** of a person, his behaviour, severely moral and strict. **2** of a way of living, of places, styles, simple and plain; without ornament or comfort.

aus-tere-ly *adv*

aus-ter-ity /'ɔːstɪərəti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] quality of being austere. **2** (*pl*) austere practices, eg fasting, living in a cell, for religious reasons.

aut-archy /'ɔːtɑːki/ *n* [U] country under absolute sovereignty.

aut-arky /'ɔːtɑːki/ *n* [U] self-sufficiency, esp of a State in its economy.

auth-en-tic /'ɔːθentɪk/ *adj* genuine; known to be true: *~ news; an ~ signature.*

auth-en-ti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

auth-en-ti-cate /ɔ:θentikeit/ *vt* prove beyond doubt the origin, authorship, etc of.

auth-en-ti-ca-tion /ɔ:θentikeiʃn/ *n* [U]

auth-en-tic-ity /ɔ:θen'tisati/ *n* [U] quality of being genuine: *feel confident of the ~ of a signature.*

author /'ɔ:θə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** writer of a book, play, etc: *Dickens is his favourite ~.* **2** person who creates or begins something.

author-ess /'ɔ:θəris/ *n* [C] woman author.

author-ori-tar-ian /ɔ:θɔri'teəriən/ *adj* supporting or requiring obedience to authority, esp that of the State. □ *n* [C] supporter of this principle.

author-ori-tat-ive /ɔ:θɔritativ/ *adj* **1** having, given with, authority: ~ orders. **2** having an air of authority; commanding: *in an ~ manner.* **3** that can be trusted because from a reliable source: *an ~ report.*

author-ori-tat-ive-ly *adv*

auth-or-ity /ɔ:θɔrəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] power or right to control, give orders and make others obey: *Who is in ~ here? Only the treasurer has ~ to make payments.* **2** [C] person or (pl) group of persons having authority: *the health authorities.* **4** [C,U] person with special knowledge; book, etc that supplies reliable information or evidence: *The 'Oxford English Dictionary' is the best ~ on English words.*

auth-or-ize (also -ise) /'ɔ:θəraiz/ *vt* **1** give authority to: *I have ~d him to act for me while I am abroad.* **2** give authority for: *The Finance Committee ~d the spending of £10000 on a new sports ground.*

Authorized Version, (common abbr **AV**) the English translation of the Bible, first published 1611.

auth-or-iz-a-tion (also -isation) /ɔ:θəraɪzeɪʃn/ *US*: -rɪz-/ *n* [U] authorizing; giving legal right; the right given.

author-ship /'ɔ:θəʃɪp/ *n* [U] **1** occupation of an author: *It's risky to take to ~ (= begin to write books) for a living.* **2** origin of a book, etc: *Nothing is known of the ~ of the book.*

auto /'ɔ:təʊ/ *n* [C] (*US informal*) (abbr of) automobile.

auto- /ɔ:təʊ/ *prefix* **1** of oneself: *autobiography.* **2** without help, independently: *automatic.*

auto-bio-graphic /ɔ:təbaɪə'græfɪk/, **auto-bio-graphi-cal** /-kl/ *adj* of, engaged in, autobiography.

auto-bi-og-ra-phy /ɔ:təʊbaɪ'ɒgrəfi/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [C] story of a person's life written by himself. **2** [U] the art and practice of this sort of writing.

autoc-racy /'ɔ:təkrəsi/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] government by a ruler who has unlimited power. **2** [C] (country with a) government of this kind.

auto-cratic /'ɔ:təkræt/ *n* [C] **1** ruler with unlimited power. **2** person who gives orders without considering the wishes of others.

auto-cratic /ɔ:tə'krætɪk/ *adj* of or like an autocrat: *Don't be so ~!*

auto-crati-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

auto-graph /'ɔ:təgrɑ:f/ *US*: -græf/ *n* [C] person's own handwriting, esp his signature. □ *vt* write one's name on or in: *a book ~ed by the author.*

auto-mate /'ɔ:təmet/ *vt* convert to, control by, automation.

auto-matic /ɔ:tə'mætɪk/ *adj* **1** (of a machine) able to work or be worked without attention: ~ weapons, weapons that continue firing until pressure on the trigger is released. **2** (of actions) done without thought; unconscious: *Breathing is ~.* □ *n* [C] small automatic gun.

auto-mati-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

auto-ma-tion /ɔ:tə'meɪʃn/ *n* [U] (use of) methods and machines to save labour.

auto-mo-bile /'ɔ:təməbi:l/ *US*: ɔ:təmə'bi:l/ *n* [C] (esp *US*) motor-car.

auton-omous /ɔ:'tɒnəməs/ *adj* (of states) self-governing.

auton-omy /ɔ:'tɒnəmi/ *n* [C,U] (pl -ies) (right of) self-government.

au-top-sy /'ɔ:tɒpsɪ/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (*med*) examination of a body (by cutting it open) to learn the cause of death.

autumn /'ɔ:təm/ *n* [C] (*US* = *fall*) third season of the year, between summer and winter (Sept, Oct and Nov in the northern hemisphere).

autum-nal /ɔ:tə'mnəl/ *adj* of autumn.

aux-ili-ary /ɔ:g'zɪləri/ *adj* helping; supporting: ~ troops.

avail /ə'veɪl/ *vt, vi* **avail oneself of**, (*formal*) make use of, profit by, take advantage of: *You should ~ yourself of every opportunity to practise speaking English.* □ *n* **of no/little avail**, not helpful; not effective: *His intervention was of little ~.* **to no avail**, without result; unsuccessfully: *We pulled him out of the river and tried to revive him, but to no ~.*

avail-able /ə'veɪləbl/ *adj* that may be used or obtained: *There were no tickets ~ for Friday's performance.*

avail-abil-ity /ə'veɪlə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

ava-lanche /'ævələ:nʃ/ *US*: -ləntʃ/ *n* [C] **1** great mass of snow and ice at a high altitude, caused by its own weight to slide down a mountain side. **2** (*fig*) great many: *an ~ of words/letters/questions.*

avant-garde /'ævɒn'gɑ:d/ *n* (*Fr*) (*fig*) radical leader(s) of any movement (in art, drama, literature, etc).

av-ar-ice /'ævərɪs/ *n* [U] greed (the usual word); great eagerness to get or keep.

av-ar-icious /'ævə'rɪʃəs/ *adj* (*formal*) greedy.

av-ar-icious-ly *adv*

avenge /ə'vendʒ/ *vt* get or take revenge for: ~ an insult.

av-enue /'ævənju:/ *US*: -nu:/ *n* [C] **1** road with trees on each side, esp the private road going up to a large country house. **2** wide street with

buildings on one or both sides. **3** (fig) way (to an object or aim): ~s to success/promotion.

av·er·age /'ævərɪdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** result of adding several quantities together and dividing the total by the number of quantities: *The ~ of 4, 5 and 9 is 6.* **2** standard or level regarded as ordinary or usual: *Tom's work at school is above/below (the) ~.* **3** *adj* **1** found by making an average: *The ~ age of boys in this class is fifteen.* **2** of the ordinary or usual standard: *boys of ~ ability.* **3** *vt, vi* **1** find the average of: *If you ~ 7, 14 and 6, you get 9.* **2** amount to, do, as an average: *averaging 200 miles a day in the car.*

averse /ə'vɜːs/ *adj* opposed, unwilling: *He is ~ to hard work/from taking action.*

aversion /ə'vɜːʃn/ *US: -ʒn* *n* **1** [C, U] strong dislike: *He has a strong ~ to getting up early.* **2** [C] thing or person disliked: *my pet ~, thing I specially dislike.*

avert /ə'vɜːt/ *vt* (formal) **1** turn away (one's eyes, thoughts, etc): ~ one's eyes/gaze from a terrible spectacle. **2** prevent, avoid: ~ an accident.

aviary /'eɪvɪəri/ *US: -vɪəri* *n* [C] (pl -ies) place for keeping birds, eg in a zoo.

aviation /ˌeɪvɪ'eɪʃn/ *n* [U] (art and science of) flying in aircraft.

aviator /'eɪvɪə(r)/ *n* [C] person (now usually pilot or captain) who controls an aircraft.

avid /'æɪd/ *adj* (formal) eager, greedy: ~ for fame/applause.

avidly *adv.*

avocado /ˌævə'kɑːdəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) pear-shaped tropical fruit with a thick, green skin.

avoid /ə'vɔɪd/ *vt* keep or get away from; escape: *Try to ~ danger.*

avoidable /-əbl/ *adj* that can be avoided.

avoidance /-əns/ *n* [U] act of avoiding.

avoir-du-pois /'ævə'du'pɔɪz/ *n* [U] system of weights used, before metrication, in most English-speaking countries (1 pound = 16 ounces), used for all goods except precious metals and stones, and medicines.

avow /ə'vaʊ/ *vt* (formal) admit; declare openly: ~ a fault. *He ~ed himself (to be) a Christian.*

avowal /ə'vaʊəl/ *n* [U] free and open confession; [C] instance of this.

await /ə'weɪt/ *vt* **1** (of persons) wait for: *I ~ your instructions.* **2** be in store for; be waiting for: *Death ~s all men.*

awake /ə'weɪk/ *vi* (pl, pp awoke /ə'wəʊk/) **1** = wake (the usual word). **2** become conscious of, realize: *He awoke to his opportunities.*

awake /ə'weɪk/ *adj* not asleep; having woken: *Is he ~ or asleep?* **awake to**, aware of; be ~ to danger.

awaken /ə'weɪkən/ *vt* = wake.

awakening /ə'weɪkɪŋ/ *n* [C] act of becoming aware, of realizing, esp something unpleasant: *It was a rude ~ to be told that he was to be dismissed.*

award /ə'wɔːd/ *vt* give or grant (by official de-

cision): *He was ~ed the first prize.* **3** *n* [C] **1** decision made by a judge or arbitrator. **2** thing given as the result of such a decision, eg a prize in a competition.

aware /ə'weə(r)/ *adj* **aware of/that**, having knowledge: *We are fully ~ of the facts.*

awareness *n* [U]

awash /ə'wɒʃ/ *adj* washed over by, level with, the waves: *rocks ~ at high tide.* *The ship's deck was ~.*

away /ə'weɪ/ *adverbial particle* **1** to or at a distance (from the place, person, etc in question): *The sea is two miles ~.* *Take these things ~.* *Remove them.* **2** **away with**, (used in exclamations without a verb): *A ~ with them!* *Take them away!* **3** continuously; constantly: *He was working ~.* **4** (used to show loss, lessening, weakening, exhaustion): *The water has all boiled ~.* *There is no water left.* **5** **far and away**, very much: *This is far and ~ the best.* **right/straight away**, immediately; without delay.

awe /ɔː/ *n* [U] fear and respect: *He had a feeling of ~ as he was taken before the judge.*

'awe-inspiring *adj* filling with awe: *an ~ inspiring sight.*

'awe-stricken, **'awe-struck** *adj* filled with awe.

'awe-some /-səm/ *adj* causing awe.

aw-ful /'ɔːfl/ *adj* **1** terrible; dreadful: *He died an ~ death.* **2** (informal) very bad; very great; extreme of its kind: *What an ~ nuisance!* *What ~ handwriting/weather!*

aw-fully /'ɔːflɪ/ *adv* very (much): *It has been ~ hot this week.* *I'm ~ sorry.*

awhile /ə'waɪl/ *US: ə'hwɪl/* *adv* for a short time: *Please stay ~.*

awk-ward /'ɔːkwəd/ *adj* **1** (of objects, places) not well designed for use; (of circumstances, etc) likely to cause inconvenience or difficulty: *This is an ~ corner; there have been several road accidents here.* **an awkward customer**, ⇨ customer(2). **2** (of living things) clumsy; having little skill: *Some animals are ~ on land but able to move easily in the water.* **3** embarrassed: *an ~ silence/pause.*

awk-ward-ly *adv*

awk-ward-ness *n* [U]

awl /ɔːl/ *n* [C] small pointed tool for making holes, esp in leather.

awn-ing /'ɔːnɪŋ/ *n* [C, U] canvas covering (against rain or sun), eg over a ship's deck, over or in front of doors or windows.

awoke ⇨ awake.

awry /ə'raɪ/ *adv, adj* crooked(ly); wrong(ly): *Our plans have gone ~, have gone wrong.*

axe /æks/ *n* [C] (pl ~s /'æksɪz/) tool for cutting down trees or splitting wood. **have an axe to grind**, (fig) have reasons to quarrel. **3** *vt* reduce, eg costs, public services; dismiss: *His grant has been ~d.*

ax-iom /'æksɪəm/ *n* [C] statement accepted as true without argument.

axio-matic /'æksɪə'mætɪk/ *adj* obviously

true: *It is ~atic that a whole is greater than any of its parts.*

axis /'æksɪs/ *n* [C] (*pl* axes /'æksɪz/) **1** line round which a turning object spins. **2** line that divides a figure into two symmetrical parts, eg the diameter of a circle. **3** political connection (not always an alliance) between two or more states: *the Berlin—Rome—Tokyo A~* (before 1939).

the earth's axis, the imaginary line joining the North and South Poles through the centre of the earth, on which the earth rotates once in twenty-four hours.

axe /'æks/ *n* [C] **1** rod on which a wheel turns. **2** bar or rod that passes through the centres of a pair of wheels: *the back ~ of a bus.*

ay, aye /aɪ/ *int, adv* (Scot, regional) yes; (naval) used after an order: ~, ~, sir! □ *n* *pl* persons supporting a proposal: *The ~s have it.* Those in favour are in the majority.

az-ure /'æzə(r)/ *adj, n* [U] (poetic) bright blue colour: *an ~ sky.*

Bb

B, b /bi:/ (*pl* B's, b's /'biz/) the second letter of the English alphabet.

baa /ba:/ *n* [C] cry of a sheep or lamb. □ *vi* make this cry; bleat.

babble /'bæbl/ *vi, vt* **1** talk quickly so that it is difficult to understand; make sounds like a baby, streams, etc. **2** tell (a secret): ~ (out) *nonsense/secrets.* □ *n* [U] **1** childish or foolish talk. **2** talk not easily understood (as when many people are talking all together). **3** sound of water flowing over stones, etc.

babe /beɪb/ *n* [C] **1** (literary) baby. **2** inexperienced and easily deceived person. **3** (US sl) girl or young woman.

babel /'beɪbl/ *n* [C] **1** the Tower of B~, (Biblical) tower built to try to reach heaven during which language became mixed and confused. **2** [U] scene of noisy and confused talking.

ba-boon /bə'bu:n/ *US: bæ-/* *n* [C] large monkey (of Africa and southern Asia) with a face like a dog.

baby /'beɪbi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -bies) **1** very young child: *She has a ~-boy/girl. Which of you is the ~* (= the youngest member) *of the family?* **2** (sl) girl; sweetheart.

'baby-face(d), (of an adult) (having a) youthful face.

'baby grand, small grand piano.

'baby-hood state, period, of being a baby.

'baby-ish, of, like a baby: ~ish behaviour.

'baby-minder, woman paid to look after a baby for long periods, (eg while the mother is out working). Hence, **'baby-mind** *vi*.

'baby-sit-ter, person paid to look after a baby for a short time, (eg while the parents are at the cinema). Hence, **'baby-sit** *vi* (-tt-).

bach-elor /'bætʃələ(r)/ *n* [C] **1** unmarried man. ⇨ **spinster**. **2** of, suitable for, an unmarried person: ~ flats. **3** (man or woman who has taken the) first university degree: *B~ of Arts/Science.*

ba-cil-lus /bə'sɪləs/ *n* [C] (*pl* -cilli /-lai/) name given to types of long bacterium, one of which causes disease.

back¹ /bæk/ *adverbial particle* **1** to or at the rear; away from the front: *Stand ~, please! Sit ~ in your chair and be comfortable. go back on one's word*, fail to keep a promise. **2** in (to) an earlier position or condition: *Throw the ball ~ to me. We shall be ~* (= home again) *before dark. How far is it there and ~?* **3** in return: *If I hit you, would you hit me ~?* **have/get one's own back (on sb)**, (informal) have one's revenge. **4** (of time) ago; into the past: *a few years ~.*

back² /bæk/ *n* [C] **1** (of the human body) surface of the body from the neck to the buttocks: *If you lie on your ~, you can look up at the sky. break the back of sth*, (eg of a piece of work) finish the hardest or larger part of it. **do/say sth behind sb's back**, without his knowledge (always in connection with something unpleasant, eg criticism). **get off sb's back**, stop being a burden or nuisance. **be glad to see the back of sb**, feel pleased to see him go away. **have/with one's back to the wall**, (fig) in a difficult position, forced to defend oneself. **put one's back into sth**, work very hard at it. **put/get sb's back up**, make him angry. **turn one's back on sb**, rudely turn away from him. **2** upper surface of an animal's body: *Fasten the saddle on the horse's ~.* **3** that part of a chair or seat on which a person's back rests. **4** that surface of an object that is less used, less visible or important: *the ~ of one's hand.* **5** that part of a thing that is farthest from the front: *a room at the ~ of the house.* **6** (sport) player whose position is behind the forwards, near the goal.

'back-ache, pain in the back.

'back-bencher, member of Parliament in a seat at the back of the House of Commons because he does not have a Government appointment. Hence, **'back-benches** *n pl* **'back-bite** *vt, vi* say things to damage a person's reputation.

'back-bone, (a) column of bones down the middle of the back; spine. (b) (fig) (of a person's character) strength: *He has no ~bone.*

'back-breaking *adj* (of work) exhausting.

'back-chat, (informal) (exchange of) rude replies.

'back-date *vt* date back to a time in the past: ~date a wage increase.

'back-door, door at the back of a building.

'back-fire *n* [U] sound caused by the pistons in an engine when gas explodes. □ *vi* (a) pro-

duce this sound. **(b)** (fig) fail; have an unpleasant result.

'back-ground, **(a)** that part of a view, scene, etc at the back. **(b)** existing or relevant conditions: *the political ~ground*. **(c)** person's past experiences, education, etc. **(d)** *in the back-ground*, away from publicity; not being clearly seen or heard.

'back-hand, stroke (in tennis, etc) with the back of the hand forward.

'back-handed, *adj* (fig) not genuine, sarcastic: *a ~handed compliment*.

'back-ing, **(a)** help; support; body of supporters: *The new leader has a large ~ing*. **(b)** material used to form a support or lining to something. **(c)** music for a pop singer.

'back-lash, (fig) (in social or race relations) unpleasant or violent reaction.

'back-less *adj* (of a dress) not covering the back.

'back-log, business affairs (eg correspondence) still to be attended to.

'back-num-ber **(a)** issue of a newspaper, etc now out-of-date. **(b)** (fig) old-fashioned person, method, thing, etc.

'back-pack, = rucksack

'back-pedal *vi* **(a)** (on a bicycle, etc) pedal backwards. **(b)** (fig) refuse to fulfill a promise, offer, etc.

'back-seat, (of a car, etc) seat at the back. **take a back seat**, (fig) stay in the back-ground.

'back-side, (informal) buttocks.

'back-stage, (in a theatre, etc) behind the stage.

'back-stroke, style of swimming on one's back.

'back-water, **(a)** part of a river not reached by its current. **(b)** (fig) place, etc not affected by progress, important events, etc: *They live in a ~water*.

'back-yard, small area or garden at the back of a terraced house.

back³ /bæk/ *vt, vi* **1** go or cause to go back: *He ~ed the car into/out of the garage*. **2** support: *~ a friend in an argument/quarrel*. **back sb up**, support him in every way. **3** bet money on (a horse, etc). **4 back down (from)**, give up a claim, etc: *I see he has ~ed down from the position he took last week*. **back out (of)**, withdraw (from a promise or undertaking): *He's trying to ~ out (of his commitment)*. **5** put or be a lining to; put on as a surface at the back: *~ed with sheet iron*. **6** be situated at the back of: *Their house ~s on to our garden*.

backer, **(a)** person who bets on a horse. **(b)** person who gives support or help (eg to a political movement). **(c)** person who gives financial support to an undertaking.

back-gam-mon /'bækgæmən/ *n* [U] game for two players, played on a board with 15 draughts each and 2 dice.

back-ward /'bækwəd/ *adj* **1** towards the back or the beginning: *a ~ glance/movement*.

2 having made, making, less than the usual or normal progress: *This part of the country is still ~; there are no railways or roads and no electricity*. ⇨ **backwater**. **3** shy; reluctant; hesitating: *He is ~ in giving his views*.

back-ward(s) *adv* **(a)** away from one's front; towards the back: *He looked ~s over his shoulder*. **(b)** with the back or the end first: *Can you say the alphabet ~s*, ie ZYXWV, etc? **know sth backwards**, know it perfectly. **backwards and forwards**, first in one direction and then in the other: *travelling ~s and forwards between London and Brighton*.

bacon /'beɪkən/ *n* [U] salted or smoked meat from the back or sides of a pig.

bac-terial /bæk'tɪəriəl/ *adj* of bacteria: ~ diseases.

bac-terium /bæk'tɪəriəm/ *n* [C] (pl -ria /-rɪə/) (kinds of) simplest and smallest form of plant life, existing in air, water and soil, and in living and dead creatures and plants, essential to animal life and sometimes a cause of disease.

bad¹ /bæd/ *adj* (worse, worst) **1** wicked, evil, immoral: *It is ~ to steal*. **2** unpleasant; disagreeable; unwelcome: *We've had ~ news*. *What ~ weather we're having!* **3** (of things that are unpleasant) serious; noticeable: *That was a ~ mistake*. *He's had a ~ accident*. **4** inferior; worthless; incorrect; of poor quality: *His pronunciation of English is ~*. *What a ~ drawing!* **be in a bad way**, be very ill or unfortunate; be in trouble or difficulty. **go from bad to worse**, get progressively worse. **with bad grace**, showing unwillingness. **not (so) bad**, (informal) quite good. **not half bad**, very good. **5** not able to be eaten; rotten: ~ eggs/meat. **go bad**, become unfit to eat. **6 bad for**, hurtful or injurious for; unsuitable for: *Smoking is ~ for the health*. **7** in ill health, diseased: *a ~ (= sore) finger*. *She was taken ~ (= fell ill) during the night*. **8** (informal) unfortunate: *It's too ~ she's so ill*. **9** (informal) sorry: *I feel so ~ about not being able to help you*.

bad debt, one that is unlikely to be paid.

bad language, swear-words; improper use of words connected with holy or things.

'bad-tempered *adj* easily made angry; unpleasant.

bad word, swear-word; obscenity.

bad-ly *adv* (worse, worst) (Compare *well*, *better*, *best*.) **(a)** in a bad manner; roughly; untidily, etc: *~ly made/dressed/wounded*. **(b)** by much: *~ly beaten at football*. **(c)** **want/need badly**, very much: *She wants it ~ly*. **(d)** **badly off**, poor.

bad-ness *n* [U] quality of being bad: *the ~ness of the weather/climate*.

bad² /bæd/ *n* [U] that which is bad: *take the ~ with the good*, take bad fortune with good fortune.

bad³ /bæd/ ⇨ **bid**³.

badge /bædʒ/ *n* [C] something (usually a

design on cloth or a metal brooch) worn to show a person's occupation, rank, etc or membership of a society.

badger¹ /'bædʒə(r)/ *n* [C] small, grey animal living in holes in the earth and going about at night.

badger² /'bædʒə(r)/ *vt* worry or annoy (with questions, requests, etc for): *Tom has been ~ing his uncle to buy him a camera.*

bad-min-ton /'bædmɪntən/ *n* [U] game played with rackets and shuttlecocks across a high, narrow net.

baffle¹ /'bæfl/ *vt* be too difficult to do, understand, etc prevent (a person) from doing something: *One of the examination questions ~d me completely.*

baffle² /'bæfl/ *n* [C] plate, board, screen, etc used to prevent or control the flow of a gas, a liquid or sound.

bag¹ /bæg/ *n* [C] **1** container made of flexible material (paper, cloth, leather) with an opening at the top, used for carrying things from place to place: *a travelling ~; a hand ~. a bag of bones*, thin person or animal. **let the cat out of the bag**, tell a secret (without intending to do so). **2 bags of**, (sl) plenty of: *There's ~s of room. He has ~s of money.*

bag² /bæg/ *vt, vi* (-gg-) **1** put into a bag or bags: *to ~ (up) wheat.* **2** (of sportsmen) kill or catch: *They ~ged nothing except a couple of rabbits.* **3** (informal) take (somebody else's property, etc without permission, but not intending to steal): *Who has ~ged my matches?* **4** hang loosely: *trousers that ~ at the knees.*

bag-gage /'bæɡɪdʒ/ *n* [U] **1** luggage (the usual word). **2** tents, bedding, equipment, etc of an army: *a ~ train.*

baggy /'bæɡɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) hanging in loose folds: *~ trousers.*

bag-pipes /'bæɡpaɪps/ *n pl* musical instrument with air stored in a bag of wind held under one arm and pressed out through pipes in which there are reeds.

bah /ba:/ *int* used as a sign of contempt.

bail¹ /beɪl/ *n* [U] sum of money demanded by a law court, paid by or for a person accused of an offence, as security that he will appear for his trial, until which time he is allowed to go free. □ *vt* **bail sb out**, obtain his freedom until his trial, by payment of bail.

bail² /beɪl/ *n* [C] (cricket) either of the two cross pieces over the three stumps.

bail³ /beɪl/ *vt, vi* throw water out of a boat with buckets, etc: *~ing water (out).*

bail-iff /'beɪlɪf/ *n* [C] **1** law officer who helps a sheriff. **2** landowner's agent or manager.

bait¹ /beɪt/ *n* [U] **1** food, or an imitation, put on a hook to catch fish, or in nets, traps, etc to attract prey. **2** (fig) anything that entices or tempts.

bait² /beɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** put food, real or imitation, (on a hook, etc) to catch fish, etc: *~ a hook with a worm.* **2** torment by making cruel or insulting remarks.

baize /beɪz/ *n* [U] thick woollen cloth, usually green, used for covering (tables, etc): *green ~ for the card-table.*

bake /beɪk/ *vt, vi* **1** cook, be cooked, by dry heat in an oven: *~ bread/cakes.* **2** make or become hard by heating: *The sun ~d the ground hard.* **3** be warmed or tanned: *We are baking in the sun.*

baking-hot *adj* very hot: *a baking-hot day.*

baking-powder, mixture of powders used to make bubbles of gas in cakes, etc and so cause them to rise (5).

baker, person who bakes bread, etc.

baker's dozen, thirteen.

bak-ery, place where bread and cakes are baked (and sold).

bala-laika /bələ'laɪkə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) stringed musical instrument (triangular, with three strings), popular in Russia and other countries in eastern Europe.

bal-ance¹ /'bæləns/ *n* **1** [C] apparatus for weighing, with two scales or pans. **be/hang in the balance**, (fig) (of a result) be still uncertain. **2** [U] condition of being steady; condition that exists when two opposing forces are equal. **in the balance**, undecided. **keep one's balance**, keep steady, remain upright: *A small child has to learn to keep its ~ before it can walk far.* **lose one's balance**, become unsteady; fall. **balance of power**, condition in which no one country or group of countries is much stronger than another. ⇨ redress. **3** [U] (*ari*) harmony of design and proportion: *a picture without ~.* **4** (accounts) difference between two columns of an account (money received and money paid out, etc). **on balance**, (fig) taking everything into consideration. **5** amount still owed after a part payment: *~ to be paid within one week.* **6 the ~**, (informal) the remainder of anything; what is left.

balance-sheet, (accounts) written statement showing credit and debit.

balance wheel, small wheel which regulates the speed of a clock or watch.

bal-ance² /'bæləns/ *vt, vi* **1** keep or put (something, oneself) in a state of balance: *Can you ~ a stick on the end of your nose?* **2** (accounts) compare debits and credits and record the sum needed to make them equal; (of the two sides of a balance-sheet) be equal: *My accounts ~.* **3** compare (two objects, plans, arguments, etc) (in order to judge the relative weight, value, truth, etc). **a balanced diet**, one with the quantity and variety of food needed for good health.

bal-cony /'bælkəni/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** platform (with a wall or rail) built on an outside wall of an upstairs room. **2** (in a theatre or concert hall) series of rows of seats above floor-level and (usually) rising one above the other.

bald /bɔ:ld/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (of men) having no or not much hair on the scalp. **2** (of animals) hairless; (of birds) featherless; (of trees)

leafless; (of land, hills, etc) without trees or bushes. **3** (fig) dull; without ornament: *a ~ statement of the facts*, one that gives the facts in an uninteresting way.

bald-ly *adv* (fig): *speaking ~ly*; *to put it ~ly*, frankly, without trying to make what one says easier to bear.

bald-ness *n* [U]

bale¹ /beɪl/ *n* [C] heap of material pressed together and tied with rope or wire: *~s of cloth*. □ *vt* make into, pack in, bales.

bale² /beɪl/ *vi* **bale out** (of), jump with a parachute from an aircraft.

balk, baulk /bɔːk/ *vt, vi* **1** purposely get in the way of: *~ a person's plans*, prevent him from carrying them out. **2** (eg of a horse) refuse to go forward: *The horse ~ed at the high hedge*. **3** hesitate: *Her husband ~ed at the expense of the plans she had made*.

ball¹ /bɔːl/ *n* [C] **1** any solid or hollow sphere as used in games (*foot*~, *'tennis*~, *'cricket*~, etc). **be on the ball**, be alert, competent (in what one is doing). **keep the ball rolling**, keep the conversation, etc going. **play ball** (with), (informal) co-operate: *The management refused to play ~*. **2** material gathered, rolled or wound into a round mass: *a ~ of wool/string*; *a 'snow*~; *a 'meat*~, of minced meat. **3** metal missile to be fired from a gun. **4** round part: *the ~ of the thumb*, near the palm; *the ~ of the foot*, near the base of the big toe. □ *vi* form into a ball; wind or squeeze into a ball.

ball² /bɔːl/ *n* [C] social gathering for dancing, with an organized programme, and (often) special entertainment.

'ball-dress, woman's long dress to be worn at balls.

'ball-room, large room for balls.

bal-lad /'bæləd/ *n* [C] song or poem, esp one that tells a story.

bal-lade /bæ'læd/ *n* [C] **1** poem of stanzas with 7, 8 or 10 lines, each ending with the same chorus line. **2** musical composition with a romantic theme.

bal-last /'bæləst/ *n* [U] **1** heavy material (eg rock, iron, sand) put into a ship to keep it steady. **2** sand or other material carried in a balloon, to be thrown out to make the balloon go higher. **3** gravel, crushed rock, etc used to make a foundation for a road, esp a railway. □ *vi* supply with ballast.

bal-ler-ina /bælə'rina/ *n* [C] woman ballet dancer, esp one who takes one of the chief classical roles.

bal-let /'bæleɪ/ *n* [C,U] **1** dramatic performance by a group of dancers, without a dialogue or singing, illustrating a story. **2** the dancers: *a member of the ~*.

the ballet, this kind of stage performance as an art.

'ballet-dancer, person who dances in ballets.

bal-lis-tic /bɔːlɪstɪk/ *adj* of rockets, bullets,

etc: *intercontinental ~ missiles*, long-range rockets for use in war.

bal-lis-tics *n pl* (used with a *sing verb*) study, science, of projectiles.

bal-loon /bə'lun/ *n* [C] **1** bag or envelope filled with air, or with gas lighter than air. **2** (in a strip cartoon, etc) outline for dialogue, exclamations, etc. □ *vi* swell like a balloon.

hot-air balloon, large balloon of hot gas for travel in the air with a basket (for passengers, etc) below it.

bal-loon-ist, person who flies in balloons.

bal-lot /'bælət/ *n* **1** [C] piece of paper (usually ~-paper), ticket or ball, used in secret voting; [U] secret voting; [C] instance of this. **2** [C] votes so recorded. □ *vi* give a vote: draw lots.

'ballot-box, box into which ballot-papers are put by voters.

ball-point /'bɔːlpɔɪnt/ *n* [C] (also ~-pen) pen with a small ball in place of a nib which rolls dry ink onto paper.

balm /bɑːm/ *n* [U] **1** sweet-smelling oil or ointment from certain kinds of trees, used for soothing pain or healing. **2** (fig) that which gives peace of mind.

balmy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) (of air) soft and warm. (b) healing; fragrant.

bal-us-ter /'bæləstə(r)/ *n* [C] one of the upright posts supporting a handrail; (*pl*) banisters.

bal-us-trade /'bæləstreɪd/ *n* [C] row of banisters with the stonework or woodwork that joins them on top, round a balcony, terrace, flat roof, etc.

bam-boo /'bæmbuː/ *n* (*pl* ~s) **1** [U] tall plant with hard, hollow, jointed stems, of the grass family. **2** [C] stem, used as a stick or support.

bam-boozle /'bæmbuːzl/ *vi* (informal) **1** confuse: *You can't ~ me*. **2** cheat, trick: *bam-boozling him into/out of doing it*.

ban /bæn/ *vi* (-nn-) order with authority that a thing must not be done, said, etc: *The play was ~ned by the censor*. □ *n* [C] order that bans something.

ba-nal /'beɪnəl/ *US*: 'beɪnəl/ *adj* dull, ordinary and uninteresting: *~ remarks*.

ba-na-na /bə'nɑːnə/ *US*: bə'nænə/ *n* [C] long, finger-shaped, thick-skinned (yellow when ripe) fruit growing in bunches on the banana-tree in tropical and semi-tropical countries.

band /bænd/ *n* [C] **1** flat, thin strip of material, esp for fastening things together or for placing round an object to strengthen it: *papers kept together with a rubber ~*. **2** flat, thin strip of material forming part of an article of clothing: *a long skirt with a wide 'waist*~. **3** strip or line, different from the rest in colour or design, on something: *a white plate with a blue ~ round the edge*. **4** group of persons under a leader and with a common purpose: *a ~ of robbers*. **5** group of persons who play popular or light music together: *a 'brass* ~; *'dance* ~; *a 'jazz* ~; *a 'steel* ~. **6** = wave-band. □ *vt, vi* **1** put a band, strip or line on. **2** unite in a

group: They *~ed* together to protest.

'band-stand, raised, open-air platform for a band(5).

'band-wagon, vehicle carrying the band(5) at the front of a procession. **jump on the bandwagon**, join in but only because success is guaranteed.

band-age /'bændɪdʒ/ *n* [C] strip of material as used for binding round a wound or injury. □ *vt* tie up with, wrap in, a bandage.

ban-dit /'bændɪt/ *n* [C] robber, one of an armed band (eg attacking travellers in forests or mountains or, today, banks and offices).

bandy¹ /'bændɪ/ *adj* (of the legs) curving outwards at the knees.

bandy² /'bændɪ/ *vt* exchange (words, blows). **have one's name banded about**, be talked about in an unfavourable way, be a subject for gossip.

bang¹ /bæŋ/ *n* [C] violent blow; sudden, loud noise: *He fell and got a nasty ~ on the head. He always shuts the door with a ~.* □ *vt, vi* **1** hit violently; shut with a noise: *He ~ed at the door. He ~ed his fist on the table. Don't ~ the lid down. The door ~ed shut.* **2** make a loud noise: *The guns ~ed away.* □ *adv, int* **go bang**, explode with a loud noise. **bang in the middle**, exactly in the middle.

banger /'bæŋə(r)/ *n* (sl) **1** sausage. **2** noisy firework. **3** old, worn car.

bangle /'bæŋɡl/ *n* [C] band worn as jewelry.

ban-ish /'bæniʃ/ *vt* **1** send away, esp out of the country, as a punishment: *He was ~ed from the city.* **2** put away from, out of (the mind): *~ care.*

banish-ment *n* [U]

ban-is-ter /'bænistə(r)/ *n* (pl) posts with a piece across the top for a staircase; [C] one of the posts.

banjo /bændʒəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s or ~es) musical instrument played by pulling the strings with the fingers.

bank¹ /bæŋk/ *n* [C] **1** land along each side of a river or canal; ground near a river: *A river flows between its ~s.* **2** sloping land or earth, often forming a border or division: *There were flowers growing on the ~s on each side of the country lanes.* **3** (also **'sandbank**) part of the seabed higher than its surroundings, but covered with enough water for ships except at low tide. **4** flat-topped mass of cloud, snow, etc esp one formed by the wind: *The sun went down behind a ~ of clouds.* **5** artificial slope made so that a car can go round a curve with less risk.

bank² /bæŋk/ *vt, vi* **1 bank (up)**, (a) make or form into banks, ⇨ **4** above: *The snow has ~ed up.* (b) heap up (the fire in a fireplace or furnace) with coal, etc so that the fire burns slowly for a long time. **2** (of a motor-car or aircraft) travel with one side higher than the other (eg when turning).

bank³ /bæŋk/ *n* [C] **1** establishment for keeping money, valuables safely, the money being

paid out on the customer's order (by means of cheques): *have money in the ~*, have savings. ⇨ *run*¹(6). **2** (place for storing) supplies: *a 'blood-~.*

'bank-account, arrangement for keeping money in a bank.

'bank 'holiday, day (except Sundays) when banks are closed by law.

'bank-note, piece of paper money.

'bank-robber, person who steals from a bank.

'bank-roll, (person's) ready cash.

bank⁴ /bæŋk/ *vt, vi* **1** place (money) in a bank³(1): *He ~s half his salary every month.* **2** keep money in a bank: *Who do you ~ with?* **3 bank on/upon**, depend on: *I'm ~ing on your help.*

banker, person who owns or is a partner in a joint-stock bank, or is a governor or director of a bank.

bank-ing, business of keeping a bank: *~ing hours, 10am to 3pm.*

bank-ruptcy /'bæŋkrəpsɪ/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] bankrupt condition. **2** [C] instance of this.

bank-rupt /'bæŋkrəpt/ *n* [C] (legal) person judged by a law court to be unable to pay his debts in full, his property being distributed for the benefit of his creditors. □ *adj* **1** unable to pay one's debts. **2** completely without: *~ in ideas.* □ *vt* make bankrupt.

ban-ner /'bænə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** flag or announcement, usually on two poles, carried in (eg political) processions, making known principles, beliefs, etc. **2** flag (now chiefly fig): *the ~ of freedom.*

ban-nis-ter /'bænistə(r)/ *n* [C] = banister.

banns /bænz/ *n* pl public announcement in church that two persons are to be married: *put up/publish the ~s; have one's ~ called.*

ban-quet /'bæŋkwɪt/ *n* [C] elaborate meal, usually for a special event, at which speeches are made: *a 'wedding ~.* □ *vt, vi* give or take part in a banquet.

ban-tam /'bæntəm/ *n* [C] **1** kind of small domestic fowl, esp the cock, which fights. **2** boxer between 112 and 118 pounds.

ban-ter /'bæntə(r)/ *vt, vi* tease in a playful way. □ *n* [U] good-humoured teasing.

baobab /'beɪəbæb US: 'baʊbæb/ *n* [C] tree of tropical Africa with a trunk that grows to an enormous size.

bap-tism /'bæptɪzəm/ *n* **1** [U] ceremony of sprinkling a person with, or immersing a person in, water, accepting him as a member of the Christian Church and (usually) giving him a name or names (in addition to the family name); [C] instance of this: *There were six ~s at this church last week.* **2** (fig) first experience of a new kind of life: *a soldier's ~ of fire*, his first experience of warfare.

bap-tis-mal /bæp'tɪzmə/ *adj* of baptism: *~al water.*

Bap-tist /'bæptɪst/ *n* [C] one of those Christians who object to infant baptism and believe

that baptism should be by immersion and at an age when a person is old enough to understand the meaning of the ceremony.

bap-tize (also **-ise**) /bæp'taɪz/ *vt* give baptism to: *He had been ~d a Roman Catholic.*

bar¹ /bɑ:(r)/ *n* [C] **1** long-shaped piece of hard, stiff material (eg metal, wood, soap, chocolate). **2** length of wood or metal across a door, window or gate: *He was placed behind prison ~s, put into a prison cell.* **3** (in a hotel, pub, etc) room, counter, where drinks (such as beer and spirits) are served. **4** counter at which meals, etc are served and also eaten: *a 'coffee ~.* **5** barrier (across a road) that could not be passed (in former times) until a sum of money (called a *toll*) was paid: *a 'toll ~.* **6** bank or ridge of sand, etc across the mouth of a river or the entrance to a bay: *The ship crossed the ~ safely.* **7** (fig) barrier or obstacle; thing that hinders or stops progress: *Poor health may be a ~ to success in life.* **8** narrow band (of colour, light, etc): *As the sun went down, there was a ~ of red across the western sky.* **9** (music) vertical line across the stave marking divisions of equal value in time; one of these divisions and the notes in it: *the opening ~s of the National Anthem.* **10** barrier in a law court, separating the part where the business is carried on from the part for spectators. **the prisoner at the bar**, the accused person.

the Bar, profession of barrister; barristers. **be called to the Bar**, be received as a member of the Bar.

'bar-maid, woman who serves drinks at a bar(3).

'bar-man, man who does this.

'bar-ten-der, barmaid or barman.

bar² /bɑ:(r)/ *vt* (-rr-) **1** fasten (a door, gate, etc) with a bar or bars¹ (2). **2** keep in or out: *He ~red himself in, fastened doors, windows, etc so that no one could enter the building.* **3** obstruct: *Soldiers were ~ring the way and we couldn't go any farther.* **4** ban: *~ a person from a competition*, order that he shall not take part.

bar³ /bɑ:(r)/, **bar-ring** /'bɑ:rɪŋ/ *prep* (informal) except: *We shall arrive at noon ~ring accidents*, unless there are accidents. **bar 'none**, without exception. **bar 'one**, except one.

barb /bɑ:b/ *n* [C] curving point of an arrow, spear, fish-hook, etc.

barbed *adj* having a barb or barbs: *~ed wire*, wire with short, sharp points at intervals, used for fences, etc.

bar-bar-ian /bɑ:'beəriən/ *adj* uncivilized or uncultured. *n* [C] barbarian person.

bar-bar-ic /bɑ:'bærɪk/ *adj* **1** of or like barbarians. **2** rough and rude (esp in art and taste).

bar-bar-ism /'bɑ:bəriəm/ *n* **1** [U] state of being uncivilized, ignorant or rude: *living in ~.* **2** [C] instance of this.

bar-bar-ity /bɑ:'bærɪti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] savage cruelty. **2** [C] instance of this: *the barbari-*

ties of modern warfare, eg the bombing of cities.

bar-bar-ize (also **-rise**) /'bɑ:bəraɪz/ *vt* make barbarous.

bar-bar-ous /'bɑ:bərəs/ *adj* uncivilized; cruel; savage; unrefined in taste, conduct or habits.

bar-bar-ous-ly *adv*

bar-be-cue /'bɑ:bɪkjʊ:/ *n* [C] **1** grill, iron framework, for cooking an animal whole. **2** (outdoor) social occasion at which food cooked over a charcoal fire is eaten. *□ vt* roast (meat, etc) in this way.

bar-ber /'bɑ:bə(r)/ *n* [C] person whose trade is shaving and cutting men's hair.

bar-bitu-rate /bɑ:'bɪtʃərət/ *n* [C,U] (chem) (kinds of) substance causing sleep; pill for settling the nerves or inducing sleep.

bard /bɑ:d/ *n* [C] (literary) poet: *the B ~ of Avon*, Shakespeare.

bar-dic *adj* of bards or their songs.

bare¹ /beə(r)/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** without clothing, covering, protection, or decoration: *fight with ~ hands*, without boxing gloves; *in his ~ skin*, naked; *~ floors*, without carpets, rugs, etc; *a ~ hillside*, without shrubs or trees. **lay bare**, uncover, expose, make known (something secret or hidden). **2** not more than: *the ~ necessities of life*, things needed just to keep alive; *earn a ~ living*, only just enough money to live on: *approved by a ~ majority*, a very small one.

'bare-back *adv* (of a horse) ridden without a saddle: *ride ~back*.

'bare-faced *adj* insolent; shameless; undisguised: *It's ~faced 'robbery to ask £15 for such an old bicycle!*

'bare-foot *adv* without shoes and socks: *be! go/walk ~foot*.

'bare-'footed *adj* with bare feet.

'bare-'headed *adj* not wearing a hat.

bare-ly *adv* only just; scarcely: *We ~ly had time to catch the train. I ~ly know her.*

bare-ness *n* [U]

bare² /beə(r)/ *vt* uncover; reveal: *~ one's head*, take one's hat off. **bare one's heart**, make known one's deepest feelings. **bare it's teeth**, (of an animal) show them in anger.

bar-gain /'bɑ:gɪn/ *n* [C] **1** agreement to buy, sell or exchange something, made after discussion. **a good/bad bargain**, one that favours/does not favour oneself. **into the bargain**, as well; in addition; moreover. **drive a hard bargain**, try to force an agreement very favourable to oneself. **make/strike a bargain**, reach agreement. **2** (in industry) agreement between management and labour over wages, hours, etc; something obtained as the result of such an agreement. **3** thing offered, sold or bought cheap: *~ basement*, lowest floor of a shop, where goods are offered at reduced prices; *~ price*, low price. *□ vi, vt* **1** talk for the purpose of reaching an agreement (about buying or selling, doing a

piece of work, etc): *We ~ed with the farmer for a supply of milk and butter.* **2** *bargain away*, give up in return for something; sacrifice: ~ away one's freedom, give it up in return for some advantages or other. **bargain for**, be ready or willing to accept or agree to: *He got more than he ~ed for*, (informal) was unpleasantly surprised. *I didn't ~ for John arriving so soon*, I didn't expect it.

barge¹ /bɑ:dʒ/ *n* [C] **1** large flat-bottomed boat for carrying goods and people on rivers and canals, pulled by a tug or horse; similar boat with its own engine. **2** warship's boat, for the use of the officers.

barge² /bɑ:dʒ/ *vi* (informal) **1** *barge into/against*, rush or bump heavily into/against. **2** *barge about*, move clumsily, without proper control of one's movements or without care. **3** *barge in/into*, rudely interrupt: *Stop barging into our private conversation.*

baritone /'bæritən/ *n* [C] male voice between tenor and bass.

bark¹ /bɑ:k/ *n* [U] outer coverings or skin on the trunks, boughs and branches of trees. □ *vt* **1** take the bark off (a tree). **2** scrape the skin off (one's knuckles, knee, etc) (by falling, etc).

bark² /bɑ:k/ *n* [C,U] **1** the cry made by dogs and foxes; **2** (fig) sound of a deep cough or an angry voice. *His bark is worse than his bite*, He is not as dangerous as he pretends to be. □ *vi, vt* **1** (of dogs, etc) give a bark or barks: *The dog ~s at strangers.* **bark up the wrong tree**, (fig) direct one's anger, accusation, etc wrongly. **2** say (something) in a fierce, commanding voice: *The officer ~ed (out) his orders.*

barley /'bɑ:li/ *n* [U] grass-like plant and its seed (called *grain*), used for food and for making beer and whisky.

barmy /'bɑ:mi/ *adj* (ier, -iest) (informal) mad; foolish.

barn /bɑ:n/ *n* [C] covered building for storing hay, grain, etc on a farm.

'barn dance, kind of country dance.

'barn-yard, = farmyard.

bar-nacle /'bɑ:nəkl/ *n* [C] small sea-animal that fastens itself to rocks, the bottoms of ships, etc.

baro-meter /bɑ'rɒmɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** instrument for measuring the pressure of the atmosphere, used for forecasting the weather and measuring height above sea-level. **2** (fig) something which forecasts changes (eg in public opinion, market prices).

baro-met-ric /bæ'rə'metrik/ *adj*

bar-on /'bærən/ *n* [C] **1** (GB) member of the lowest rank of Peer. **2** (US) great industrial leader: *'oil ~s*.

bar-on-ess /'bærənɪs/ *n* [C] baron's wife; woman who is a baron in her own right.

bar-onet /'bærənɪt/ *n* [C] member of the lowest hereditary titled order, lower in rank than a baron but above a knight; shortened to *Bar*, as *Sir John Williams, Bart.*

baro-nial /bɑ'rəʊniəl/ *adj* of, suitable for, nobleman.

ba-ro-que /bɑ'rɒk/ *n, adj* (of the) ornamental or extravagant style in the arts (esp architecture) in Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries.

bar-rack /'bærək/ *vt, vi* shout and laugh rudely at; make cries of protest against.

bar-racks /'bærəks/ *n pl* large building(s) for soldiers to live in.

bar-rage /'bærɑ:ʒ/ *US: bɑ'rɑ:ʒ/ n* [C] **1** artificial obstacle built across a river for storing water to be diverted into canals for irrigation (as on the Nile). ⇨ *dam*¹. **2** (mil) barrier made by heavy, continuous gunfire directed onto a given area.

barred /bɑ:d/ *pt, pp* of *bar*².

bar-rel /'bærəl/ *n* [C] **1** round container, made of curved strips of wood with bands or hoops, or of plastic; the amount that a barrel holds. **2** metal tube of a rifle, revolver or pistol. □ *vt* (-ll-) put in a barrel or barrels.

'barrel-organ, instrument from which music is produced by turning a cylinder to make it act mechanically on keys.

bar-rel-led *adj* stored in a barrel: ~led beer.

bar-ren /'bærən/ *adj* **1** (of land) not able to produce crops. **2** (of plants, trees) not producing fruit or seeds. **3** (of women, animals) unable to have young ones. **4** (fig) without value, interest or result: *a ~ discussion*.

bar-ri-cade /,bærɪ'keɪd/ *n* [C] barrier of objects (eg sacks of sand) in front of something as a defence. □ *vt* block (a street, doorway, etc): *They ~d themselves in.*

bar-rier /'bæriə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** something (eg a rail, gate, turnstile) that prevents or controls progress or movement: *The Sahara Desert is a natural ~ that separates North and Central Africa.* *Show your ticket at the ~*, eg in a railway station. **2** limit or boundary: *the 'sound-~*. **3** (fig) obstruction: *Poor health and no money may both be ~s to educational progress.*

bar-ring /'bɑ:rɪŋ/ ⇨ *bar*².

bar-ri-ster /'bærɪstə(r)/ *n* [C] (not US) lawyer who has the right to speak and argue in higher law courts. ⇨ *counsel*¹(3).

bar-row /'bærəʊ/ *n* **1** = wheelbarrow. **2** small cart with two wheels, pulled or pushed by hand. **3** metal frame with two wheels used by porters for luggage (at railway-stations, in hotels, etc).

bar-ter /'bɑ:tə(r)/ *vt, vi* exchange (goods, property, etc) (for other goods, etc): ~ wheat for machinery; (fig) ~ away one's rights/honour/freedom, ie make a bad or foolish bargain. □ *n* [U] exchange made in this way.

bar-ter-er, person who barter.

base¹ /beɪs/ *n* [C] **1** lowest part of anything, esp the part on which a thing rests or is supported: *the ~ of a pillar*. **2** place at which armed forces, expeditions, etc have their stores, hospitals, etc: *a 'naval ~*; *a ~ camp*, eg for an expedition. **3** (geometry) line or surface on

which a figure stands or can stand: *BC is the ~ of the triangle ABC*. **4** (maths) number (usually 10) which is the starting point for a numerical system. **5** (chem) substance which combines with an acid to form a salt and water only; substance into which other things are mixed. **6** (baseball) one of four stations or positions.

base-less *adj* without cause or reason: ~less fears.

base² /beɪs/ *vt* **base on/upon**, use as a basis for: *Direct taxation is usually ~d on income*.

base³ /beɪs/ *adj* (of persons, their behaviour, thoughts, etc) dishonourable: *acting from ~ motives*.

base metal, non-precious metal.

base-ball /'beɪsbɔ:l/ *n* [U] popular game of the US, Japan, etc played with a bat and ball, by two teams of nine players each, on a field with four bases.

base-ment /'beɪsmənt/ *n* [C] lowest part of a building, partly or wholly below ground level; inhabited room(s) in this part.

bases /'beɪsɪz/ **1** *pl* of basis. **2** *pl* of base¹.

bash /bæʃ/ *vt* (informal) strike heavily so as to break or injure: ~ in the lid of a box; ~ him on the head with a stick; ~ one's head in the dark. □ *n* [C] violent blow or knock: *I gave him a ~ on the nose*. **have a bash at sth**, (sl) attempt it.

bash-ful /'bæʃfl/ *adv* shy (the usual word).

bash-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

basic /'beɪsɪk/ *adj* of or at the base or start; fundamental: *the ~ vocabulary of a language*, the words that must be known.

ba-si-cally /-kli/ *adv* fundamentally.

basil /'beɪzəl/ *n* [U] sweet-smelling herb like mint, used in cooking.

ba-sil-ica /'beɪzɪlɪkə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** oblong hall divided by rows of columns (used in ancient Rome as a law court). **2** building of this type used as a church: *the ~ of St Peter's in Rome*.

basin /'beɪsn/ *n* [C] **1** round, open dish for holding liquids; its contents. ⇨ wash-basin. **2** bowl for preparing or serving food in. **3** hollow place where water collects (eg a stone structure at the base of a fountain, a deep pool at the base of a waterfall, deep part of a harbour). **4** area of country drained by a river and its tributaries: *the Thames ~*.

basis /'beɪsɪs/ *n* [C] (*pl* bases /-sɪz/) **1** substance into which others are mixed; most important part of a mixture. **2** (usually *fig*) foundation: *arguments that have a firm ~*, that are easily supported by facts; *On the ~ of our sales forecasts* (= From what these show) *we may make a profit next year*.

bask /bɑːsk/ *US*: bæsk/ *vi* **1** enjoy warmth and light: *sitting in the garden, ~ing in the sunshine*. **2** (*fig*) enjoy (approval, success, etc): ~ing in her approval.

bas-ket /'bæskɪt/ *US*: 'bæskɪt/ *n* [C] **1** container, usually made of materials that bend

and twist easily (canes, rushes): *a ~ shopping ~*; *a ~ waste-paper ~*. **2** as much as a basket holds: *They ate a ~ of plums*.

bas-ket-ball /'bæskɪtbɔ:l/ *US*: 'bæs-/ *n* [U] indoor game played by two teams of five players (men) who try to throw a large ball into baskets fixed 10 feet above the ground at each end of the court.

bas-relief /'bæs rɪ'li:f/ *n* [U] (= low relief) flat surface of metal or stone which is cut away so that a design or picture stands out as on a coin; [C] example of this.

bass¹ /'bæs/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) kinds of fish (*perch*) used as food, caught in rivers, lakes and in the sea.

bass² /beɪs/ *adj* deep-sounding; low in tone. □ *n* [C] lowest part in music (voice and instruments); singer or instrument with lowest notes.

bas-oon /bə'su:n/ *n* [C] musical wind-instrument with double reeds made of wood, giving very low notes.

bas-tard /'bɑːstəd/ *US*: 'bæs-/ *n* [C] **1** illegitimate child: *a ~ child/daughter/son*. **2** Δ (*vulgar*) (used as a term of abuse) ruthless, insensitive person: *He's a real ~, leaving his wife in that way*. **3** (used without abuse): *Harry, you old ~! Fancy meeting you here!* **4** Δ unfortunate man: *Poor ~! He's been sacked and he won't find another job very easily*. **5** Δ (of an incident, etc) annoying, very bad, etc: *This is a ~ of a headache/essay*. **6** (of things) not genuine or authentic.

baste¹ /beɪst/ *vt* sew cloth with long stitches.

baste² /beɪst/ *vt* pour fat, juices, etc over meat which come from it during cooking.

bas-tion /'bæstɪən/ *n* [C] **1** (often five-sided) part of a fortification that stands out from the rest. **2** (*fig*) very strong part of defence.

bat¹ /bæt/ *n* [C] small, blind animal like a mouse with large wings that flies at night and feeds on fruit and insects. **as blind as a bat**, unable to see, not seeing, clearly.

bat² /bæt/ *n* [C] **1** shaped wooden implement for striking the ball in games, eg cricket and baseball. **do sth off one's own bat**, (*fig*) do it without help. **2** = batsman: *He's a useful ~*. □ *vi*, *vt* (-tt-) use a bat: *Green ~ed for two hours*, was at the wicket for two hours.

'bats-man, (a) (*cricket*) player who bats: *He's a good ~man but no good as a bowler*. (b) man who uses a pair of bats (like those used in table-tennis) to guide an aircraft as it lands.

bat³ /bæt/ *vt* (-tt-) **not bat an eyelid**, (a) not sleep at all. (b) not show any surprise.

batch /bætʃ/ *n* [C] **1** number of persons or things receiving attention as a group: *a ~ of letters to be answered*. **2** number of loaves, cakes, etc baked together: *baked in ~es of twenty*.

bath /bɑːθ/ *US*: bæθ/ *n* (*pl* ~s /bɑːðz/ *US*: bæðz/) **1** [C] washing of the body, by sitting or lying in water: *I shall have a hot ~ and go to*

bed 2 [U] water for a bath: *Your ~ is ready.* 3 [C] (container for) liquid in which something is washed or dipped. 4 (pl) building, rooms, where baths may be taken, often with a large indoor swimming pool: *public swimming ~s; the Turkish ~s.* 5 = **bathtub**. □ *vt, vi* 1 give a bath to: *~ the baby.* 2 have a bath.

Bath-chair, three-wheeled chair for an invalid, pushed or pulled by hand.

'bath-room, room in which there is a bath.

'bath-tub, oblong vessel in which baths are taken.

bathe /beɪð/ *vt, vi* 1 apply water to; soak in water; put in water: *The doctor told him to ~ his eyes twice a day.* 2 go into the sea, a river, lake, etc for sport, swimming, to get cool, etc. 3 **be bathed in**, be made wet or bright all over: *Her face was ~d in tears.* ⇨ also **sunbathe**. □ *n* swimming, etc in the sea, a river, lake, etc: *Let's go for a ~.*

bather /'beɪðə(r)/, person who bathes.

bath-ing /'beɪðɪŋ/ *n* [U] act or practice of going into the sea to swim, etc: *The ~ here is safe.* It is safe to swim here.

'bathing-costume, one-piece article of clothing worn by women and girls for swimming.

ba-tik /'bæɪtɪk/ *n* 1 [U] method (originally in Java) of printing coloured designs on textiles by waxing the parts not to be dyed. 2 [C] piece of cloth dyed in this way.

bat-man /'bætəmən/ *n* [C] (pl -men) (GB mil) army officer's personal servant.

baton /'bætən/ *US*: *bə'tɒn/ n* [C] 1 policeman's short, thick stick, used as a weapon. 2 short, thin stick as used by the conductor of a band or an orchestra.

bats /bæts/ *adj* (sl) mad; eccentric.

bat-tal-ion /bə'tæliən/ *n* [C] army unit made up of several companies and forming part of a regiment or brigade.

bat-ten /'bætn/ *n* [C] 1 long board, eg used to keep other boards in place, or to which other boards are nailed. 2 (on a ship) strip of wood or metal used to fasten down covers over a hatch. □ *vt* **batten down**, make secure with battens.

bat-ter¹ /'bætə(r)/ *vt, vi* strike hard and often; beat out of shape: *Let's ~ the door down.* *He was driving a badly ~ed old car.*

'bat-ter-ing ram, (mil) big, heavy log with an iron head (formerly) used for knocking down walls.

bat-ter² /'bætə(r)/ *n* [U] beaten mixture of flour, eggs, milk, etc for cooking.

bat-tery /'bætəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) 1 group of connected electric cells from which current will flow: *This transistor radio has four small batteries.* 2 army unit of big guns, with men and vehicles. 3 group of big guns on a warship, or for coastal defence. 4 set of similar utensils or instruments used together: *a ~ of lenses/ovens.* 5 **assault and battery**. ⇨ **assault**. 6 series of boxes, etc in which hens are

kept for laying eggs or for fattening: *~ hens.*

battle /'bætl/ *n* 1 [C] fight, esp between organized and armed forces. **die in battle**, die fighting. 2 [C] (fig) any struggle: *the ~ of life.* 3 [U] victory; success: *Youth is half the ~.* Youthful strength brings likelihood of success. □ *vi* struggle: *battling against poverty* *They ~d with the winds and waves.*

'battle-axe, (a) axe with a long handle, formerly used as a weapon. (b) (informal) aggressive, strict, older woman.

'battle-cruiser, large, fast cruiser with heavy guns and lighter armour than a battleship.

'battle-dress, soldier's uniform.

'battle-field, place where a battle is or was fought.

'battle-ship, large kind of warship, with big guns and heavy armour.

battle-ments /'bætlmənts/ *n* pl flat roof of a tower or castle with openings through which to shoot.

batty /'bæti/ *adj* (sl) crazy; slightly mad.

bauble /'bɔ:bl/ *n* [C] pretty, bright and pleasing ornament of little value.

baulk /bɔ:k/ ⇨ **balk**.

baux-ite /'bɔ:ksaɪt/ *n* [U] clay-like substance from which aluminium is obtained.

bawd /bɔ:d/ *n* [C] (old use) woman who keeps a brothel.

bawd-ily /-əli/ *adv*

bawdy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (of talk, persons) vulgar; using rude subjects to laugh at, etc: *~y talk/stories.*

bawl /bɔ:l/ *vt, vi* shout or cry loudly: *The frightened child ~ed for help.*

bay¹ /beɪ/ *n* [C] (also '~-tree, '~-laurel) kind of tree or shrub with leaves that are used in cooking and are spicy when crushed.

bay² /beɪ/ *n* [C] part of the sea or of a large lake, enclosed by a wide curve of the shore: *Hudson B~.*

bay³ /beɪ/ *n* [C] 1 space between pillars that divide a wall, building etc. 2 extension of a room beyond the line of one or two of its walls; recess. 3 compartment in an aircraft: *the 'bomb ~.* 4 part of a college campus, etc for those who are ill or injured: *the 'sick-~.* 5 compartment in a warehouse, barn etc for storing things: *Clear No 3 ~ to make room for new stock.*

bay⁴ /beɪ/ *n* [C] long, deep bark, esp of hounds while hunting. **keep/hold sb at bay**, keep an enemy, etc at a distance; prevent him from coming too near. □ *vi* (esp of large dogs, hounds) bark with a deep note, esp continuously, when hunting.

bay⁵ /beɪ/ *adj*, *n* [C] reddish-brown (horse): *He was riding a dark ~.*

bay-onet /'beɪɒnɪt/ *n* [C] blade like a dagger that can be fixed to the muzzle of a rifle. □ *vt* stab with a bayonet.

ba-zaar /bə'zɑ:(r)/ *n* [C] 1 shop for the sale of cheap goods of great variety. 2 (place where

there is a) sale of goods for charitable purposes: a church ~. **3** (in Iran, India and other Eastern countries) street of workshops and shops; that part of a town where the markets and shopping streets are.

ba-zoo-ka /bə'zu:kə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) portable weapon for firing armour-piercing rockets.

be¹ /bi:/ *vi* (present tense **am** [after 'I': m otherwise: əm, strong form: əm], **is** [z but s after p, t, k, f, θ, strong form: ɪz], **are** [ə(r) strong form: ɑ:(r)]; *pt* **was** /wəz strong form: wɒz/, **were** /wə(r) strong form: wɜ:(r)/; contracted forms, **I'm** /aɪm/, **he's** /hi:z/, **she's** /ʃi:z/, **it's** /ɪts/, **we're** /wiə(r)/, **you're** /juə(r)/, **they're** /ðeə(r)/; negatives **isn't** /ɪznt/, **aren't** /ɑ:nt/, **wasn't** /wɒznt/, **weren't** /wɜ:nt/; present participle **being** /'bi:ɪŋ/, *pp* **been** /bi:n US: bin/) **1** (used with a noun or pronoun, identifying or asking about the subject): *Today is Monday. Is Peter a teacher/a Catholic?* **2** (used with an adjective or a preposition, in descriptions): *The world is round. He's ten years old.* **3** (used with a preposition or adverbial particle of place): *The lamp is on the table. Mary's upstairs.* **4** (used with a noun or a preposition, showing possession): *The money's not yours, it's John's.*

be² /bi:/ *vi* (For pronunciations, etc ⇨ **be**¹) (showing a change from one quality, place, etc to another): *He wants to be (= become) a fireman when he grows up. You can be (= get) there in five minutes.*

be³ /bi:/ *vi* (For pronunciations, etc ⇨ **be**¹) **1** (used with there): *There's a bus-stop down the road. There were six of us.* **2** (used with there, meaning 'exist'): *There is a God.* **3** go; come (esp the *pp* **been**): *I've been to see my uncle. He has been to Paris. Has the postman been (= called) yet?* **for the time being**, until some other arrangement, etc is made: *You can stay in our house for the time being.* ⇨ also **being**. **the...to-be**, the future...: *the bride-to-be*. **'would-be**, who wishes to be or imagines himself to be: *a would-be poet*.

be⁴ /bi:/ auxiliary verb (used with other verbs) (For pronunciations, etc ⇨ **be**¹) **1** (used with present participles to form the progressive or continuous tenses): *They are/were reading. I shall be seeing him soon. What have you been doing this week?* **2** (used with a *pp* to form the passive): *He was killed in the war.* **3** (used with a *to*-infinitive) (a) (= must or ought, showing duty, necessity, etc): *You are to be congratulated.* (b) intention: *They are to be married in May.* (c) mutual arrangement: *Every member of the party was to pay his own expenses.* (d) the expressed wish of another person: *At what time am I (= do you want me) to be there?*

be- /bi-/ prefix **1** (~ + verb = verb): all over; all around; in all directions: *bedeck*. **2** (~ + noun or adj = verb) make, become: *befriend*. **3** (+ vi = vi): *bemoan*.

beach /bi:tʃ/ *n* [C] coastline covered with sand or pebbles. □ *vt* push or pull (a boat, a

ship) up on to the shore or beach.

'beach ball, large light-weight one used for games on the beach.

'beach-comber /-kəʊmə(r)/, (a) long wave rolling in from the sea. (b) man who makes a poor living on the waterfront in ports in the Pacific.

'beach-head, fortified position established on a beach by an invading army.

'beach-wear, clothes for sunbathing, swimming, etc.

bea-con /'bi:kən/ *n* [C] **1** (old use) (also **'~fire**) fire lit on a hill-top as a signal. **2** light on a hill or mountain, or on the coast, on rocks, etc to give warning of danger or for the guidance of ships, etc. **3** (also **'~light**) fixed lantern to warn or guide ships; flashing light to warn aircraft of high mountains, etc.

bead /bi:d/ *n* [C] **1** small ball of wood, glass, etc with a hole through it for threading with others on a string or wire. **2** (*pl*) necklace of beads. **3** drop of liquid: *His face was covered with ~s of sweat.*

beady /'bi:di/ *adj* (of eyes) small, round and bright.

beagle /'bi:gl/ *n* [C] small, short-legged dog used for hunting when those who take part are on foot, not on horse-back.

beak /bi:k/ *n* [C] hard, horny part of a bird's mouth, esp when curved.

beaker /'bi:kə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** open glass vessel with a lip (as used for chemical experiments, etc). **2** similar plastic vessel used as a drinking glass.

beam /bi:m/ *n* [C] **1** long horizontal piece of squared timber, or of steel, etc used to carry the weight of a building, etc. **2** (a) ray or stream of light (eg from a lamp or lighthouse, the sun or moon). (b) (fig) bright look or smile, showing happiness, etc: *with a ~ of delight*. (c) radio signal used to direct an aircraft on its course. **3** crosspiece of a balance, from which the scales hang. □ *vi*, *vi* **1** (of the sun, etc) send out light and warmth. **2** (fig) smile happily and cheerfully: *~ing on his friends; ~ing with satisfaction*. **3** send (a radio programme, etc) in a particular direction: *~ed from Britain to S America*.

bean /bi:n/ *n* [C] **1** (any of several plants with) seed in long pods (all used as vegetables): *'broad ~s; 'kidney ~s; 'soya ~s*. **2** seed similar in shape of other plants (eg *'coffee-~s*). **full of beans**, lively; in high spirits. **spill the beans**, make a secret known.

'bean-stalk, stalk of tall-growing varieties of bean.

bear¹ /beə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** large, heavy animal with thick fur. **2** rough, clumsy ill-mannered person. ⇨ Great Bear, Little Bear.

bear² /beə(r)/ *vi*, *vi* (*pt* bore /bo:(r)/, *pp* borne /bo:n/) **1** carry: *~ a heavy load*. **2** have; show: *~ the marks | signs | scars of blows | wounds | punishment; a document that ~s your signature*. **3** have; be known by: *a family*

that bore an ancient and honoured name. **4** feel: *the love/hatred she bore him*, felt towards him. **5** support; sustain: *The ice is too thin to ~ your weight. Who will ~ the responsibility/expense?* **6** (used with *can/could*) tolerate; put up with: *I can't ~ (the sight of) that old man. The pain was almost more than he could ~. How can you ~ to look at her?* **7** be fit for: *His language doesn't ~ repeating.* **8** give birth to: *~ a child. She has borne him six sons.* (Note: compare, *The eldest son was born in 1932.*) **9** turn: *When you reach the top of the hill, ~ (to the) right.* **10** (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

bear on/upon, be connected; have influence on: *These are matters that ~ on the welfare of the community. bring to bear on/upon*, make (a thing) relate to, have influence on: *bring pressure to ~ on a person.* ⇨ bearing(2).

bear (sth or sb) out, confirm (something); support (somebody): *John will ~ me out| will ~ out what I've said.*

bear up (against/under sth), be strong in the face of (sorrow, etc): *Tell her to ~ up*, to have courage, not give way.

bear with (sb), treat patiently: *Please ~ with me* (listen patiently to me) *a little longer.*

bear-able /'beərəbl/ *adj* (from bear²(6)) that can be tolerated.

beard /brɛəd/ *n* [C] **1** hair of the lower part of the face (excluding the moustache): *a man with a ~.* **2** similar growth of hair on an animal: *a goat's ~.* □ *vt* defy openly, oppose.

bearded *adj* having a beard.

bearer /'beərə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who brings a letter or message: *the ~ of good news.* **2** person who helps to carry a coffin to a grave, who carries a stretcher, flag, etc. **3** person who presents a cheque at a bank.

bear-ing /'beərɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] way of behaving; way of standing, walking, etc: *a man of military ~.* **2** [C,U] relation, aspect: *What he said has no|not much ~ on* (= is not connected with) *the subject.* **3** [U] possibility of being tolerated; endurance: *His conduct was beyond (all) ~.* ⇨ bear²(6). **4** [C] direction in which a place, etc lies: *take a 'compass ~ on a light-house.* **5** (pl) relative position; direction. **find one's bearings**, (fig) finds one's position, become confident, etc. **lose one's bearings**, (fig) be lost, puzzled, etc.

beast /bi:t/ *n* [C] **1** four-footed animal (*animal* is the usual word). **2** cow or bullock; animal for riding or driving. **3** (informal) cruel or disgusting person.

beast-ly *adj* (a) like a beast; unfit for human use. (b) (informal) nasty: *What ~ly weather!*

beat /bi:t/ *n* [C] **1** regular repeated stroke, or sound of this: *We heard the ~ of a drum. His 'heart ~s were getting weaker.* **2** recurring emphasis marking rhythm in music or poetry. **3** route over which a person (eg a policeman) goes regularly.

beat² /bi:t/ *vt, vi* (pt ~en, pp ~en /'bi:tn/) **1** hit repeatedly (eg with a stick): *He was ~ing a drum. The boy was ~en until he was black and blue, covered with bruises. Somebody was ~ing at|on the door.* **beat a (hasty) retreat**, (a) give the signal (by drum) to retreat. (b) (fig) go back, retire. **2** (of the sun, rain, wind, etc) strike: *The rain was ~ing against the windows.* **3** mix thoroughly and let air into by using a fork or similar utensil: *~ eggs.* **4** hammer to change the shape: *~ something flat.* **5** defeat; do better than: *Our army was ~en. He ~ me at chess.* **beat the record**, ⇨ record¹(6). **6** be too difficult for: *That problem has ~en me.* **7** move up and down regularly: *His heart was still ~ing.* **beat time**, measure time (in music) by making regular movements (with the hands, etc). **8 beat about the bush**, talk about something without mentioning it directly. **dead beat**, tired out. **beat it**, (sl) go away.

9 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

beat down (on), *The sun was ~ing down on our heads*, shining with great heat. **beat sb/sth down**: *He wanted £800 for the car but I ~ him down* (= made him lower his price) *to £600.*

beat sb/sth off, use force to send away: *The attacker|attack was ~en off.*

beat sth out, (a) (of a fire) put out. (b) (of rhythm, etc) be played: *He ~ out* (= drummed) *a tune on a tin can.*

beat sb up, fight and hurt him badly.

beaten /'bi:tn/ *adj* (esp) **1** shaped by beating: *~ silver.* **2** (of a path) worn by use: *a well-~ path. go off/keep to the beaten track*, do something/not do anything unusual.

beater /'bi:tə(r)/ *n* [C] utensil used for beating(3): *an 'egg-~.*

beat-ing /'bi:tɪŋ/ *n* [C] (esp) punishment by hitting or striking repeatedly: *give him a good ~.*

be-ati-tude /'bi:ətɪtʃud/ *US: -tʃud/ n* [U] great happiness; blessedness.

beau /bəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~x /bəʊz/) **1** (old use) rather old man who is greatly interested in the fashion of his clothes. **2** (dated) girl's admirer or lover.

beau-te-ous /'bjʊ:tɪəs/ *adj* (poetic) beautiful.

beau-ti-cian /'bjʊ:tɪʃn/ *n* [C] person who runs a beauty-salon.

beau-ti-ful /'bjʊ:tɪfl/ *adj* giving pleasure or delight to the mind or senses: *a ~ face|flower|voice; ~ weather|music.*

beau-ti-fully /-flɪ/ *adv* in a beautiful manner: *She plays the piano ~ly.*

beau-tify /'bjʊ:tɪfaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) make beautiful.

beauty /'bjʊ:tɪ/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] combination of qualities that give pleasure to the senses (esp the eye and ear) or to the moral sense or the intellect: *the ~ of a sunlit rose-garden.* **2** [C]

person, thing, specimen, feature, characteristic, that is beautiful or particularly good: *Isn't she a ~! Look at this horse. Isn't it a ~!*

'beauty-parlour, = beauty-salon.

'beauty queen, girl voted the most beautiful in a contest.

'beauty-salon, place where women have treatment (of the figure, skin, hair, etc) to be more beautiful.

'beauty-sleep, sleep before midnight.

'beauty-spot, (a) place with beautiful scenery. (b) birthmark or artificial patch on the face, so as to increase beauty.

beaver /'bi:və(r)/ *n* [C] fur-coated animal that lives both on land and in water, with strong teeth used to cut down trees and make dams across rivers. **2** [U] its fur.

be-calmed /bɪ'kɑ:md/ *adj* (of a sailing-ship) stopped because there is no wind.

be-came *pt* of become.

be-cause /bɪ'kɔ:z, -kəz/ *conj* **1** for the reason that: *I did it ~ they asked me to do it.* (Note: when the reason is obvious, or is thought to be known, it is preferable to use *as* or *so*: *As it's raining, you'd better take a taxi. It's raining, so you'd...* After the noun reason, that is preferred to *because*: *The reason why we were late is that...*) **2** *because of*, *prep* by reason of; on account of: *B~ of his bad leg, he couldn't walk as fast as the others.*

beckon /'bekən/ *vi, vi* call a person's attention by a movement of the hand or arm, usually to show that he is to come nearer or to follow.

be-come /bɪ'kɑ:m/ *vi, vi* (*pt* became /bɪ'keɪm/, *pp* become) **1** come or grow to be; begin to be: *He became a doctor. It's becoming much more expensive to travel abroad.* **2** *become of*, happen to: *What will ~ of the children if their father dies?* **3** be right or fitting: *He used language (eg vulgar language) that does not ~ a man of his age and education.*

be-coming *adj* attractive; suitable: *a ~ smile; a dress ~ to the hot weather.*

be-com-ing-ly *adv*

bed¹ /bed/ *n* [C] **1** piece of furniture, or other arrangement, on which to sleep (Note: the example sentences show when the articles are used): *go to ~; get into/out of ~; put the children to ~; sit on the ~; find a ~ for her.* **bed and 'board**, food and lodging. **get out of bed on the wrong side**, be bad-tempered after waking up. **make the bed**, put the bedclothes (sheets, blankets, etc) in order. **2** flat base on which something rests: *The dam is built on a ~ of concrete.* **3** bottom of the sea, a river, lake, etc: *the 'sea-~.* **4** layer of rock, stone, etc as a foundation for a road or railway; layer of clay, rock, etc below the surface soil: *If you dig here, you will find a ~ of clay.* **5** garden plot, piece of ground (for flowers, vegetables, etc): *'flower-~s.*

'bed-clothes *n pl* sheets, blankets, etc for a bed.

'bed-pan, vessel for urine, etc used by an invalid in bed.

'bed-ridden *adj* confined to bed by weakness or old age.

'bed-room, room for sleeping in.

'bed-side, side of (esp a sick person's) bed: *Dr Green has a good ~side manner*, is tactful, knows how to fill his patients with confidence in himself; *a ~side table.*

'bed-'sitting-room, (informal = **'bed-'sitter**) room used (eg by students, single persons away from home) for both living in and sleeping in.

'bed-sore, sore caused by lying in bed for a long time.

'bed-spread, covering spread over a bed during the day.

'bed-steed, framework of wood and metal to support the mattress.

'bed-time, time for going to bed: *His usual ~time is eleven o'clock.*

bed² /bed/ *vi* (-dd-) **1** plant (seedlings, etc): *He was ~ding out young cabbage plants:* **2** place or fix in a foundation: *The bullet ~ded itself in (a ~ went deep into) the wall.* **3** **bed down**, give bedding to: *~ down a soldier.*

bed-ding /'bedɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** = bedclothes. **2** straw, etc for animals to sleep on.

be-decked /bɪ'dekt/ *adj* adorned, decorated (with flowers, jewels, etc).

be-devil /bɪ'devl/ *vt* (-ll-, US -l-) confuse; complicate: *The issue is ~led by Smith's refusal to co-operate with us.*

bed-lam /'bedlɑ:m/ *n* [C] **1** (old use) asylum for mad people. **2** scene of noisy confusion: *When the teacher was called away the classroom was a regular ~.*

be-drag-gled /bɪ'dræglɪd/ *adj* made wet or dirty, eg by being dragged in mud.

bee /bi:/ *n* [C] small, four-winged, stinging insect that produces wax and honey. **have a 'bee in one's bonnet**, be obsessed by an idea. **make a 'bee-line for**, go towards by the shortest way, go quickly towards.

'bee-hive, ⇨ hive.

beech /bi:tʃ/ *n* [C] forest tree with smooth bark and shiny dark-green leaves and small triangular nuts; [U] its wood.

beef /bi:f/ *n* [U] flesh of an ox, bull or cow, used as meat. □ *vi* (sl) complain: *Stop ~ing so much!*

beef-burger, flat cake of minced beef, grilled or fried.

'beef-steak, thick slice of beef for grilling or frying.

beefy /'bi:fi/ *adj* (of a person) well covered with flesh; strong.

been ⇨ be¹.

beep /bi:p/ *n* [C] repeated signal or note (as during a phone conversation, indicating that it is being timed).

beer /biə(r)/ *n* [U] alcoholic drink made from malt and flavoured with hops; other drinks made from roots, etc: *ginger-~.*

beery *adj* like beer in taste or smell; (eg of a person) smelling of beer.

beeswax /'bi:z-wæks/ *n* [U] wax made by bees for honeycomb, used for polishing wood. □ *vt* polish with beeswax.

beet /bi:t/ *n* [C] sorts of plant with a sweet root.

'beet-root /'bi:trʊt/ red beet used as a vegetable, esp in salads.

'sugar beet, white beet used for making sugar.

beetle /'bi:tl/ *n* [C] insect with hard, shiny wing-covers.

be-fore¹ /bɪ'fɔ:(r)/ *adv* at an earlier time; in the past; already: *I've seen that film ~. You should have told me so ~, earlier.*

be-fore² /bɪ'fɔ:(r)/ *conj* previous to the time when: *I must finish my work ~ I go home. Do it now ~ you forget.*

be-fore³ /bɪ'fɔ:(r)/ *prep* **1** earlier than: *the day ~ yesterday; the year ~ last; two days ~ Christmas. before long*, soon. **2** in front of (esp with reference to order or arrangement): *B comes ~ C.* (Note: except in a few phrases, in front of is preferred to before when referring to position: There are some trees in front of the house.) **3** in the presence of; face to face with: *He was brought ~ the judge.* **4** in preference to: *Death ~ dishonour.*

be-fore-hand /bɪ'fɔ:hænd/ *adv* earlier; before³(1): *I knew what he would need, so I made preparations ~, in advance, in readiness.* □ *adj* early; in advance: *She's always ~ with the rent, pays it, or is ready to pay it, before it is due.*

be-friend /bɪ'frend/ *vt* make a friend of; be kind and helpful to (esp a younger person who needs help).

beg /beg/ *vt, vi* (-gg-) **1** ask for (food, money, clothes, etc); make a living by asking for money (in the streets, etc): *He made a living by ~ing from door to door.* **2** ask earnestly, or with deep feeling: *They ~ged us not to punish them. I ~ (of) you not to take any risks.* **go begging**, (of things) be unwanted: *If these things are going ~ing (= if nobody wants them), I'll take them.* **3** take the liberty of (saying or doing something): *I ~ to differ.*

be-gan ⇨ begin.

be-get /bɪ'get/ *vt* (-tt-) (*pt* begot /bɪ'gɒt/, *old use* begat) **1** father: *Abraham begat Isaac.* **2** (*literary*) be the cause of: *War ~s misery and ruin.*

beg-gar /'bega(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who lives by begging, eg for money, food; poor person. *Beggars can't be choosers*, People asking for help must take whatever is offered them. **2** (*informal*) (playful or friendly use) person: *You lucky ~! □ vt* make poor, ruin.

beg-gar-ly *adj* very poor; deserving contempt.

be-gin /bɪ'gɪn/ *vt, vi* (*pt* began /bɪ'gæn/, *pp* begun /bɪ'gʌn/) (-nn-) (For notes on the use of begin and start, ⇨ start.) **1** start: *It's time to ~ work. The meeting will ~ at seven o'clock.* **2**

(used of activities and states that come into existence): *She began to feel ill/fraid. I'm ~ning to understand. The water is ~ning to boil. She began crying/to cry.* **3** *begin at*, start from: *Today we ~ at page 30, line 12.* **to be-gin with**, in the first place: *We can't appoint Smith; to ~ with, he's too young; secondly, I want my son to have the job.*

be-gin-ner, (esp) person still learning and without much experience.

be-gin-ning, starting point: *I've read the book from ~ning to end.*

be-grudge /bɪ'grʌdʒ/ *vt* (intensive form of *grudge*) feel or show dissatisfaction or envy at: *We don't ~ your going to Italy.*

be-guile /bɪ'gaɪl/ *vt* (*formal*) cheat, deceive: *They were ~d into forming an unwise alliance.*

be-gun ⇨ begin.

be-half /bɪ'hæf/ *US*: -hæf/ *n* **on behalf of**, for, in the interest of, on account of, as the representative of. **on my/his/our/John's, etc behalf**, for me/him/us/John, etc: *on ~ of my colleagues and myself, speaking for them and me.*

be-have /bɪ'heɪv/ *vi* **1** act; conduct oneself: *Can't you make your little boy ~ (himself), show good manners, be polite?* **2** (of machines, etc) work; function: *How's your new car behaving?*

well-/badly-be-haved, behaving well/badly.

be-hav-iour (*US* = -ior) /bɪ'heɪvɪə(r)/ *n* [U] way of behaving, manners (good or bad); treatment shown towards others: *His ~ towards me shows that he does not like me. Tom won a prize for good ~ at school.* **be on one's best behaviour**, take great care to behave well.

be-head /bɪ'hed/ *vt* cut off the head of (as a punishment).

be-held ⇨ behold.

be-hind¹ /bɪ'hænd/ *adv* **1** at the back: *The others are a long way ~. go behind*, go to the back (of a queue, etc). **stay/remain behind**, stay after others have left. **2** *be behind in/with*, be late with: *He was ~ in his payments, had not made payments (eg of rent) when they were due.* ⇨ behindhand(1)

be-hind² /bɪ'hænd/ *n* (*informal*) buttocks: *He fell on his ~.*

be-hind³ /bɪ'hænd/ *prep* **1** at the back of: *The boy was hiding ~ a tree. The sun was ~ (= hidden by) the clouds.* ⇨ scene(6). **2** not having made so much progress as: *~ other boys of his age; a country far ~ its neighbours.* **be left behind**, not make the same rate of progress. **3** remaining after, when one has left a place: *The storm left a trail of destruction ~ it.* **4** (of time): *Your schooldays will soon be far ~ you.* **5** in support of: *If you become a candidate, we'll be ~ you.*

be-hind-hand /bɪ'hændhænd/ *adj* **1** late (in paying): *be ~ with the rent.* **2** after, less than, the others: *~ in sending a reply/in generosity.*

be-hold /bɪ'həʊld/ vt (pt, pp beheld /bɪ'held/) (old or literary use) notice.

beige /beɪʒ/ n [U] 1 soft fabric of undyed and unbleached wool. 2 colour of sand. □ adj sand-coloured.

be-ing /'bi:ɪŋ/ n 1 [U] existence. *come into being*, begin to exist: *We do not know when this world came into ~.* 2 [C] human creature: *Men, women and children are human ~s.*

be-jew-elled (US = -eled) /bɪ'dʒu:ld/ adj decorated, adorned, with jewels.

be-lated /bɪ'leɪtɪd/ adj coming very late or too late: *a ~ apology.*

belch /beltʃ/ vt, vi 1 send out, eg smoke, flames: *A volcano ~es out smoke and ashes.* 2 send out gas from the stomach noisily through the mouth. □ n [C] 1 act or sound of belching. 2 thing belched out (eg smoke from a chimney).

bel-fry /'belfri/ n [C] (pl -ies) (church) tower in which bells hang.

be-lief /bɪ'li:f/ n 1 [U] the feeling that something is real and true; trust; confidence: *I haven't much ~ in his honesty*, cannot feel sure that he is honest. *He has lost his ~ in God*, no longer accepts the existence of God as true. *to the best of my belief*, in my opinion after careful thought. 2 [C] something accepted as true or real. 3 [C] something taught as part of a religion: *the ~s of the Christian Church.*

be-lieve /bɪ'li:v/ vt, vi 1 feel sure of the truth of something, that somebody is telling the truth: *I ~ that man.* *I ~ what that man says.* *They ~d that he was insane.* *Will they be ready tomorrow? Yes, I ~ so.* *No, I ~ not.* 2 **believe in**, (a) have trust in: *I ~ in that man.* (b) feel sure of the existence of: *I ~ in God.* (c) feel sure of the value or worth of: *He ~s in getting plenty of exercise.* 3 **make believe** (that), pretend: *The boys made ~ that they were explorers in the African forests.* Hence, **'make-believe** n: *Don't be frightened, it's all make-~, is all pretence.*

be-liever, person who believes, esp in a religious faith.

be-liev-ing, n *seeing is believing*, you will believe something only if you see it.

be-little /bɪ'litl/ vt cause to seem unimportant or of small value: *Don't ~ yourself*, be too modest about your abilities, etc.

bell /bel/ n [C] 1 metal, usually shaped like a cup, that makes a ringing sound when struck. *as sound as a bell*, (fig) in first-rate condition. *ring a bell*, (informal) recall to memory something half forgotten. 2 (naut) *one to eight bells*, bells sounded every half hour.

bell-bottomed, (of trousers) made very wide at the bottom of the leg.

bell-bottoms, trousers made this way.

bell-push, button pressed to ring an electric bell.

bell-ringer, person who rings church bells.

bell-tent, bell-shaped tent.

belle /bel/ n [C] beautiful girl or woman. *the*

belle of the ball, the most beautiful woman present.

bel-li-cose /'belɪkəs/ adj (formal) willing to fighting; anxious to fight.

-bel-ied /-belɪd/ suffix: *big-~* having a big abdomen.

bel-liger-ency /bɪ'lɪdʒərənsɪ/ n [U] (formal) being warlike; state of being at war.

bel-liger-ent /bɪ'lɪdʒərənt/ adj, n [C] (state, party, nation) eager to be at war.

bel-low /'beləʊ/ vi, vt 1 make a loud, deep noise (like a bull); roar; shout: *He ~ed even before the dentist had started.* 2 sing, shout loudly or angrily: *They ~ed out a drinking song.*

bel-lows /'beləʊz/ n pl (also a pair of ~) apparatus for blowing or forcing air into something, eg a fire, the pipes of an organ in a church.

belly¹ /'belɪ/ n [C] (pl -ies) 1 (informal) = abdomen. 2 the stomach: *have a ~-ache.* 3 bulging part (concave or convex) of anything, eg the surface of a violin across which the strings pass.

'belly-ache vi (informal) protest or complain, esp without a good reason.

'belly-button, (informal) = navel.

'belly-landing, landing of an aircraft without its undercarriage in position.

'belly-laugh n [C] loud, coarse laugh. □ vi laugh in this way.

belly-ful, /-fʊl/, as much as one wants of anything: *He's had his ~ful of fighting*, refuses to go on fighting.

belly² /'belɪ/ vi, vt (pt, pp -ied) (cause to) swell out: *The wind bellied (out) the sails.*

be-long /bɪ'lon/ vi 1 **belong to**, (a) be the property of: *These books ~ to me*, are mine. (b) be a member of, be connected with: *Which union do you ~ to?* *To which union do you ~?* 2 have as a right or proper place: *Does it ~ here?*

be-long-ings /bɪ'lonɪŋz/ n pl clothes, personal articles, luggage; furniture, possessions (not land, buildings, a business, etc): *I left my ~ in the hotel.*

be-loved /bɪ'lʌvd/ pp, adj dearly loved: *~ by all.* □ n /bɪ'lʌvd/ [C] dearly loved person.

be-low¹ /bɪ'ləʊ/ adv 1 at or to a lower level: *From the hilltop we saw the blue ocean ~.* *We heard voices from ~.* 2 at the foot of a page, etc; later (in a book, article, etc): *see paragraph six ~.* 3 **down below**, in the lower part of a building, in a ship's hold, etc (according to context). *go below*, (naut) go below the deck. *here below*, on earth.

be-low² /bɪ'ləʊ/ prep (Note: below can sometimes be replaced by under; when under is possible, it is given in the examples.) 1 lower than: *Skirts this year reach just ~ the knees.* *Your work is ~ (the) average.* *Shall I write my name on, above or ~ the line?* *The Dead Sea is ~ sea level.* *There is nothing ~/under 50p*, costing less than this. *He can't be much ~/under sixty (years of age).* 2 lower in rank: *A major is ~ a*

colonel. 3 down stream from: *a few metres ~ the bridge.*

belt /bɛlt/ *n* [C] **1** band or strip of cloth, leather, etc worn round the waist to support or keep clothes in place: *He ate so much that he had to loosen his ~ two holes.* **be/hit below the belt**, be unfair/fight unfairly. **2** similar strip of leather, etc worn over the shoulder to support weapons, etc. **3** endless strap, used to connect wheels and so drive machinery: *a fan ~*, in the engine of a car. **4** any wide strip or band, surrounding area, etc. ⇨ green belt. □ *vt* **1** fasten with a belt: *The officer ~ed his sword on.* **2** hit with a belt; (informal) hit with the fist(s): *if you don't shut up, I'll ~ you.*

belt-ing *n*: *give the boy a good ~ing*, hit him hard (with a belt).

be-moan /bi'məʊn/ *vt* moan for; show great sorrow for: *~ one's sad fate.*

bench /bentʃ/ *n* [C] **1** long seat of wood or stone, eg in a public park. **2** (in the House of Commons) seat occupied by members. ⇨ back-benches; crossbenches; frontbench. **3** worktable at which a shoemaker, carpenter, etc works. **4** the ~, judges; magistrates; judge's seat or office; law court.

'bench seat, (in a car) seat (for 2 or 3 persons) extending the width of the car.

bend¹ /bend/ *n* [C] **1** curve or turn: *a sharp ~ in the road.* **round the bend**, (sl) mad. **2** sailor's knot (in a rope). **3** the ~s, (informal) pains in the joints, caused by coming to the surface too fast after skin-diving.

bend² /bend/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp bent /bent/) **1** cause (something rigid) to be out of a straight line or surface; force into a curve or angle: *B ~ the end of the wire up/down/ back.* *Her head was bent over her book.* **bend a rule**, (informal) interpret it loosely (to suit the circumstances). **2** become curved or angular; bow down: *The branches were ~ing (down) with the weight of the fruit.* *Can you ~ down and touch your toes without ~ing your knees?* *The road ~s to the left here.* **3** direct: *All eyes were bent on me.* *Every one was looking at me.* **4** submit: *~ to a person's will*; make (a person) submit: *~ a person to one's will.* **5** **be bent on**, be determined: *He is bent on mastering English.*

be-neath /bi'ni:θ/ *prep, adv* **1** (old or literary use) below, under(neath). **2** not worthy of: *His accusations are ~ contempt/notice*, should be ignored.

ben-edic-tion /,benɪ'dɪkʃn/ *n* [C] blessing (esp one given by a priest at the end of a church service): *pronounce the ~.*

ben-efac-tion /,benɪ'fækʃn/ *n* **1** [U] doing good. **2** [C] good deed (esp the giving of money for charity); charitable gift.

ben-efac-tor /'benɪfæktə(r)/ *n* [C] person who has given help, esp financial help, to a school, hospital or charitable institution.

ben-efac-tress /'benɪfæktɪs/ *n* [C] woman benefactor.

ben-efice /'benɪfɪs/ *n* [C] income-producing

property (called a *church living*) held by a priest or clergyman (esp a vicar or rector).

be-nefi-cence /'bɛnɪfɪsəns/ *n* [U] (formal) doing good; active kindness.

be-nefi-cent /'bɛnɪfɪsnt/ *adj* (formal) doing good; kind.

ben-efi-cial /,benɪ'fɪʃl/ *adj* having good effect, helpful: *Fresh air and good food are ~ to the health.*

ben-efici-ary /,benɪ'fɪʃəri/ *US*: -fɪəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) person who receives a benefit, esp money, property, etc under a will.

benefit /'benɪfɪt/ *n* **1** [U] advantage; profit; help: *Did you get much ~ from your holiday?* *Did you feel better afterwards?* *The money is to be used for the ~ of the poor*, to help poor people. **give sb the benefit of the doubt**, assume that he is innocent because there is insufficient evidence that he is guilty. **2** [C] act of kindness; favour; advantage: *the ~s of a good education.* **3** [C] allowance of money to which a person is entitled as a citizen or as a member of an insurance society, etc: *unemployment/sickness ~.* □ *vt, vi* do good to: *The sea air will ~ you.* *You will ~ by/ from a holiday.*

ben-ev-ol-ence /'bɛnɪvələns/ *n* [U] wish to do good; activity in doing good: *His ~ allowed many poor boys to attend college.*

ben-ev-ol-ent /'bɛnɪvələnt/ *adj* kind and helpful (towards, to).

ben-ev-ol-ent-ly *adv*

be-nign /'bi'nəm/ *adj* **1** (of persons) kind and gentle. **2** (of soil, climate) mild, favourable. **3** (of a disease, tumour) not dangerous. ⇨ malignant(2).

bent¹ /bent/ *n* [C] ability and interest; natural skill: *She has a ~ for sewing/music.* **follow one's bent**, do what one is interested in and what one enjoys doing.

bent² /bent/ *adj* (sl) dishonest; corrupt; mad: *a policeman.*

bent³ *pt, pp* bend².

be-queath /'bɪkwɪ:ð/ **1** arrange (by making a will) to give (property, etc) at death: *He has ~ed me his gold watch.* **2** hand down to those who come after: *discoveries ~ed to us by the scientists of the last century.*

be-quest /'bɪkwɛst/ *n* **1** [U] bequeathing. **2** [C] thing bequeathed: *He left ~s of money to all his staff.*

be-reave /'bɪrɪv/ *vt* (pt, pp bereft /'bɪrɛft/ or bereaved; usually bereft in (1) and bereaved in (2)) **1** rob or take away from: *bereft of hope*, without hope; *bereft of reason*, mad. **2** (of death) cause sadness: *the ~d husband*, the man whose wife had died.

be-reave-ment *n* [C, U]

be-reft ⇨ bereave.

be-ret /'berɪ/ *US*: 'bɪrɪ/ *n* [C] flat, round cap of felt or cloth, as worn by soldiers.

berg /bɜ:ɡ/ *n* [C] = iceberg.

berry /'berɪ/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** kinds of small fruit with seeds: 'straw~; 'black~; 'rasp~. **2** coffee bean.

ber-serk /bə'sɜ:k/ *adj* **be/go/send sb ber-serk**, be, go, etc uncontrollably wild: *He went completely ~.*

berth /bə:θ/ *n* [C] **1** sleeping-place in a train, ship, etc. **2** place at a wharf, etc where a ship can be tied up. □ *vt, vi* **1** (*naut*) find, have, a sleeping-place (for). **2** moor (a ship) in harbour, tie up (a ship) at a wharf, etc.

be-seech /bi'si:tʃ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* besought /bi'sɔ:tʃ/) (*old or literary use*) ask earnestly or urgently: *Spare him, I ~ you.*

be-seech-ing *adj* (of a person's look, tone of voice, etc) appealing.

be-set /bi'set/ *vt* (*pt, pp* ~) (-tt-) close in, have, on all sides: *a problem ~ with difficulties*; ~ *by doubts*, troubled by doubts.

be-side /bi'said/ *prep* **1** at the side of; close to: *Come over here and sit ~ me.* **2** *beside the point/mark/question*, having nothing to do with (what is being discussed, etc). **3** *beside oneself*, at the end of one's self-control: *He was ~ himself with joy/rage.*

be-sides /bi'saɪd/ *adv* moreover; also: *I don't like that new dictionary; ~, it's too expensive.* □ *prep* in addition to; as well as: *I have three other brothers ~ John.*

be-siege /bi'si:dʒ/ *vt* **1** surround (a place) with armed forces and keep them there; attack from all sides: *Troy was ~d by the Greeks for ten years.* **2** *besiege with*, crowd round (with requests, etc): *The teacher was ~d with questions. He was ~d by his fans.*

be-sieger, person who besieges.

be-smirch /bi'smɜ:tʃ/ *vt* make dirty: (*fig*) *His reputation was ~ed.*

be-sot-ted /bi'sɒtɪd/ *adj* stupefied (by alcoholic drink, drugs, love, etc).

be-sought ⇨ beseech.

be-spat-tered /bi'spætəd/ *adj* covered with (large drops, etc of): ~ *with mud.*

best¹ /best/ *adj* of the most excellent kind: *the ~ poetry/poets*; *my ~* (= favourite) friend; *the ~* (= quickest, most convenient, etc) way from London to Paris. **make the best use of**, use (time, etc) in the most useful way. **put one's best foot forward**, ⇨ foot¹(1). **with the best will in the world**, even making every effort to be fair, etc. ⇨ good, better.

best 'man, bridegroom's chief attendant at his wedding.

best² /best/ *adv* in the most excellent way: *He works ~ in the morning. Do as you think ~.* *She was the ~-dressed woman in the village.* ⇨ well, better.

best-'seller, book that is sold in very large numbers.

best³ /best/ *pron* the outstanding person, thing, etc among several; the most excellent part, aspect: *We're the ~ of friends*, very close friends. **be (all) for the best**, be good in the end (although not at first seeming to be good).

All the best! (used when parting) I wish you good fortune. **at best**, taking the most hope-

ful view: *We can't arrive before Friday at ~.* **at its/their/his, etc best**, in the best condition: *The garden is at its ~ this month.* (*even*) **at the 'best of times**, (even) when circumstances are most favourable. **with the best of intentions**, intending only to help. **do one's 'best/the 'best one 'can**, make the greatest possible effort. (*do sth*) **to the best of one's ability/power**, use all one's ability/power when doing it. **make the best of it/things/a bad job/business**, do what one can, be content, in spite of misfortune, failure, etc. **to the best of my knowledge, etc**, so far as I know (though my knowledge, etc may not be perfect).

best⁴ /best/ *vt* (*informal*) get the better of; defeat.

best-ial /'bestɪəl/ *adj* of or like a beast; brutish; savage.

be-stow /bi'stau/ *vt* give as an offering: ~ *an honour/a title on him.*

be-stowal, action, instance of, bestowing.

be-stride /bi'straɪd/ *vt* (*pt* bestrode /bi'strɔud/, *pp* bestridden /bi'strɪdn/) sit, stand, with one leg on each side of: ~ *a horse.* ⇨ astride.

bet /bet/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* ~ or occasionally ~ted) (-tt-) **1** risk money on a race or an event of which the result is doubtful: *He ~ me a pound that he would win.* **2** (*informal*) be certain: *I ~ I win.* □ *n* [C] agreement to risk money, etc on an event of which the result is doubtful; the money, etc offered: *make a ~; put a ~ on; win/lose a ~.*

be-tray /bi'treɪ/ *vt* **1** be disloyal to; act deceitfully towards: *He ~ed his principles.* **2** allow (a secret) to become known, either by accident or on purpose. **3** be or give a sign of, show: *His accent ~ed the fact that he was a foreigner.*

be-trayal /bi'treɪəl/ *n* (a) [U] betraying or being betrayed. (b) [C] instance of this.

be-trayer, person who betrays.

be-trothed /bi'trɔʊd/ *adj* (*literary*) engaged. □ *n* [C] person engaged to be married.

be-trothal /-ðl/, engagement to marry.

bet-ter¹ /'betə(r)/ *adj* **1** having more qualities or abilities: *This is good but that is ~.* *He's a ~ man than his brother.* **no better than**, practically the same as: *He's no ~ than a fool.* **have seen better days**, be not so poor or unfortunate as at present. **his better half**, (*informal*) his wife. **2** (of health) improving: *He feels ~ today but is still not well enough to get up.* **quite better**, recovered: *I'm quite ~ now.* ⇨ good, best.

bet-ter² /'betə(r)/ *adv* **1** (of qualities, etc such as kindness, health, beauty, etc) more: *You would write ~ if you had a good pen. You play tennis ~ than I do. You'll like it ~ (= more) when you understand it more.* **be better off**, richer; more comfortable. **be better off without**, happier: *We'd be ~ off without all that noise.* **know better**, (a) be wise or experienced enough not to do something: *You*

ought to know ~ than to go out with wet hair.
(b) refuse to accept a statement (because one knows it is not true): *He says he didn't cheat, but I know ~, feel sure that he did.* **2** **had better**, would find it more suitable, more to your advantage, etc: *You had ~ mind your own business. You'd ~ not say that, I advise you not to say that. Hadn't you ~ take an umbrella?*

bet-ter ¹/bɛtə(r)/ *n* **get the better of sb/sth**, overcome; defeat; win (an argument, etc): *She always gets the ~ of the quarrels/him.* **for better or (for) worse**, whether one has good or bad fortune.

bet-ter ²/bɛtə(r)/ *vt* improve; do better than: *Your work last year was good; I hope you will ~ it, this year. She hopes to ~ herself (= earn more, etc) in the Civil Service.*

bet-ter, **bet-tor** ¹/bɛtə(r)/ *n* [C] person who bets.

be-tween ¹/bɪ'twi:n/ *adv* in or into a place or time that is between: *We visited the Museum in the morning and the Art Gallery later, with a quick lunch ~.* **few and far between**, few and widely scattered or separate: *In this part of Canada houses are few and far ~.* **in between**, spaced out among.

be-tween ²/bɪ'twi:n/ *prep* **1** (of place): *The letter B comes ~ A and C.* (Note: between usually involves only two limits, but when boundaries are concerned, there may be more than two limits: *Switzerland lies ~ France, Italy, Austria and Germany.* ⇨ among.) **2** (of order, rank, etc): *An army major ranks ~ a captain and a colonel.* **3** (of time): *~ the two world wars; ~ 1 o'clock and 2 o'clock.* **4** (of distance, amount, etc): *~ five and six miles; somewhere ~ thirty and forty years old.* **5** to and from: *This liner sails ~ Southampton and New York.* **6** (showing connection): *after all there has been ~ us*, in view of our past friendship, the experiences we have shared, etc. **7** (to show sharing; used of two only): *Divide/Share the money ~ you.* **between ourselves/you, me and the gatepost/you and me**, in confidence. **8** (to show combination, used of two, or more than two to show several independent relationships): *We (two or more) saved up for a year and bought a second-hand car ~ us.* **9** (showing relationship): *the distinction ~ right and wrong; wars ~ nations.*

be-vel ¹/bɛvl/ *n* [C] sloping edge; surface with such a slope, eg at the side of a picture frame. □ *vt* (-ll-, US = -l-) give a sloping edge to.

be-ver-age ¹/bɛvərɪdʒ/ *n* [C] any sort of drink except water, eg milk, tea, wine, beer.

be-ware ¹/bɪ'weə(r)/ *vi, vt* (usually imperative or infinitive) be on guard, take care: *B~ of the dog! B~ of pickpockets!*

be-wil-der ¹/bɪ'wɪldə(r)/ *vt* puzzle; confuse: *The old woman from the country was ~ed by the crowds and traffic in the big city.*

be-wilder-ing *adj*

be-wilder-ment *n* [U]

be-witch ¹/bɪ'wɪtʃ/ *vt* **1** work magic on; put a

magic spell on. **2** charm; delight very much: *She danced so well that she ~ed all the men.*

be-witch-ing *adj*: a ~ing smile.

be-witch-ing-ly *adv*

be-yond ¹/bɪ'jɒnd/ *adv* at or to a distance; farther on: *India and the lands ~.*

be-yond ²/bɪ'jɒnd/ *prep* **1** at, on or to, the farther side of: *The house is ~ the bridge.* **2** (of time) later than: *Don't stay out ~ 6 o'clock (after is more usual).* **3** surpassing, exceeding; out of reach of: *That's going ~ a joke*, passes the limits of what is reasonable as a joke. *He lives ~ his income*, spends more than he earns. *It's quite ~ me*, is more than I can understand.

bi- ¹/baɪ/ *prefix* **1** happening twice (in one period): *bi-monthly; bi-annual.* **2** lasting for two, happening every two: *bicentennial.* **3** having two: *bilingual; biped.*

bias ¹/baɪəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) **1** particular inclination or tendency: *He has a strong ~ towards/against the plan*, is in favour of it/opposed to it without having full knowledge of it. **2** **cut on the bias**, (dress-making, etc) cut across, slantingly. □ *vt* (*pt, pp* ~ed) give a bias to; influence (usually unfairly): *The government used newspapers and the radio to ~ the opinions of the people.*

bib ¹/bɪb/ *n* [C] **1** piece of cloth tied under a child's chin. **2** upper part of an apron.

Bible ¹/baɪbl/ *n* sacred writings of the Jews and the Christian Church.

bib-li-cal ¹/bɪblɪkəl/ *adj* of, contained in, the Bible: *biblical references.*

bib-li-ogra-pher ¹/bɪblɪ'ɒgrəfə(r)/ *n* [C] person who writes or studies bibliographies.

bib-li-o-graph-ical ¹/bɪblɪ'ɒgrəfɪkəl/ *adj* of, concerning a, bibliography.

bib-li-og-raphy ¹/bɪblɪ'ɒgrəfi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** [C] list of books and writings of one author or about one subject. **2** [U] study of the authorship, editions, etc of books.

bib-li-o-phil ¹/bɪblɪ'ɒfɪl/ *n* [C] person who loves and collects books.

bi-cen-ten-ary ¹/baɪ'sentɪ'nəri/ *US*: -'sɛntənəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (celebration of the) 200th anniversary of an event.

bi-cen-ten-nial ¹/baɪ'sentɪ'nɪəl/ *adj* **1** happening once in 200 years. **2** lasting for 200 years. **3** of a 200th anniversary: *The ~ celebrations in the USA in 1976.* □ *n* [C] 200th anniversary.

bi-ceps ¹/baɪsɛps/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) large muscle in the front part of the upper arm.

bi-cycle ¹/baɪsɪkl/ *n* [C] two-wheeled machine propelled by using pedals, for riding on. □ *vi* (usually shortened to *cycle*) ride a bicycle; go (to) on a bicycle.

bid ¹/bɪd/ *n* [C] **1** (at an auction sale) offer of a price: *Are there no ~s for this very fine painting?* **2** **make a bid for**, try to obtain (by offering something): *make a ~ for popular support.* **3** (in card-games, esp bridge) statement of the number of tricks a player proposes to win: *a ~ of 2 hearts.*

bid² /bɪd/ vt, vi (pt, pp ~) (-dd-) **1** (at an auction sale) make an offer of money; offer (a certain price): *Will anyone bid £5 for this painting?* **2** (playing certain card-games) make a bid: ~ *2 hearts*. ⇨ *outbid*.

bid-der /bɪdə(r)/ n [C] (pt bade /bæd/, pp ~den /'bɪdən/ or ~) (old use) **1** command; tell: *He bade me (to) come in*. **2** say (as a greeting, etc): ~ *him good morning*.

bid-der /bɪdə(r)/ n [C] person who bids at cards.

bid-ding /'bɪdɪŋ/ n [C] **1** *do sb's bidding*, do what he commands. **2** [U] act of offering a price at an auction sale: ~ *was brisk*. There were many bids, quickly made. **3** (at cards) the making of bids(3).

bi-en-nial /baɪ'eniəl/ adj **1** lasting for two years. **2** happening every alternate year.

bier /bɪə(r)/ n [C] movable wooden stand for a coffin or a dead body.

bi-focal /,baɪ'fəʊkl/ adj (esp of lenses in spectacles) designed for both distant and near vision.

bi-focals n pl spectacles with bifocal lenses.

big /bɪɡ/ adj (-ger, -gest) (opposite = *little*; ⇨ *large, small*) of large size, capacity, extent, importance, etc: ~ *feet/ideas/gardens/cups*; a ~ *day*, an important one; ~ *hearted*, (informal) generous, kind. **think big**, have big ideas.

big 'business, (a) powerful financial or business resources. (b) (informal) very important concern.

'big-head, (informal) conceited person.

'big noise/shot/wig, (sl) important person.

'big 'top, large tent for a circus.

big-am-ist /'bɪgəməst/ n [C] person guilty of bigamy.

big-am-ous /'bɪgəməs/ adj guilty of, involving, bigamy.

big-amy /'bɪgəmi/ n [U] having two wives or husbands living, a crime in Christian countries.

bight /baɪt/ n [C] curve in a coast, larger than, or with not so much curve as, a bay.

bigot /'bɪɡət/ n [C] person with a strong opinion or belief and who will not change it in spite of reason or argument.

big-oted adj intolerant and narrow-minded.

bike /baɪk/ n (informal and common abbr for) bicycle. □ vi = cycle.

bi-kini /bɪ'kɪni/ n [C] (pl ~s) two-piece clothing (bra and briefs) worn by girls and women for swimming and sun-bathing.

bi-lat-eral /,baɪ'lætərəl/ adj **1** of, on, with, two sides. **2** (legal) (of an agreement, etc) made between two (persons, governments).

bile /baɪl/ n [U] brownish-yellow bitter liquid produced by the liver to help in digesting food.

bilge /bɪldʒ/ n [U] **1** ship's bottom, inside or outside; (also ~water) the dirty water that collects here. **2** (sl) foolish or worthless talk or writing.

bil-har-zia /,bɪl'hɑ:ziə/ n [U] tropical disease caused by parasites in the blood and bladder.

bi-lin-gual /,baɪ'lɪŋgwəl/ adj **1** speaking, using, two languages. **2** written, printed, in two languages.

bil-ious /'bɪljəs/ adj feeling sick, because of too much bile: a ~ *attack*; ~ *patients*.

bill¹ /bɪl/ n [C] horny part of the mouth of some birds. □ vi **bill and coo**, (of doves and fig) exchange caresses.

bill² /bɪl/ n [C] **1** written statement of charges for goods delivered or services given: *There are some ~s to pay/to be paid*. **foot the bill**, ⇨ *foot*². **2** written or printed notice, poster, etc. **fill the bill**, be, do, all that is required or expected. **3** (legal) proposed law, to be discussed by a parliament (and called an *Act* when passed). **4** (US) banknote: a *ten-dollar ~*. **5** certificate: ~ *of entry*, one from Customs to show final clearance of goods; a *clean ~ of health*, one certifying that a person is healthy. □ vi **1** make known by means of bills(2); announce, advertise in, a programme: *Oliver was ~ed to appear as Lear*. **2 bill sb for sth**, give or send a bill(1) to.

bill-let /'bɪlət/ n [C] place (usually a private house) where soldiers are boarded and lodged. □ vi place (troops) in billets.

bill-liards /'bɪljədz/ n (used with a *sing verb*) game played with balls and long tapering sticks (called *cues*) on an oblong, cloth-covered table.

bil-lion /'bɪljən/ n [C] **1** (GB) million millions or 10¹². **2** (Fr, US) thousand millions or 10⁹.

bil-low /'bɪləʊ/ n [C] (literary) great wave. **2** (pl) (poetic) the sea. **3** (fig) anything that sweeps along like a great wave. □ vi rise or roll like waves: *The flames ~ed over the roof*.

bill-lowy adj rising or moving like billows.

billy-goat /'bɪli gəʊt/ n [C] male goat.

bin /bɪn/ n [C] large rigid container usually with a lid, for storing bread, coal, etc: a ~ *dust*~, bin for rubbish, etc; a ~ *litter*~.

bi-nary /'baɪnəri/ adj of or involving a pair or pairs: a ~ *system*, two stars revolving round a common system or one round the other; the ~ *scale*, (maths) with only two digits, 0 and 1, ie 1 = 1, 2 = 10, 3 = 11, 4 = 100, etc.

bind /baɪnd/ vt, vi (pt, pp bound /baʊnd/) **1** tie or fasten, with rope, etc: *They bound his legs (together) so that he couldn't escape*. **2** (fig) closely linked: *We are bound to him by gratitude/by a close friendship*. **3** secure the edge of something with tape, etc: ~ *the cuffs of a jacket with leather*. **4** tie or wind something round: ~ *up a wound*. **5** fasten (sheets of paper) into a cover: a *book bound in leather*. **6** hold (a person) (by legal agreement, a promise, or under penalty) to a certain course of action: ~ *him to secrecy*, make him promise to keep a secret. **bind sb over** (to keep the peace, etc), order that he must appear before the judge again (if he fails to keep the peace, etc). ⇨ *bound*⁴ for special uses of the pp.

bind-ing, (a) book-cover. (b) strip, tape, etc for protecting an edge or a seam (of clothes, etc).

bingo /'bɪŋɡəʊ/ *n* [U] gambling game played with cards on which numbered squares are covered as the numbers are called.

bin-nacle /'bɪnəkl/ *n* [C] (naut) non-magnetic stand for a ship's compass.

bin-ocu-lars /bɪ'nɒkjʊləz/ *n pl* (also a pair of ~) instrument with lenses for both eyes, making distant objects seem nearer.

bio- /baɪə- baɪ'ɒ-, baɪəʊ-/ *prefix* of life, of living organisms: *biographic*; *biology*; *biochemistry*.

bio-chem-is-try /,baɪəʊ'kɛmɪstri/ *n* [U] chemistry of living organisms.

bi-og-ra-pher /baɪ'ɒgrəfə(r)/ *n* [C] person who writes a biography.

bio-graphic, **-i-cal** /,baɪə'græfɪk, -ɪkl/ *adj* of biography.

bi-og-ra-phy /baɪ'ɒgrəfi/ *n* 1 [C] person's life-history written by another. 2 [U] branch of literature dealing with the life-history of persons.

bio-logi-cal /,baɪə'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* of biology: ~ *warfare*, the deliberate use of germs, etc for spreading disease.

bi-ol-ogist /baɪ'ɒlədʒɪst/ *n* [C] student of, expert in, biology.

bi-ol-ogy /baɪ'ɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] science of the physical life of animals and plants.

bi-onic /baɪ'ɒnɪk/ *adj* of bionics (and, in stories, having exceptional physique because of electronic transplants).

bi-onics /baɪ'ɒnɪks/ *n* [U] (used with a *sing verb*) scientific study of the way the brain works and its application to electronic development.

bi-par-ti-san /,baɪpɑ:tɪ'zæn *US*: baɪ'pɑ:rtɪzən/ *adj* of, supported by, consisting of, two otherwise opposed (esp political) parties: a ~ *foreign policy*.

bi-ped /'baɪpɛd/ *n* [C] two-footed animal, eg a man or a bird.

bi-plane /'baɪpleɪn/ *n* [C] aircraft with two pairs of wings, one above the other.

birch /bɜ:tʃ/ *n* 1 [C] (kinds of) forest tree growing in northern countries with a smooth bark and slender branches. 2 [U] its wood.

bird /bɜ:d/ *n* [C] 1 feathered creature with two legs and two wings, usually able to fly. **A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush**, (proverb) Something which one has, though small, is better than anything one has not or cannot have. **kill two birds with one stone**, achieve two aims at the same time. 2 (sl) young girl, esp a girlfriend.

'bird-brained *adj* (sl) unintelligent.

'bird-cage, cage for birds.

'bird's-eye view, (a) wide view seen from high up. (b) (fig) general survey without details.

'bird-watcher, one who studies the habits of birds.

biro /'baɪərəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) (P) (kind of) ball-point pen.

birth /bɜ:θ/ *n* 1 [C,U] (process of) being born, coming into the world: *The baby weighed seven pounds at ~*, when it was born. **give birth to**, produce (a child). 2 [U] origin, descent: *She is Russian by ~ and British by marriage*.

'birth-control, (method of) preventing an unwanted pregnancy.

'birth-day, (anniversary of the) day of one's birth.

'birth-mark, mark on the body at or from birth.

'birth-place, house or district in which one was born.

'birth-rate, number of births in one year for every 1000 persons.

bis-cuit /'bɪskɪt/ *n* [C] flat, thin, crisp cake of many kinds, sweetened or unsweetened.

bi-sect /baɪ'sekt/ *vt* cut or divide into two (usually equal parts).

bi-sec-tion /,baɪ'sekʃn/ *n* [U] division into two (equal) parts.

bishop /'bɪʃəp/ *n* [C] 1 Christian clergyman of high rank who organizes the work of the Church in a city or district. 2 chess piece.

bishop-ric /-rɪk/, office, district, etc of a bishop.

bi-son /'baɪsɒn/ *n* [C] (pl unchanged) European wild ox; American buffalo.

bis-tro /'bɪstrəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) small bar, restaurant or nightclub.

bit¹ /bɪt/ *n* [C] 1 mouth-piece (metal bar) forming part of a horse's bridle. 2 part of a tool that cuts or grips when twisted. 3 tool for boring or drilling holes.

bit² /bɪt/ *n* [C] small piece of anything: *He ate every ~ of (= all) his dinner*. **a bit**, a little: *She's feeling a ~ tired*. ⇨ off² (5). **a bit of a**, to a small degree: *He's a ~ of a coward*. **not a bit**, not at all; not in the least: *He doesn't care a ~*. **wait a bit**, a short time. **bit by bit**, slowly, gradually. **every bit as good, etc as**, equally (good, etc). **go/come to bits**, into small pieces. **pull/cut/tear sth to bits**, into small pieces.

bit³ /bɪt/ ⇨ bite².

bitch /bɪtʃ/ *n* [C] 1 female dog, wolf or fox. 2 (informal) spiteful woman or girl. ⇨ *vi* (informal) complain bitterly; speak spitefully to or about a person.

bite¹ /baɪt/ *n* 1 [C] act of biting. 2 [C] injury resulting from a bite or sting: *His face was covered with ~insect ~s*. 3 [C] piece cut off by biting: *I haven't had a ~ since morning*, have eaten nothing. 4 [C] catching of a fish on a hook: *He had been fishing all morning but hadn't had a ~*. 5 [U] sharpness; sting: *There's a ~ in the air this morning*. 6 [U] grip; hold: *a file/screw with plenty of ~*.

bite² /baɪt/ *vt, vi* (pt bit /bɪt/, pp bitten /'bɪtn/), 1 cut into with the teeth: *The dog bit me in the leg*. **bite off more than one can chew**, attempt too much. **bite the dust**, (fig) fall to

the ground; be killed. **bite one's lip**, try to conceal one's anger or annoyance. **2 (a)** (of fleas, mosquitoes, etc) sting. **(b)** (of fish) accept the bait: *The fish wouldn't ~*. **3** cause a sharp pain to; injure: *His fingers were bitten by the frost/were frost-bitten*. **4** take strong hold of; grip: *The roads were covered with sand and the wheels did not ~*.

bit-ing /'bitɪŋ/ *adj* sharp; cutting: *a ~ wind*; ~ words.

bit-ing-ly *adv*

bit-ten /'bɪtən/ ⇨ bite².

bit-ter /'bɪtə(r)/ *adj* **1** (opposite = *sweet*) tasting sharp and unpleasant. **2** unwelcome to the mind; unpleasant; causing sorrow: ~ disappointments/memories. **3** filled with, showing, caused by, envy, hate or disappointment: ~ quarrels/enemies. **4** extremely sharp and cold: *a ~ wind*. **5 to the bitter 'end**, until all that is possible has been done, even until death. □ **n** **1** [U] bitter beer: *a pint of ~*. **2** (pl) liquor made from herbs, fruits, etc used to help digestion, to flavour gin, etc.

bit-ter-ly *adv*

bit-ter-ness *n* [U]

bit-tern /'bɪtə:n/ *n* [C] any of several kinds of wading birds that live on marshes.

bitu-men /'bɪtʃəmən/ *n* [U] black, sticky substance (from petroleum) used for making roads, etc.

bi-valve /'baɪvæl/v/ *n* [U] water animal with a hinged double shell, eg an oyster, a mussel, a clam.

bi-week-ly /,baɪ'wi:kli/ *adj* lasting for two weeks; happening every alternate week.

bi-zarre /bɪ'zɑ:(r)/ *adj* very odd to look at, to have occurred, etc: *a ~ experience*.

blab /blæb/ *vt, vi* (-bb-) talk foolishly or indiscreetly; tell (a secret).

black /blæk/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** without light or almost without light; of the colour of this printing-ink. **be black and blue**, covered with bruises. **in black and white**, written down. **be in sb's black book(s)**, ⇨ book¹(4). **be not so black as one is painted**, be not so bad as one is said to be. **2** (various uses, mostly to intensify the meaning of the noun): ~ despair/moods. **3** (of work in a factory, shipyard, etc during a strike; of the materials, etc) not to be done, handled, etc: *The strikers declared the work/cargo ~*. **4** Negro. □ **n** **1** [U] black colour. **2** [C,U] Negro (formerly discrediting, but now widely used): *B ~ is beautiful* □ **vt** **1** make black; clean (boots, etc) with shoe-polish. **2** declare black(3): *The strikers ~ed the ship/ the cargo*.

black 'art/'magic, used for evil purposes. **'black-ball** *vt* prevent (a person) from being elected a member of a club by voting against him at a secret ballot.

'black-berry, small berry, black when ripe, growing wild on bushes (called *brambles*).

'black-bird, common European songbird.

'black-board, board used in schools for

writing and drawing on with chalk.

'black-cur-rant, kind of currant with black fruit.

'black 'gold, (informal) oil.

'black-guard /'blæɡɑ:d/ *n* [C] person who behaves dishonourably. □ **vi** call (a person) a blackguard; use very bad language about or to (a person).

'black-head, (kind of) pimple on the skin, the top being black.

'black 'ice, ice, esp on a road surface, which is invisible and dangerous to drive on.

'black-lead, soft, grey-black substance as used for lead pencils.

'black-leg *n* [C] person who offers to work when the regular workers are on strike. □ **vi, vt** (-gg-) betray (workers) by doing this.

'black-list *n* [C] list of persons who are considered dangerous or who are to be punished. □ **vt** enter a person's name on such a list.

'black 'magic, ⇨ black art.

'black-mail *vt, n* [U] (force a person to make a) payment of money for not making known something to harm his character. Hence, **'black-mailer**, person who does this.

'black 'market, (place for) unlawful buying and selling of goods, currencies, etc.

'black-out *n* [C] (a) (during wartime) the keeping of all buildings, streets, etc dark in order to prevent any light being seen, esp from the air. (b) temporary complete failure of the memory or consciousness. (c) putting out of all lights on the stage of a theatre, eg for a change of scenery. □ **vi, vt** cause a blackout ((a) and (c) above); lose one's memory, etc temporarily.

'black 'pudding, dark sausage made of blood, suet, etc.

'black 'sheep, worthless person.

'black-smith, man who makes and repairs things of iron, esp who shoes horses.

blacken /'blækən/ *vt, vi* **1** make or become black. **2** say harmful things about (a person).

blad-der /'blædə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** bag of skin in which urine collects in human and animal bodies. ⇨ also gall-bladder. **2** bag of rubber, etc that can be filled with air, eg in a football.

blade /bleɪd/ *n* [C] **1** sharp cutting part of a knife, sword, chisel, etc. **2** ('razor-~) thin, flat piece of steel with a sharp edge for shaving: *a packet of five razor-~s*. **3** flat wide part of an oar (the part that goes into the water), bat, propeller, etc. **4** flat, long, narrow leaf, esp of grass and cereals (wheat, barley, etc).

blame /bleɪm/ *vt* accuse a person of being responsible for something: *He ~d the teacher for his failure*. *I am not to ~*, am not responsible. □ **n** [U] responsibility for failure, etc: *Where does the ~ lie?* Who or what is responsible? ⇨ put(3).

blame-less *adj* free from responsibility or faults; innocent.

blame-less-ly *adv*

blame-worthy *adj* deserving blame.

blanch /blɑːntʃ/ US: blæntʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** make or become pale or white, eg by taking the skin off almonds. **2** make or become pale with fear, cold, etc.

bland /blænd/ *adj* **1** gentle or polite in manner or talk (usually not genuine). **2** (of air, food, drink) mild; comforting.

bland-ly *adv*

bland-ness *n* [U]

blank /blæŋk/ *adj* **1** (of paper) with nothing written, printed or drawn on it: *a ~ sheet of paper*. **2** (of a document) with spaces in which details, signature, etc are to be filled in: *a ~ cheque*. **3** empty; without interest or expression: *There was a ~ look on his face*. He seemed not to be interested, not to understand, etc. *My mind went ~*, I could not recall things, esp things I needed to remember. □ *n* [C] **1** space left empty or to be filled (in an application form, etc). **2** empty surface; emptiness: *His mind/memory was a complete ~*, he could remember nothing. **3** cartridge without a bullet.

blank cartridge, ⇨ **blank n** (3).

blank cheque, signed but with no amount stated.

blank verse, (a) without rhyme. (b) (usually 10 lines) with a rhythm common in English epic and dramatic poems.

blank-ly *adv*

blanket /'blæŋkɪt/ *n* [C] **1** thick, woollen covering as used on beds. **2** (fig) similar covering or layer: *a ~ of snow*. ⇨ **wet blanket**. □ *vt* be thickly covered with: *The valley was ~ed with fog*.

blare /bleə(r)/ *n* [U] sound or noise (as of trumpets or horns). □ *vi, vt* make or produce such sounds: *The trumpets ~d (forth)*. He ~d out a warning, shouted.

blasé /'blɑːzeɪ/ US: blaː'zeɪ/ *adj* tired of pleasure; bored.

blas-pheme /blæs'fiːm/ *vi, vt* speak in an irreverent way about God and sacred things: ~ the name of God.

blas-phemer, person who blasphemes.

blas-phem-ous /'blæs'fəməs/ *adj* (a) (of persons) using blasphemy. (b) (of language) containing blasphemy.

blas-phem-ous-ly *adv*

blas-phemy /'blæs'fəmi/ *n* [U] contemptuous or irreverent talk about God and sacred things; [C] instance of this.

blast /blɑːst US: blæst/ *n* [C] **1** strong, sudden rush of wind: *A ~ of hot air came from the oven*. **2** strong rush of air or gas spreading outwards from an explosion: *Thousands of windows were broken by the 'bomb-~*. **at full blast**, (informal) with the maximum activity. **3** sound made by a wind-instrument: *The hunter blew a ~ on his horn*. **4** quantity of explosive (eg dynamite) used at one time (eg in a quarry). □ *vt* **1** blow up (rocks, etc) with explosives. **2** cause to come to nothing; injure: *The tree had been ~ed by lightning*. His hopes were

~ed. **3 blast off**, (of spacecraft, etc) be forced upwards by expanding gases.

'blast-furnace, for melting iron-ore by forcing heated air into it.

'blast-off, (time of) launching of a spacecraft. ⇨ **vt** 3 above.

blast /blɑːst US: blæst/ *int* (used in curses or in anger): *B~ you!*

blasted *adj* (used to show how strongly one feels): *What a ~ed nuisance!*

bla-tant /'bleɪtənt/ *adj* noisy and rough; attracting attention in a vulgar and shameless way; too obvious.

bla-tant-ly *adv*

blaze /bleɪz/ *n* [C] **1** bright flame or fire: *We could see the ~ of a fire through the window*. **2** fire; burning building: *It took the firemen two hours to put out the ~*. **3** (pl) hell: *Go to ~s!* He was working like ~s, working very hard. **4** glow of colour; bright light: *The red tulips made a ~ of colour in the garden*. **5** violent outburst: *in a ~ of anger*.

blaze /bleɪz/ *vi, vt* **1** burn with flame: *When the firemen arrived the whole building was blazing*. **2** be bright with colour; shine brightly or with warmth: *The sun ~d down on us*. **3** burst out with strong feeling: *He was blazing with anger/indignation*.

blazing *adj*

blaze /bleɪz/ *n* [C] white mark on a horse's or an ox's face; mark made on a tree by cutting the bark. □ *vt* mark (a tree) by cutting off part of the bark. **blaze a trail**, (fig) be first to do something and show others how to do it.

blaze /bleɪz/ *vt* make known far and wide: ~ the news (abroad).

blazer /'bleɪzə(r)/ *n* [C] loose-fitting jacket (sometimes in the colours of a school, club, team, etc).

bleach /bliːtʃ/ *n* [U] chemical used for bleaching or sterilizing. □ *vi, vt* make or become white (by chemical action or sunlight): ~ linen; bones of animals ~ing on the desert sand.

bleak /blik/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (of the weather) cold and miserable; (of a place) bare, swept by cold winds: *a ~ hillside*. **2** (fig) depressing: ~ prospects.

bleak-ly *adv*

bleary /'bliəri/ *adj* dim; blurred.

'bleary-eyed /'bliəri 'aɪd/ *adj* having blurred vision.

bleat /bliːt/ *n* [C, U] cry of a sheep, goat or calf. □ *vi, vt* make a cry of this kind.

bleed /bliːd/ *vi, vt* (pt, pp bled /bled/) **1** lose, send out, blood; suffer wounds (for a cause, etc): *If you cut your finger it will ~*. **2** feel great distress: *Our hearts ~ for homeless people during this cold winter*. **3** (informal) force (a person) to pay money unjustly: *The blackmailers bled him for £500*.

bleep /bliːp/ *n* [C] high-pitched sound or signal as sent out by radio (eg used in a hospital to call a doctor). □ *vi* make such sounds.

blem-ish /'blemɪʃ/ *n* [C, U] mark, etc that

spoils the beauty or perfection; moral defect: *without ~*, faultless. □ *vt* spoil the perfection of.

blench /blentʃ/ *vi* make a quick movement of fear.

blend /blend/ *vt, vi* 1 mix together, esp sorts of coffee, tobacco, spirits, etc to get a certain quality. 2 mix, form a mixture: *Oil does not ~ with water*. 3 go well together; have no sharp or unpleasant contrast: *How well their voices ~!* 4 (esp of colours) pass by degrees into each other: *These two colours ~ well*. □ *n* [C] mixture made of various sorts (of tea, tobacco, etc): *This coffee is a ~ of Java and Brazil*.

bles /bles/ *vt* (pt, pp ~ed /blest/ and blest, as in 5 below) 1 ask God's favour for: *They brought the children to Jesus and he ~ed them*. 2 wish happiness or favour to: *B~ you, my boy!* 3 consecrate; make sacred or holy: *bread ~ed at the altar*. 4 *be blessed with*, be fortunate in having: *May you always be ~ed with good health*. 5 (dated informal) (in exclamations): *B~ my soul! I'm blest if I know! I don't know at all*. 6 *Bless you!* (said to a person who has sneezed.)

bles-sed /'blesɪd/ *adj* 1 holy, sacred: *the B~ Virgin*, the mother of Jesus; *the B~ Sacrament*, Holy Communion. 2 fortunate: *B~ are the poor in spirit*. 3 *the B~*, those who are with God in paradise. 4 (sl) = *blasted*: *I've broken the whole ~ lot*.

bles-sing /'blesɪŋ/ *n* [C] 1 the favour of God; prayer for God's favour; thanks to God before or after a meal: *ask a ~*. 2 something that one is glad of, that brings comfort or happiness: *What a ~ it is you didn't get caught in the storm yesterday!* 3 *a blessing in disguise*, something that seemed unfortunate, but that is seen later to be fortunate.

blew /blu:/ ⇨ blow².

blight /blaɪt/ *n* 1 [U] (sorts of) plant disease; mildew. 2 [C] evil influence of obscure origin: *a ~ on his hopes*. □ *vt* be a bad influence on: *His hopes were ~ed*.

blind¹ /blaɪnd/ *adj* 1 without the power to see: *Tom helped the ~ man across the road*. *turn a blind eye (to sth)*, pretend not to see it. 2 unable to see effects, to judge or understand well: *Mothers are sometimes ~ to the faults of their children*. 3 reckless; thoughtless: *In his ~ haste he almost ran into the river*. 4 not having a purpose: *Some people think that the world is governed by ~ forces*.

blind 'alley, ⇨ alley.

blind 'date, ⇨ date¹.

blind 'drunk, very drunk.

blind-man's 'buff, game in which a person is blindfolded and tries to catch and identify others.

'blind spot, (a) point on the retina insensible to light. (b) (fig) something one does not seem able to understand or know in spite of having information.

'blind 'turning, one in a road that cannot

easily be seen by drivers.

blind² /blaɪnd/ *vt* 1 make blind: *a ~ing light*. 2 (fig) take away the power of judgement: *His feelings for her ~ed him to her faults*.

blind-ly *adv*

blind-ness *n* [U]

blind³ /blaɪnd/ *n* [C] 1 roll of cloth fixed on a roller and pulled down to cover a window: *pull down/lower, draw up/raise the ~s*. 2 (fig) deception: *It was only a ~*.

blind-fold /'blaɪndfəʊld/ *vt* cover the eyes of (a person) with a bandage, scarf, etc so that he cannot see. □ *n* [C] such a cover. □ *adj* (as) with the eyes bandaged, etc: *I could do it ~, easily*.

blink /blɪŋk/ *vi, vt* 1 shut and open the eyes quickly: *~ the eyes; ~ away a tear*. 2 (of lights, esp when in the distance) come and go; shine in an unsteady way: *We saw the lighthouse ~ing on the horizon*. □ *n* [C] act of blinking.

blink-ers /'blɪŋkəz/ *n* *pl* leather squares to prevent a horse from seeing sideways.

blip /blɪp/ *n* [C] 1 short sound as from electronic equipment. 2 spot of light on a radar screen.

bliss /blɪs/ *n* [U] perfect happiness; great joy.

'bliss-ful /-fl/ *adj*

'bliss-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

blis-ter /'blɪstə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 small swelling under the skin, filled with liquid (caused by rubbing, burning, etc): *If your shoes are too tight, you may get ~s on your feet*. 2 similar swelling on the surface of metal, painted or varnished wood, etc. □ *vt, vi* cause, get, a blister or blisters on.

blitz /blɪts/ *n* [C] rapid, violent attack (esp from the air). □ *vt* damage or destroy in this way.

bliz-zard /'blɪzəd/ *n* [C] violent and heavy snowstorm.

bloated /'bləʊtɪd/ *adj* 1 swollen; fat and large in an unhealthy way: *a ~ face*. 2 (fig): *~ with pride*, very proud.

blob /blɒb/ *n* [C] drop of liquid, eg paint; small round mass, eg of wax; spot of colour. □ *vt* (-bb-) drop (paint, etc) in blobs.

bloc /blɒk/ *n* [C] combination of parties, groups, states, etc with a special interest: *the sterling ~*, of countries with currencies related to sterling.

block¹ /blɒk/ *n* [C] 1 large, solid piece of wood, stone, etc: *A butcher cuts up his meat on a large ~ of wood*. 2 mass of buildings (shops, offices, apartments, etc) joined together; (esp US) area of buildings bounded by four streets; the length of one side of such an area: *To reach the post office, walk two ~s and then turn left*. 3 division of seats in a theatre, concert hall, etc. 4 large quantity or unit: *a ~ booking*, reservations for a group (to travel, etc). 5 obstruction: *There was a ~ in the pipe and the water couldn't flow away*. ⇨ road-block. 6 *the ~*, (in olden times) large piece of wood on which a person put his neck to have his head cut off as a punishment. 7 shaped piece of

wood on which hats are moulded. **8** (often ~ *and tackle*) pulley, or system of pulleys, in a wooden case. **9** piece of wood or metal with designs, etc cut (engraved) on it for printing. **10** (sl) (person's) head: *I'll knock your ~ off!* ⇨ blockhead.

block 'letters/'writing, with each letter separate and in capitals: *Write your name in ~ letters.*

block² /blɒk/ vt **1** make movement difficult or impossible; obstruct: *All roads were ~ed by the heavy snowfall.* **2** make (action) difficult or impossible: *The general succeeded in ~ing the enemy's plans.* **3** (chiefly in the pp) restrict the use or expenditure of (currency, etc): *~ed sterling.* **4** shape (eg hats) on a block¹(7). **5** **block in/out**, make a rough sketch or plan of the general arrangement (of objects in a drawing, etc).

block-ade /blɒk'keɪd/ n [C] the enclosing or surrounding of a place, eg by armies or warships, to keep goods or people from entering or leaving. *run the blockade*, get through it □ vt make a blockade of, eg a fort, etc.

block-age /'blɒkɪdʒ/ n [C] **1** state of being blocked. **2** thing that blocks: *There's a ~ in the drain-pipe.*

block-head /'blɒk'hed/ n [C] unintelligent and stupid person.

bloke /blɒk/ n [C] (sl) man.

blond /blɒnd/ n [C], adj (man of European race) having fair complexion and hair.

blonde /blɒnd/ n [C], adj (woman who is) blond.

blood /blʌd/ n [U] **1** red liquid flowing throughout the body: **2** passion; temper. *make one's 'blood boil*, ⇨ make¹(13). *(kill sb) in cold blood*, when one is not feeling angry or excited; deliberately. *make one's 'blood run cold*, fill one with fear or horror. **3** relationships; family: *They are of the same ~*, have ancestors in common. *one's own flesh and 'blood*, one's relations. *Blood is thicker than water*, (proverb) The ties of one's family are more important.

'blood bank, ⇨ bank³(2).

'blood-bath, large-scale slaughter, eg during a revolution.

'blood count, (counting of the) number of red and white corpuscles in a certain volume of blood.

'blood-curdling adj producing feelings of horror.

'blood-donor, person who gives blood for transfusions.

'blood feud, serious quarrel between families.

'blood-group/-type, any of several distinct classes of human blood.

'blood-'heat, the normal temperature of human blood (about 98.5°F or 37°C).

'blood-hound, large dog able to trace a person by scent.

'blood-poisoning, condition that results

when poisonous germs enter the blood, esp through a cut or wound.

'blood pressure, the force exerted by blood within the arteries.

'blood 'red adj having the colour of blood.

'blood relation, related by blood, not by marriage.

'blood-shed, killing or wounding of people.

'blood-shot adj (of the white of the eyes) red.

'blood-sports n pl outdoor sports in which animals or birds are killed.

'blood-stream, flow of blood, system of blood vessels, in the body.

'blood-thirsty adj (-ier, -iest) cruel and taking pleasure in killing.

'blood-transfusion, transfer of blood (originally taken) from the veins of one person to those of another.

'blood-vessel, tube (vein or artery) through which blood flows in the body.

blood-less adj (a) without bloodshed: *a ~less victory.* (b) pale; unfeeling and cold-hearted.

blood-less-ly adv

bloody /'blʌdi/ adj **1** bleeding; covered with blood: *a ~ nose.* **2** with much bloodshed: *a ~ battle.* **3** (vulgar) (used to show emphasis, either bad or good, but often with no meaning): *What a ~ shame! You're a ~ fool! 'genius!* □ adv (vulgar sl): *Not ~ likely!* Certainly not!

'bloody-minded, (sl) unwilling to co-operate.

bloom /blu:m/ n **1** [C] flower, esp of plants admired chiefly for their flowers (eg roses, tulips, chrysanthemums): *The tulips are in full ~ now.* **2** (sing only) (time of) greatest beauty or perfection: *She was in the ~ of youth.* □ vi **1** be in flower; bear flowers: *The roses have been ~ing all summer.* **2** (fig) be in full beauty and perfection.

bloomer /'blu:mə(r)/ n [C] (sl) mistake: *He made a tremendous ~.*

bloom-ers /'blu:məz/ n pl (also a pair of ~) loose article of clothing covering each leg to the knee and hanging from the waist, formerly worn by girls and women for games, cycling, etc, with or without a skirt.

blos-som /'blɒsəm/ n **1** [C] flower, esp of a fruit-tree. **2** [U] mass of flowers on a bush or tree: *The apple-trees are in ~.* □ vi **1** open into flowers: *The cherry-trees will ~ next month.* **2** develop: *He ~ed out as a first-rate athlete.*

blot /blɒt/ n [C] **1** mark caused by ink spilt on paper. **2** fault; disgrace; something that takes away the beauty or goodness: *a ~ on his character*; *a ~ on the landscape*, eg an ugly building or advertisement. □ vi (tt-) **1** make a blot or blots on (paper with ink). **2** dry up (wet ink) with blotting-paper. **3** **blot out**, (a) make a blot over (words that have been written): *Several words in his letter had been ~ed out.* (b) hide from view: *The mist came down and ~ed out the view.* (c) destroy, exterminate (enemies, etc).

blot-ter, piece or pad of blotting-paper.

'blot-ting-paper, absorbent paper used to dry up wet ink.

blotch /blɒtʃ/ *n* [C] large, discoloured mark (eg on the skin).

blouse /blaʊz/ *US*: blaʊs/ *n* [C] article of clothing from neck to waist, worn by women and girls, etc.

blow¹ /bləʊ/ *n* [C] **1** hard stroke (given with the hand, a stick, etc): *He struck his enemy a heavy ~ on the head.* **come to blows**, fight. **strike a blow for**, (perform a single act of) support for; struggle for: *strike a ~ for freedom.* **2** shock; disaster: *His wife's death was a great ~ to him.* ⇨ **soften**(2).

blow² /bləʊ/ *vi, vt* (pt blew /blu:/, pp ~n /bləʊn/, or, 9 below, ~ed) **1** (with air, wind, or it as the subject) move along, flow as a current of air: *The wind was ~ing round the street-corners.* **2** (of the wind) cause to move: *The wind blew my hat off. I was almost ~n over by the wind.* **3** (of objects, etc) be moved or carried by the wind or other air current: *The door blew open.* **4** send or force a strong current of air on, into or through: ~ (on) *one's food* (to cool it); ~ *one's nose*, in order to clear it. **5** make by blowing: ~ *bubbles.* **6** produce sound from (a trumpet, etc) by sending air into it; (of a wind-instrument, etc) produce sound: *The referee blew his whistle. We heard the bugles ~ing.* **7** breathe hard and quickly: *The old man was puffing and ~ing when he got to the top of the hill.* **8** (of a fuse) melt because the electric current is too strong; cause to do this: *The fuse has ~n.* **9** (sl uses) spend (money) recklessly or extravagantly: ~ £30 on a dinner with a girlfriend. Well, I'm ~ed! I'm amazed! **blow one's top**, (sl) lose one's temper. ⇨ also **mind**¹(2).

11 (uses with *adverbial particles and prepositions*):

blow back, (of gas in a tube, etc) explode.

blow off steam, release tension by arguing, being noisy, etc: *Parents must let children ~ off steam sometimes.*

blow (sth) out, (be) put out by blowing: *The candle was ~n out by the wind.* **blow one's brains out**, kill oneself by shooting in the head.

blow over, pass by; be forgotten: *The storm/scandal will soon ~ over.*

blow up, (a) explode: *The barrel of gunpowder blew up.* (b) lose one's temper: *I'm sorry I blew up at you.* **blow sb up**, (informal) scold severely: *The teacher blew John up for not doing his homework.* **blow sth up**, (a) break or destroy by explosion: *The soldiers blew up the bridge.* (b) inflate with air or gas: ~ up a tyre. (c) enlarge greatly: ~ up a photograph. (d) exaggerate: *David's abilities have been greatly ~n up by the newspapers.*

'blow-fly, bluebottle.

'blow-lamp/-torch, for directing an intensely hot flame on to a surface.

'blow-out, (a) sudden (often violent) escape of air, steam, etc; (esp) bursting of a tyre. (b) blowing out of an electric fuse. (c) (sl) big meal; feast.

'blow-pipe, (esp) tube for increasing the heat of a flame by forcing air into it.

'blow-up, greatly enlarged photograph.

blow³ /bləʊ/ *n* [C] blowing(4): *Give your nose a good ~, clear it thoroughly.*

blow⁴ /bləʊ/ *vi* (pp ~n /bləʊn/) (chiefly in pp as) full-~ roses, wide open, with petals about to fall.

blower /'bləʊə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** apparatus for forcing air, etc into or through something. **2** person who makes things by blowing (eg a 'glass-~). **3** (GB sl) telephone: *Get Jones on the ~ for me.*

blown /bləʊn/ pp of blow². ⇨ also blow⁴.

blowzy /'bləʊzi/ *adj* (of a woman) red-faced, untidy and cheaply dressed.

blub-ber /'blʌbə(r)/ *n* [U] fat of whales and other sea-animals from which oil is obtained.

bludgeon /'blʌdʒən/ *n* [C] short, thick stick with a heavy end, used as a weapon. □ *vt* **1** strike with a stick: *He had been ~ed to death.* **2** (fig) force or bully somebody into doing something.

blue¹ /blu:/ *adj* (-r, -st) coloured like the sky on a clear day or the deep sea when the sun is shining: *His face was ~ with cold.* **once in a blue moon**, very rarely.

blue² /blu:/ *n* **1** [U] colour: dark/light ~. **2** the sky. **out of the blue**, unexpectedly. **a bolt from the blue**, unexpected. **3** (poetic) (the) sea. **4 a true blue**, a loyal member (of a right-wing political party, esp Conservative). **5 the ~s**, (a) (dances, dance tunes, for) haunting jazz melodies originally of Negroes in the southern US. (b) (informal) condition of being sad, melancholy.

,blue **'blooded** *adj* of aristocratic birth.

'blue-bottle, large fly with a blue body.

blue cheese, kinds which have been pierced with copper rods to produce a blue mould.

,blue-'collar *adj* used of workers in factories, etc (contrasted with *white-collar* workers in offices, etc).

'blue-eyed *adj* (a) having blue eyes. (b) favourite: *He's mummy's ~-eyed boy!*

,blue **'film**, obscene film.

,blue **'joke**, obscene joke.

'blue-print, (a) photographic print, white on blue paper, usually for building plans. (b) (fig) plan, scheme.

'blue-stock-ing, woman who is regarded as having superior literary tastes and intellectual interests.

blue-ish /'blu:ʃ/ *adj* tending towards blue: *blue-ish green.*

blue³ /blu:/ *vt* **1** make blue. **2** (sl) spend (money) recklessly: *bluing £100 on a coat.*

bluff¹ /blʌf/ *n* [C] headland with a broad and very steep face. □ *adj* **1** (of headlands, cliffs, a ship's bows) with a broad, perpendicular

front. **2** (of a person, his manner, etc) rough but simple, honest and kind.

bluff-ness *n* [U]

bluff² /blʌf/ *vt, vi* deceive by pretending.

bluff it out, survive a difficult situation by pretence. □ *n* [U] deception of this kind; (the use of) threats that are intended to get results without being carried out. **call sb's bluff**, invite him to carry out his threats.

blu-ish /'blu:ʃ/ ⇨ **blue**².

blun-der /'blʌndə(r)/ *vi, vt* **1** move about uncertainly, as if blind: ~ into a wall. **2** make foolish mistakes: *Our leaders have ~ed again.* □ *n* [C] careless mistake.

blunt /blʌnt/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** without a point or sharp edge: *a ~ knife.* **2** (of a person, what he says) plain; not trying to be polite: *He's a ~ man.* □ *vt* make blunt: *If you try to cut stone with a knife, you will ~ the edge.*

blunt-ly *adv*: to speak ~ly, frankly.

blunt-ness *n* [U]

blur /blɜ:(r)/ *n* [C] **1** dirty spot or mark; smear of ink. **2** confused or indistinct effect: *If, when you read, you see only a ~, you need glasses.* □ *vt, vi* (-rr-) make a dirty mark or smear on; make or become unclear in appearance: *Tears ~red her eyes. The writing was ~red.*

blurb /blɜ:b/ *n* [C] description of the contents of a book, printed on the jacket, etc.

blurt /blɜ:t/ *vt* **blurt sth out**, tell, eg a secret, suddenly, often thoughtlessly.

blush /blʌʃ/ *vi* **1** become red (in the face) from shame or confusion. **2** be ashamed. □ *n* [C] reddening of the face, eg from shame, etc: *She turned away to hide her ~es.*

blus-ter /'blʌstə(r)/ *vi, vt* **1** (of the wind, waves, etc) storm; be rough or violent. **2** (of persons) act and speak in a forceful but rather unsteady, often rather boastful way. **3** say in this way: ~ out threats. □ *n* [U] **1** noise of violent wind or waves. **2** forceful, noisy talk, behaviour, threats.

blus-tery *adj* (of the weather) rough and windy.

boa /'bəʊə/ *n* [C] (also 'boa-constrictor') large non-poisonous snake that kills by crushing its prey.

boar /bɔ:(r)/ *n* [C] **1** wild male pig. **2** uncastrated male domestic pig.

board¹ /bɔ:d/ *n* [C] **1** long, thin, flat piece of wood with squared edges, used in building walls, floors, boats, ship's decks, etc. **2** flat piece of wood or other material for a special purpose: *a 'notice-~; a 'diving ~, (at a swimming pool).* **3** flat surface with patterns, etc on which games, eg chess, are played. **4** (from the boards that form the deck of a ship) **be/go on board**, be/go on a ship or airliner. **go by the board**, (fig) (of plans, hopes, etc) be given up or abandoned; fail completely. ⇨ also **sweep**(3). **5** committee; group of persons controlling a business, or a government department: *the 'B~ of 'Trade; a 'Selection B~, one that selects (future staff, etc) from ap-*

plicants or candidates. **across the board**, ⇨ **across**². **6** [U] food served at table, esp meals supplied by the week or month (eg at a lodging-house) or as part payment for service: *B~ and lodging £25 weekly.* **7** = cardboard.

'board-room, room in which meetings (of a Board of Directors, etc) are held.

board² /bɔ:d/ *vt, vi* **1** make or cover with boards(1): ~ up a window. **2** get, supply with, meals for a fixed weekly, monthly, etc payment: *In a university town, many people make a living by ~ing students* (⇨ **board**¹(6)). **3** get on or into (a ship, train, bus, etc).

boarder, (a) person who boards with somebody. ⇨ 2 above. (b) schoolboy or girl at a boarding-school (⇨ below).

boarding, (a) structure of boards(1). (b) the providing or receiving of board(6).

'boarding-card, pass for getting on an airliner or ship.

'boarding-house, private house that provides board and lodging.

'boarding school, one at which pupils live.

boast /bəʊst/ *n* [C] words used in praise of oneself, one's acts, belongings, etc; cause for satisfaction or pride: *It was his ~ that he had never failed an examination.* □ *vt, vi* **1** make a boast or boasts: *He ~s of being/~s that he is the best tennis-player in the town.* **2** possess with pride: *Our school ~s a fine swimming-pool.*

boast-ful /-fl/ *adj* (of persons) fond of boasting.

boast-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

boat /bəʊt/ *n* [C] small open vessel for travelling in on water, esp the kind moved with oars ('rowing ~), sails ('sailing ~), engines ('motor-~); also used of fishing-vessels and small steamers: *We crossed the river by ~/in a ~.* **be (all) in the same boat**, have the same dangers to face. **miss the boat**, ⇨ **miss**³(1). ⇨ also **rock**². □ *vi* travel in a boat, esp for pleasure: *We ~ed down the river.* ⇨ also **ferry-boat**, **houseboat** and **lifeboat**.

'boat-house, shed in which boats are stored.

'boat-man, (a) man who rows or sails a small boat for pay. (b) man from whom boats may be hired.

'boat-race, race between boats.

'boat-train, train that takes people to or from a boat.

boat-swain /'bəʊsn/ *n* [C] senior seaman who controls the work of other seamen and is in charge of a ship's rigging, boats, sails, etc.

bob¹ /bɒb/ *vi* (-bb-) move up and down: *The cork on his fishing-line was ~bing on the water.* □ *n* [C] quick up and down movement; curtsy.

bob² /bɒb/ *vt* (-bb-) cut (a woman's or girl's hair) so that it is short and hangs loosely: *She wears her hair ~bed.*

bob-bin /'bɒbɪn/ *n* [C] small roller or spool for thread, wire, etc in a machine.

bobby /'bɒbi/ *n* [C] (GB dated informal) policeman.

bob-sleigh, bob-sled /'bɒbsleɪ, -sled/ *n* [C] racing sleigh for two or more persons. □ *vi* ride in a bobsleigh.

bode /bəʊd/ *vt, vi* **bode well/ill for**, be a good/bad sign of: *His idle habits ~ ill for his future*, suggest that his future career will be a failure. ⇨ **forbode**.

bod-ice /'bɒdɪs/ *n* [C] close-fitting part of a woman's dress from the shoulders to the waist.

bod-ily /'bɒdəlɪ/ *adj* of or in the human body or physical nature: ~ (= physical) *assault*. □ *adv* **1** as a whole or mass; completely: *The shed was transported ~ (= as a whole, without being pulled down) to the end of the garden*. **2** in person; in the body.

bod-kin /'bɒdkɪn/ *n* [C] blunt, thick needle.

body /'bɒdi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** the whole physical structure of a man or animal: *We wear clothes to keep our bodies warm*. **2** dead body; corpse: *His ~ was brought back to England for burial*. **3** main portion of a man or animal without the head, arms and legs: *He received one wound in the left leg and another in the ~*. **4** main part of a structure: *the ~ of a car*. **5** group of persons who do something together or who are united in some way: *Large bodies of unemployed men marched through the streets demanding work*. **in a body**, all together; as a whole: *The staff resigned in a ~*. **6** mass, quantity, collection: *A lake is a ~ of water*. **7** the heavenly bodies, the sun, moon and stars. ⇨ also anybody, everybody, nobody, somebody.

'body-guard, man or men guarding an important person.

'body-politic, the population of a nation.

'body-snatcher, person who steals corpses from graves.

'body-work, main part, material, of (esp) a motor-vehicle.

bog /bɒg/ *n* [C] (area of) soft, wet, spongy ground (chiefly of decayed or decaying vegetable matter). □ *vt, vi* (-gg-) **bog down**, (cause to) be stuck fast, unable to make progress: *The tanks were ~ged down in the mud*. *Don't get ~ged down in too many facts*.

boggy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (of land) soft and wet.

bo-gey /'bəʊgi/ = boggy.

boggle /'bɒgl/ *vi* be unwilling, hesitate, to do something: *The mind/imagination ~s (at the idea)*, is alarmed at the idea.

bo-gus /'bəʊɡəs/ *adj* not genuine.

bogy, bo-gey /'bəʊgi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies, ~s) evil spirit; cause of fear.

boil¹ /boɪl/ *n* [C] hard (usually red, often painful) poisoned swelling under the skin, which bursts when ripe.

boil² /boɪl/ *n* [U] boiling point. **be on the boil**, be boiling. **bring sth to the boil**, heat it until it boils. **come to the boil**, (a) begin to boil. (b) (fig) reach a crisis.

boil³ /boɪl/ *vi, vt* **1** (of water or other liquid, also of the vessel that contains it) reach the

temperature at which change to gas occurs; bubble up: *When water ~s it changes into steam*. The kettle is ~ing. **2** (of the sea, of a person's feelings, etc) be very disturbed: *He was ~ing (over) with rage*. **3** cause water or other liquid to boil; cook in boiling water: *Please ~ my egg for three minutes*. **4** (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

boil away, (a) continue to boil: *The kettle was ~ing away but no-one saw it*. (b) boil until nothing remains: *The water had all ~ed away and the kettle was empty*.

boil down, be reduced in quantity: *It all ~s down to this...*, (informal) The essence (of the statement, proposal, etc) is...

boil over, flow over the side: *The milk had ~ed over*.

'boiling hot *adj* (informal) very hot: *a ~ing hot day*.

'boiling-point, (a) temperature at which a liquid boils. (b) (fig) height of excitement, anger, etc.

boiler /'bɔɪlə(r)/ *n* [C] metal container in which water, etc is heated, eg for producing steam in an engine, for supplying hot water.

'boiler-suit, overalls for rough, dirty work.

bois-ter-ous /'bɔɪstərəs/ *adj* (of a person, his behaviour) noisy and cheerful.

bold /bəʊld/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** without fear; showing absence of fear. **2** without feelings of shame. **as bold as brass**, daring. **3** well marked; clear: *the ~ outline of a mountain*.

bold-ly *adv*

bold-ness *n* [U]

boll /bəʊl/ *n* [C] pod for seeds (of cotton and flax).

'boll 'weevil, small destructive insect in cotton-plants.

bol-lard /'bɒləd/ *n* [C] **1** post on a quay or a ship's deck for making ropes secure. **2** similar post on a traffic island, or a roadway, for organizing parking, directing traffic.

bol-ster¹ /'bəʊlstə(r)/ *n* [C] long pillow.

bol-ster² /'bəʊlstə(r)/ *vi* give (greatly needed encouragement or) support to, eg a person, theory, etc: *She'll need ~ing up if you want her to win the race*.

bolt¹ /bəʊlt/ *n* [C] **1** metal fastening for a door or window, consisting of a sliding pin or rod and a hole into which it fits. **2** metal pin with a head at one end and a thread (as on a screw) at the other, used with a nut for holding things together. **3** discharge of lightning. ⇨ **thunder-bolt**. □ *vt, vi* fasten with a bolt or bolts(1): ~ the doors.

bolt² /bəʊlt/ *vi, vt* **1** (esp of a horse) run off out of control. **2** run away quickly: *As soon as I came downstairs the burglar ~ed through the back door*. **3** swallow (food) quickly: *We ~ed down a little food and hurried on*. □ *n* [C] act of running away. **make a bolt for it**, run away quickly.

bolt³ /bəʊlt/ *adv* (only in) **bolt upright**, suddenly and completely upright.

bomb /bɒm/ *n* [C] hollow metal ball or shell filled either with explosive or with smoke, gas, etc. *go like a bomb*, (GB sl) be very efficient, successful, etc: *My new car/The concert went like a ~*. □ *vi, vi* attack with bombs.

bomber, (a) aircraft used for bombing. (b) soldier trained in bombing.

'bomb-shell, (fig) (a) thing that causes great surprise or shock. (b) (informal) beautiful woman.

bom-bard /bɒm'ba:d/ *vt* 1 attack with shells from big guns. 2 (fig) worry with many questions, requests, complaints, etc.

bom-bard-ment *n* [C, U]

bond /bɒnd/ *n* [C] 1 agreement or engagement that a person is bound to observe, esp one that has force in law; document, signed and sealed, containing such an agreement. 2 (usually fig) something that joins or unites: *the ~ (s) of affection*. 3 printed paper issued by a government or a corporation acknowledging that money has been lent to it and will be paid back with interest.

bone /bəʊn/ *n* [C] one of the parts that make up the framework of an animal's body: *This fish has a lot of ~s in it. feel in one's bones that*, feel certain that. *have a bone to pick with sb*, have something to argue or complain about. *make no bones about it/doing sth*, not hesitate to do it. □ *vi* take bones out of (a chicken, etc).

'bone 'dry *adj* completely dry.

'bone-'idle/-'lazy *adj* very idle.

bon-fire /'bɒnfə(r)/ *n* [C] large fire made out of doors either to celebrate some event or to burn rubbish, etc

bon-kers /'bɒŋkəz/ *adj* (sl) insane.

bon-net /'bɒnɪt/ *n* [C] 1 close-fitting head-dress with a soft brim, usually tied under the chin, as worn by babies. 2 (GB) protective cover over the engine of a motor-vehicle (US = hood).

bonny /'bɒni/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) healthy looking; with a glow of health: *a ~ baby*.

bo-nus /'bəʊnəs/ *n* [C] (pl ~es) payment in addition to what is usual, necessary or expected, eg an extra payment to workers.

no 'claims bonus, percentage reduction in an insurance premium (for a motor-vehicle) if claims are not made.

bony /'bəʊni/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) 1 full of bones: *a ~ fish*, eg a herring. 2 having big or prominent bones: *~ fingers*.

boo /bu:/ *int* 1 sound made to show disapproval or contempt. 2 exclamation used to surprise or startle. □ *vi, vi* make such sounds: *The speaker was ~ed off the platform*.

boob¹ /bu:b/ *n* [C] (informal) silly mistake. □ *vi* make a silly mistake.

boob² /bu:b/ *n* [C] (sl) woman's breast.

booby /'bu:bi/ *n* [C] silly or stupid person.

'booby prize, prize given as a joke, eg to the person who is last in a race, etc.

'booby-trap, apparently harmless object

that will kill or injure when picked up or interfered with.

book¹ /bʊk/ *n* [C] 1 number of sheets of paper, either printed or blank, fastened together in a cover; literary composition that would fill such a set of sheets: *write a ~*. 2 main division of the Bible: *the B~ of Genesis*. 3 packet of similar items fastened together: *a ~ of stamps/matches*. 4 (pl) business accounts, records, etc: *The firm has full 'order ~s*, orders for goods. *be in sb's good/bad/black books*, have/not have his favour or approval.

'book-case, piece of furniture with shelves for books.

'book-club, organization that sells books at a discount to members.

'book-ends, pair of ornaments, etc used to keep a row of books upright.

'book-keeper, person who keeps accounts, eg of a business, public office.

'book-keeping, (profession of) keeping (business) accounts.

'book-maker, person whose business is taking bets on horse-races, etc.

'book-mark(er), something put in a book to show where the reader is.

'book-seller, person who sells books.

'book shop, shop selling books.

'book-stall, kiosk, etc at which books, newspapers, etc are sold, in a railway station, a hotel lobby, etc.

'book token, receipt (on an attractive card) exchangeable for a book at the value stated.

'book-worm, (a) small maggot that eats holes in books. (b) person who is very fond of reading.

book² /bʊk/ *vt* 1 write down (orders, etc) in a notebook. 2 (of the police) record a charge against (a person): *be ~ed for speeding*. 3 give or receive an order for, eg tickets for a journey. 4 engage (a person) as a speaker, entertainer, etc. 5 **book in (at)**, register (at a hotel, etc).

book-able /-əbl/ *adj* (of seats, etc) that can be reserved: *all seats ~able in advance*.

'book-ing clerk, person who sells tickets, eg at a railway station.

'book-ing office office where tickets are sold (for travel, the theatre).

bookie /'bʊki/ *n* [C] (informal) = bookmaker.

book-let /'bʊklɪt/ *n* [C] pamphlet, thin book.

boom¹ /bu:m/ *n* [C] 1 long pole used to keep the bottom of a sail stretched out. 2 long, movable arm for a microphone. 3 long pole fastened to a crane¹(2), used for (un)loading cargo. 4 heavy chain, mass of floating logs, etc held in position across a river or harbour entrance.

boom² /bu:m/ *vi, vi* 1 (of big guns, etc) make deep, hollow sounds. 2 **boom out**, say in a loud deep voice: *~ing out Shakespearean verses*. □ *n* [C] deep, hollow sound: *the ~ of*

supersonic aircraft.

boom² /bu:m/ *n* [C] sudden increase in trade activity, esp a time when money is being made quickly. □ *vi* 1 have a boom: *Business is ~ing*. 2 become well known and successful: *Jones is ~ing as a novelist*.

boom-er-ang /'bu:məɾæŋ/ *n* [C] 1 curved stick of hard wood (used by Australian Aborigines), which can be thrown so that, if it fails to hit anything, it returns to the thrower. 2 (fig) argument or scheme that comes back and harms its author. □ *vi* (of a scheme) cause harm in this way.

boon /bu:n/ *n* [C] advantage; blessing, comfort: *Parks are a great ~ to people in big cities*.

boor /bu:ə(r)/ *n* [C] ill-mannered person.

boor-ish *adj* of or like a boor.

boost /bu:st/ *vt* 1 increase the value, reputation, strength, of: *Seeing him ~ed my morale*. 2 increase the performance of the engine of a car. □ *n* [C] act of boosting.

booster /'bu:stə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 thing that boosts: *His work got a welcome ~*. 2 (also ~ *injection*) supplementary dose of vaccine to strengthen the effect of an earlier dose.

booster rocket, rocket used to give initial speed to a missile, after which it drops and leaves the missile to continue under its own power.

boot¹ /bu:t/ *n* [C] 1 outer covering for the foot and ankle, made of leather or rubber. **get the boot**, (*sl*) be dismissed from a job. **give sb the boot**, (*sl*) dismiss him from his job. **put the boot in**, (*sl*) kick a person in a fight. 2 (GB) place for luggage at the back of a car or coach (US = *trunk*). □ *vi* kick, dismiss, (a person): *He was ~ed out of the house*.

'boot-lace, string or leather strip for tying a boot.

boot² /bu:t/ *n* (only in) **to boot**, as well; in addition.

bootie /'bu:ti/ *n* [C] baby's knitted boot.

booth /bu:ð/ *n* [C] 1 shelter of boards, canvas or other light materials, esp one where goods are sold at a market or a fair. 2 enclosure for a public telephone. ⇨ *kiosk*. 3 = *polling booth*.

booty /'bu:ti/ *n* [U] things taken by robbers or captured from the enemy in war.

booze /bu:z/ *n* [U] (*informal*) 1 alcoholic drink. 2 period of drinking alcoholic drink. □ *vi* drink (too much) alcoholic drink.

'booze-up, period of boozing.

boozer /'bu:zə(r)/ *n* [C] (GB *sl*) 1 person who often has (too much) alcoholic drink. 2 pub.

boozy /'bu:zi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (*sl*) drunk; fond of boozing.

bor-der /'bɔ:də(r)/ *n* [C] 1 edge; part near the edge: *We camped on the ~ of a lake*. *There is a ~ of flowers round the lawn*. 2 (land near the) line dividing two states or countries: *The criminal escaped over the ~*. □ *vt, vi* 1 put or be an edge to: *Our garden is ~ed by a stream*. 2 **border on/upon**, (a) be next to: *My land*

~s on yours. (b) be almost the same as: *The proposal ~s on the absurd*.

'border-land, district on either side of a boundary.

'border-line, line that marks a boundary.

'borderline 'case, one that is doubtful, eg a person who may or may not pass an examination.

bore¹ /bɔ:(r)/ *vt, vi* make a narrow, round deep hole with a revolving tool; make (a hole, one's way) by doing this or by digging out soil, etc: *boring a hole in wood/a tunnel through a mountain*. □ *n* [C] 1 (also ~hole) hole made by boring. 2 inside of a gun barrel; its diameter.

bore² /bɔ:(r)/ *vt* make (a person) feel tired by being dull or tedious: *Am I boring you?* □ *n* [C] person who, that which, bores.

bor-ing *adj*: a boring evening.

bore-dom /-dəm/ *n* [U] state of being bored.

bore³ /bɔ:(r)/ *pt* of bear².

born /bɔ:n/ (one of the *pp*'s of bear²) 1 **be born**, come into the world by birth. 2 destined to be: *He was ~ a poet*.

borne /bɔ:n/ *pp* of bear² except of birth; ⇨ bear² (8).

bor-ough /'bɔ:rə US: 'bɔ:rəʊ/ *n* [C] (in England) town, or part of a town, that sends one or more members to Parliament; town with a municipal corporation and rights of self-government conferred by royal charter.

bor-row /'bɔ:rəʊ/ *vt, vi* 1 get something, or its use, on the understanding that it is to be returned: *May I ~ your pen?* ⇨ *lend*. 2 take and use as one's own: ~ a person's ideas/methods.

bor-ower, person who borrows.

bor-stal /'bɔ:stəl/ *n* [C] place where young offenders are sent and receive training designed to reform them.

bo'sn /'bəʊsn/ = boatswain.

bosom /'bɔ:zəm/ *n* [C] 1 (*old use*) person's breast; part of dress covering this. 2 centre or inmost part, where one feels joy or sorrow: *a ~ friend*, one who is dear and close.

boss /bɔ:s/ *n* [C] (*sl*) master; person who controls or gives orders: *Who's the ~ in this house?* □ *vi* give orders to: *He wants to ~ the show*, to make all the arrangements. **boss sb about/around**, give him orders.

bossy *adj* (-ier, -iest) fond of being in authority.

boss-eyed /'bɔ:s aɪd/ *adj* (*sl*) blind in one eyed; cross-eyed.

bo'sun /'bəʊsən/ = boatswain.

bot-an-ical /bɔ:tænɪkl/ *adj* of botany: ~ gardens.

bot-an-ist /'bɔ:tənɪst/ *n* [C] student of, expert in, botany.

bot-any /'bɔ:təni/ *n* [U] science of the structure, distribution, of plants.

botch /bɔ:tʃ/ *vt* repair badly; spoil by poor, clumsy work: *a ~ed piece of work*. □ *n* [C] piece of clumsy, poor work: *make a ~ of it*.

both¹ /bəʊθ/ *adj* (opposite = *neither*) (of two things, persons, etc) the two; the one and also

the other: *I want ~ books. I saw him on ~ occasions.* (Note: compare both and each: *There are shops on ~ sides of the street. There is a butcher's shop on each side of the street.*)

both² /bəʊθ/ *pron* (opposite = *neither*) (of two persons, things, etc) the two; not only the one: *B ~ are good. B ~ of them are good. We ~ want to go.* ⇨ *all, each.*

bother /'bɒðə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** be or cause trouble to; worry: *Don't ~ me with foolish questions. 2* take the trouble: *Don't ~ about getting ~ to get dinner for me today; I'll eat out. 3* (used as an exclamation of impatience or annoyance): *Oh, ~ (it)! □ n 1* [U] worry, trouble: *Don't put yourself to any ~, inconvenience yourself. 2* person or thing that gives trouble: *His lazy son is quite a ~ to him. This drawer won't shut; isn't it a ~!*

'bother-some /-səm/ *adj* troublesome or annoying.

bottle /'bɒtl/ *n* [C] container with a narrow neck, for liquids; its contents: *Mary drinks two ~s of milk a day. □ vt 1* put into, store in, bottles: *~ fruit. 2* **bottle up**, (fig) be unable or unwilling to express feelings, anger.

'bottle-fed, (of a child) given milk from a bottle, not fed from its mother's breast.

'bottle-green *adj* dark green.

'bottle-neck, (a) place, eg a narrower strip of road, where traffic is slowed down or held up. (b) that part of a manufacturing process, etc where production is slowed down.

bot-tom /'bɒtəm/ *n* [C] **1** lowest part of anything, inside or outside: *We were glad to reach the ~ (= foot) of the mountain. ⇨ touch²(1). 2* part farthest from the front or more important part: *at the ~ of the garden. 3* bed of the sea, a lake, river, etc: *The ship went to the ~, sank. 4* seat (of a chair, etc.). **5** (informal) part of the body on which a person sits: *She smacked the child's ~. 6* lowest, last, (level); foundation: *Put it on the ~ shelf. Who came ~ in the exam? get to the bottom of sth*, find out how it began. *from the bottom of my heart*, genuinely, deeply.

bot-tom-less *adj* very deep: *a ~less pit.*

bough /baʊ/ *n* [C] large branch coming from the trunk of a tree.

bought /bo:t/ *pt, pp* of buy.

boul-der /'bəʊldə(r)/ *n* [C] large piece of rock or stone, esp one that has been rounded by water or weather.

bounce /baʊns/ *vi, vt 1* (of a ball, etc) (cause to) move away or back when sent against something hard: *The ball ~ed over the wall. She was bouncing a ball. 2* (cause to) move up and down violently or noisily; rush noisily or angrily: *The boy was bouncing (up and down) on the bed. He ~d into/out of the room. 3* (informal) (of a cheque) be returned by a bank because there is no money in the account. □ *n* [C] (of a ball) art of bouncing: *catch the ball on the ~.*

bounc-ing /'baʊnsɪŋ/ *adj* big strong,

healthy: *a ~ boy.*

bound¹ /baʊnd/ *vt* jump, spring, bounce; move or run in jumping movements: *His dog came ~ing to meet him. □ n* [C] jumping movement upward or forward: *at one ~. by leaps and bounds*, very quickly.

bound² /baʊnd/ *adj* (literary) ready to start, having started: *Where are you ~ (for)? Where are you going to?*

bound³ /baʊnd/ *vt* set limits to; be the boundary of: *England is ~ed on the north by Scotland.*

bound⁴ /baʊnd/ *pp* of bind. (special uses) certain, destined, obliged: *~ to win; ~ to come.*

bound up in, very much interested in, very busy with: *He is ~ up in his work.*

bound-ary /'baʊndrɪ/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** line that marks a limit; dividing line: *This stream forms a ~ between my land and his. 2* hit to or over the boundary of a cricket field.

bound-less /'baʊndlɪs/ *adj* without limits: *his ~ generosity.*

bound-less-ly *adv*

bounds /baʊndz/ *n* pl limit: *It is beyond the ~ of human knowledge. Man can know nothing about it. out of bounds*, outside the limits of areas that one is allowed to enter.

boun-te-ous /'baʊntɪəs/ *adj* generous; giving or given freely; abundant: *a ~ harvest.*

boun-ti-ful /'baʊntɪfl/ *adj* = bounteous.

bounty /'baʊntɪ/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] freedom in giving; generosity. **2** [C] something given out of kindness (esp to the poor). **3** [C] reward or payment offered (usually by a government) to encourage something (eg to kill dangerous animals).

bou-quet /bu:'keɪ/ *n* [C] **1** bunch of flowers (to be) carried in the hand. **2** perfume of wine.

bour-bon /'bɜ:bən/ *n* [U] kinds of whisky distilled from maize and rye.

bour-geois /'bʊʒwɑ: US; 'bʊʒ'wɑ:/ *n* [C], *adj 1* (person) of the capitalist class (that owns property or engages in trade). **2** (derogatory) (person) concerned chiefly with material prosperity and social status.

bour-geoisie /'bʊʒwɑ:'zi:/ *n* [U] **the ~**, bourgeois(1) persons.

bout /baʊt/ *n* [C] **1** period of exercise, work or other activity: *a ~ wrestling ~; a ~ of drinking. 2* fit (of illness): *a ~ of influenza.*

bou-tique /bu:'ti:k/ *n* [C] small shop selling articles (clothes, cosmetics, hats; etc) of the latest fashion.

bov-ine /'bʊvɪn/ *adj* of, like, an ox.

bow¹ /baʊ/ *n* [C] **1** piece of wood curved by a tight string, used for shooting arrows. **have two strings to one's bow**, have more than one plan, more resources than one. **2** rod of wood with horse-hair stretched from end to end, used for playing the violin, cello, etc. **3** curve; rainbow. **4** knot made with a loop or loops; ribbon, etc tied in this way: *She had a ~ of pink ribbon in her hair. □ vt* use a bow(2).

,bow /'legged/ *adj* with the legs curved out-

wards at the knees.

bow 'tie, one made into a bow.

bow² /bəʊ/ vi, vt **1** bend the head or body (as a greeting, or in submission or respect, or to show agreement); bend (the head or body): *They ~ed their heads in prayer.* **bow to sb's opinion, etc.**, submit to it. **2** bend: *The branches were ~ed down with the weight of the snow.* □ n [C] bending of the head or body (in greeting, etc): *He answered with a low ~.*

bow³ /bəʊ/ n [C] **1** (often pl) front or forward end of a boat or ship from where it begins to curve. **2** (in a rowing-boat) oarsman nearest the bow. ⇨ stroke¹ (3).

bowel /'bəʊəl/ n [C] (usually pl) division of the food canal below the stomach; intestine. **2** (always pl) innermost part: *in the ~s of the earth*, deep underground.

bowl¹ /bəʊl/ n [C] **1** deep, round, hollow dish: *a 'salad-/~sugar-~.* **2** contents of such a dish: *She ate three ~s of rice.* **2** thing shaped like a bowl: *the ~ of a spoon/pipe.*

bowl² /bəʊl/ n **1** [C] heavy, wooden or composition ball made so that it rolls with a bias. **2** (pl) game played with these balls: *have a game of ~s; play (at) ~s.*

bowl³ /bəʊl/ vi, vt **1** send a ball to the batsman in cricket: *The first two batsmen were ~ed (out), dismissed.* **2 bowl along**, go quickly and smoothly on wheels: *Our car ~ed along over the smooth roads.* **3 bowl (sb) over**, (a) knock down. (b) make helpless, overcome: *He was ~ed over by the wonderful news.* **4** play bowls. ⇨ bowl².

bowler¹ /'bəʊlə(r)/ n [C] **1** person who bowls in cricket. **2** person who plays bowls² (2).

bowler² /'bəʊlə(r)/ n [C] (also ~ *hat*) hard, rounded, usually black hat.

bowls n ⇨ bowl² (2).

bow win-dow /bəʊ 'wɪndəʊ/ n [C] curved bay window.

bow-wow /bəʊ 'wəʊ/ int imitation of a dog's bark. □ n /bəʊ 'wəʊ/ [C] (young child's word for a) dog.

box¹ /bɒks/ n [C] **1** container, usually with a lid, made of wood, cardboard, plastic, metal, etc used for holding solids: *a ~ of matches; a 'tool-~; (fig) the ~*, TV set. **2** separate compartment, with seats for several persons, in a theatre, concert hall, etc. **3** compartment in a law court for a special purpose: *a 'jury-~; a 'witness-~.* **4** small hut or shelter, eg for a sentry or railway signalman. **5** separate compartment in a stable or railway truck for a horse. ⇨ also Christmas-box, letter-box, money-box, pillar-box. □ vt put into a box.

box up, (a) shut up in a small space. (b) (fig) keep (a fear, problem, etc) to oneself (and suffer because of doing so): *She had kept her feelings about him ~ed up for years.*

'box-number, (a) number used in a newspaper advertisement as an address to which answers may be sent (and forwarded from the newspaper office). (b) (PO Box No.) postal

number used as an address.

'box-office, office for booking seats in a cinema, etc.

box² /bɒks/ vt, vi fight with the fists, usually with thick gloves, for sport. **box sb's ears**, give him a blow with the open hand on the ears. □ n [C] slap or blow with the open hand (on the ears).

boxer /'bɒksə(r)/ n [C] **1** person who boxes. **2** breed of bulldog.

box-ing /'bɒksɪŋ/ n [U] sport of fighting with the fists, wearing padded gloves.

'boxing-glove, padded glove for use in boxing.

'boxing-match, fight between two boxers.

Box-ing Day /'bɒksɪŋ deɪ/ n first weekday after Christmas Day.

boy /bɔɪ/ n [C] **1** male child up to the age of 17 or 18. **2** son of any age: *He has two ~s and one girl.*

'boy-friend, favoured male companion of a girl or woman.

'boy-hood, time when one is or was a boy.

boy-ish adj of or like a boy.

boy-cott /'bɔɪkɒt/ vt (join with others and) refuse to have anything to do with, to trade with (a person, business firm, country, etc); refuse to handle (goods, etc). □ n [C] treatment, example, of this kind.

bra /brɑ:/ n [C] (informal) woman's close-fitting support for the breasts.

brace¹ /breɪs/ n [C] **1** thing used to clasp, tighten or support, eg the roof or walls of a building. **2** revolving tool for holding another tool, eg a bit for boring holes, etc. **3** (pl) (GB) straps passing over the shoulders, used to keep trousers up. **4** (often pl) appliance of bands and wires fastened to the teeth to correct their alignment.

brace² /breɪs/ vt, vi **1** support; give firmness to: *The struts are firmly ~d.* **2** steady oneself; stand firm: *He ~d himself to hear the news.*

brace-let /'breɪslɪt/ n [C] ornamental band or chain of metal, etc for the wrist or arm.

brac-ing /'breɪsɪŋ/ adj stimulating: *a ~ climate/walk; ~ air.*

bracken /'brækən/ n [U] large fern that grows on hillsides, wasteland, etc; mass of such fern.

bracket /'brækt/ n [C] **1** wood or metal support for a shelf, etc. **2** either of the two symbols [] { } used in writing and printing. **3** grouping; classification: *an 'income ~*, eg of incomes of £3000 to £4500. □ vt put inside, join with, brackets; put together to imply connection or equality: *Jones and Smith were ~ed together at the top of the list.*

brack-ish /'bræktɪʃ/ adj (of water) slightly salty.

bract /brækt/ n [C] leaf-like part of a plant, highly coloured, situated below a flower or cluster of flowers.

brad-awl /'brædɔ:l/ n [C] small tool for piercing holes for screws.

brag /bræg/ vi (-gg-) boast: ~ about/of what one has done.

brag-gart /'brægət/ n [C] person who brags.

Brah-min /'bræmɪn/ n member of the highest Hindu priestly caste.

braid /breɪd/ n 1 [C] number of strands of hair woven together: *She wears her hair in ~s*. 2 [U] silk, linen, etc woven into a band, used for edging or decorating cloth or clothes: *gold/silver ~*. □ vt 1 make into braids. 2 trim with braid.

braille /breɪl/ n [U] system of writing and reading (using raised dots) for blind people, to enable them to read by touch.

brain /breɪn/ n [C] 1 (sing) (in man and animals) the mass of soft grey matter in the head, centre of the nervous system: *The human ~ is a complex organ*. 2 (as in 1 above, informal and usually pl): *I'll knock your ~s out if you do it again!* 3 (pl) animal's brain, eaten as food: *calf/sheep's ~s*. 4 (informal) mind; intellect: *have a good ~*; *use your ~s*. **have sth** (eg money) **on the brain**, think constantly about it. **pick sb's brain(s)**, learn and use his ideas. 5 [C] clever, brilliant person: *He's the ~ of the college*. □ vt kill by a heavy blow on the head.

'brain-child, original idea, etc attributed to a person or group.

'brain drain, movement of trained technical and scientific personnel from one country to another (because of better opportunities, etc).

'brain-storm, (a) mental upset with uncontrolled emotion, eg weeping, and violence. (b) = brain-wave.

'brain-teaser, difficult problem; puzzle.

'brain-washing, process of forcing a person to reject old beliefs and accept new beliefs by use of extreme mental pressure.

'brain-wave, (informal) sudden inspiration or bright idea.

brain-less adj stupid.

brainy adj (-ier, -iest) intelligent.

braise /breɪz/ vt cook (meat) slowly, first in fat and then in a little water: ~d beef/chicken.

brake /breɪk/ n [C] 1 device for reducing speed or stopping motion, eg of a bicycle, motor-vehicle, train, etc. 2 **act as a brake on** (progress, initiative, etc), try to prevent it; control it. □ vt, vi use the brake(1): *The driver ~d suddenly*.

bramble /'bræmbəl/ n [C,U] rough shrub with long prickly shoots; blackberry bush.

bran /bræn/ n [U] outer covering (husks) of grain (wheat, rye, etc) separated from flour by sifting.

branch /brɑːntʃ/ US: bræntʃ/ n [C] 1 part of a tree growing out from the trunk like an arm; smaller division growing from a bough: *He climbed up the tree and hid among the ~es*. ⇨ root¹(1). 2 division or subdivision of a river, road, railway, mountain range, etc. 3 division or subdivision of a family, subject of knowledge, organization, etc: *The bank has ~es in*

all parts of the country. □ vi send out, divide into, branches: *The road ~es here*. **branch off**, (of a car, road, train, etc) leave a main route and take a minor one. **branch out**, (of a person, business, etc) expand in a new direction, open new departments or lines of activity.

brand /brænd/ n [C] 1 trademark or trade-name; particular kind of goods with such a mark: *an excellent ~ of coffee*. 2 piece of burning wood (in a fire). 3 (also ~ing-iron), iron used red-hot, for burning a design into a surface; mark made in this way. 4 (fig) mark of guilt or disgrace. □ vt 1 mark (cattle, goods, etc) with a branding-iron. 2 give (a person) a bad name: *She has been ~ed as a thief*.

'brand-new adj completely new.

brand-dish /'brændɪʃ/ vt wave about (to display, threaten, etc): ~ing a sword.

brandy /'brændɪ/ n [C,U] (pl -ies) (portion of) strong alcoholic drink distilled from wine of grapes: *Two brandies, please*.

bran-new /bræn 'njuː/ adj = brand-new.

brash /bræʃ/ adj (informal) 1 saucy; cheeky. 2 hasty; rash.

brass /brɑːs/ US: bræs/ n 1 [U] bright yellow metal made by mixing copper and zinc. **get down to brass 'tacks**, consider the essential facts only. 2 [U] or (pl) thing(s) made of brass, eg ornaments. 3 the ~, musical instruments made of brass. 4 [U] (GB st) money. 5 [U] (st) impudence. ⇨ brazen(2). 6 = top brass.

,top 'brass, (informal) senior officials, eg high-ranking officers in the armed forces.

,brass 'band, group of musicians with brass instruments.

brassy adj (a) like brass in colour or sound. (b) (st) impudent.

brass-iere, **brass-ière** /'bræziə(r)/ US: bræ'ziər/ n [C] (always shortened to) bra.

brat /bræt/ n [C] (badly behaved) child.

bra-vado /brə'vɑːdəʊ/ n (pl ~es or ~s) 1 [U] display of boldness or daring: *do something out of ~*, in order to show one's courage. 2 [C] instance of this.

brave /breɪv/ adj (-r, -st) 1 ready to face danger, pain or suffering; having no fear: *as ~ as a lion*, very brave. 2 needing courage: *a ~ act*. □ n [C] American Indian warrior. □ vt face, go into, meet, without showing fear: *He had ~d death a hundred times*.

brave-ly adv

brav-ery /'breɪvəri/ n [U] courage.

bravo /brə'vɑːʊ/ int, n [C] (pl ~es or ~s) (cry of) Well done! Excellent!

brawl /brɔːl/ n [C] noisy quarrel or fight. □ vi quarrel noisily; take part in a brawl.

brawler, person who takes part in a brawl.

brawn /brɔːn/ n [U] 1 muscle; strength. 2 meat (esp pork) cut up, spiced, pickled and compressed.

brawny adj muscular.

bray /breɪ/ n [C] 1 cry of an ass. 2 sound of, or like the sound of, a trumpet. □ vi make a cry or

sound of this kind.

brazen /'breɪzn/ *adj* **1** made of brass; like brass: *a ~ (= hard-sounding) voice*; *the ~ notes of a trumpet*. **2** (often '~-faced') shameless.

braz-ier /'breɪziə(r)/ *n* [C] portable open metal framework for holding a charcoal or coal fire.

breach /brɪ:tʃ/ *n* [C] **1** breaking or neglect (of a rule, duty, agreement, etc): *a ~ of the peace*, unlawful fighting in a public place, eg the streets; *a ~ of promise*, (esp of a promise to marry). **2** opening, eg one made in a defensive wall, etc by artillery; gap: *The waves made a ~ in the sea wall*. **step into/fill the breach**, come forward to help. **vt** make a gap in, break through (a defensive wall, etc).

bread /bred/ *n* [U] **1** food made by mixing flour with water and yeast, kneading, and baking in an oven: *a loaf/slice/piece of ~*. **2** (sl) money.

bread and butter, (a) slice(s) of bread spread with butter. (b) (sl) means of living: *earn one's ~ and butter by writing*.

bread-crumbs, tiny bit of bread.

bread-board, wooden board on which bread is sliced.

bread-fruit, tree with starchy fruit, grown in the South Sea Islands and W Africa.

bread-knife, one for slicing bread.

bread-line, line of people waiting for food given as charity or relief. **on the bread line**, very poor.

bread-winner, person who works to support a family.

breadth /'breɪθ/ *n* ⇨ **broad**¹ (**2**) **1** distance or measure from side to side: *ten metres in ~*. **2** largeness (of mind or view); boldness of effect (in music or art).

break¹ /breɪk/ *n* [C] breaking; broken place: *a ~ in the water pipes*. **2** [U] ~ of day (= day~), dawn. **3** interval (in space or time): *a ~ in the conversation*; *an hour's ~ for lunch*. **without a break**, continuously: *He has been writing since 2 o'clock without a ~*. **4** change, disturbance: *a ~ in the weather*. **5** **give sb a break**, (informal) an opportunity (to make a new start or remedy an error). **a lucky break**, a piece of good fortune. **6** (= ~out) (attempt to) escape (esp from prison). **make a break for it**, (try to) escape.

break² /breɪk/ *vi, vi* (pl broke /brəʊk/ pp broken /'brəʊkən/) (For uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 11 below.) **1** (of a whole thing) (cause to) go or come into two or more separate parts as the result of force, a blow or strain (but not by cutting): *The boy fell from the tree and broke his leg*. *If you pull too hard you will ~ the rope*. **2** (of a part or parts) (cause to) be separate or discontinuous because of force or strain: *He broke a branch from the tree*. **3** make (something) useless by injuring an essential part (of a machine, apparatus, etc): *~ a clock/toy*. **4** (uses with adjectives)

tives) **break even**, ⇨ **even**¹ (**3**). **break sth open**, get it open by using force: *~ open a safe/door/the lid of a box*. **5** (uses with various subjects): *The abscess/blister/bubble broke*, burst. *Day was beginning to ~*, daylight was beginning. ⇨ **daybreak**. *The storm broke*, began. *The fine weather/heat-wave/frost broke*, The period of fine weather, etc ended. *The enemy broke* (= developed gaps in their lines, fell into confusion) and fled. **6** (uses with various objects): *~ the bank*, exhaust its funds, win all the money that the person managing a public gaming-table has; *~ fresh/new ground*, (fig) start work at something new; *~ a person's heart*, reduce him to despair; *~ a horse (in)*, train it to accept a rider; *~ a man*, ruin him; *~ the news*, make it known; *~ a (Commonwealth/Olympic/World) record*, ⇨ **record**¹ (**6**); *~ a set of books/china*, etc, give away or sell a part or parts of it; *~ step*, (of soldiers) stop marching rhythmically in step; *~ a strike*, end it by compelling the workers to return to work. **7** **make or break**, ⇨ **mar**. **8** subdue, keep under, end by force: *~ a person's spirit/will*. **9** act in opposition to; infringe: *~ the law/the rules/a regulation*; *~ a contract/an agreement*; *~ one's word/a promise*, fail to keep a promise; *~ an appointment*, fail to keep it. **10** interrupt or destroy the continuity of; end the action or duration of: *~ (the) silence*; *~ one's journey*; *a broken night's sleep*, one that is disturbed or interrupted.

11 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

break away (from), (a) go away suddenly or abruptly. (b) give up (habits, belief): *About twenty members of the Party have broken away*. ⇨ **breakaway**.

break down, (a) collapse: *Negotiations have broken down*. (b) become disabled or useless: *The car/engine/machinery broke down*. (c) suffer a physical or mental weakening: *His health broke down*. ⇨ **breakdown**. (d) be overcome by emotion, eg by bursting into tears: *She broke down when she heard the news*.

break sth down, (a) get (a door, wall, etc) down by hitting it. (b) overthrow by force; suppress: *~ down all resistance/opposition*. (c) divide, analyse, classify (statistical material): *~ down expenditure*, give details of how money is spent. ⇨ **breakdown** (**3**).

break in, enter a building by force: *Burglars had broken in while we were away on holiday*. Hence, **'break-in'**: *The police are investigating a ~ in at the local bank*.

break in on/upon, disturb; interrupt: *Please don't ~ in on our conversation*.

break into, (a) force one's way into (a building, etc): *His house was broken into* (ie by burglars or thieves) *last week*. (b) begin suddenly: *~ into a song*. (c) change one's method of movement suddenly: *~ into a run*. (d) occupy, take up, undesirably: *Social duties ~ into my time/leisure*. (e) (of coins and notes): ~

into a pound note, use one to pay for something costing less than this sum.

break off, (a) stop speaking: *He broke off in the middle of a sentence.* (b) pause; stop temporarily: *Let's ~ off for half an hour and have some tea.* **break (sth) off**, (a) (cause to) separate (a part of something): *The mast broke off/was broken off.* (b) end abruptly: *~ off diplomatic relations.*

break out, (of fire, disease, war, rioting, violence) appear, start, suddenly: *A fire broke out during the night.* ⇨ **outbreak**. **break out (of)**, escape: *Several prisoners broke out of the gaol.* Hence, **'break-out n. break out in**, (a) suddenly become covered with: *His face broke out in spots.* (b) show sudden violence in speech or behaviour: *He broke out in a rage/in curses.*

break through, make a way through (an enclosure, obstacles, etc): *The enemy's defences were strong but our soldiers broke through. At last the sun broke through (the grey clouds).* ⇨ **breakthrough**.

break up, (a) come to pieces: *The ship was ~ing up on the rocks. The gathering broke up in disorder.* (b) (fig) (of persons) mentally collapse; become weak: *He broke up under the strain.* (c) (of a school, etc) separate at the end of term for holidays. (d) (of a couple, a relationship) come to an end: *Their marriage is ~ing up.* (e) divide: *Sentences ~ up into clauses.* **break sth up**, (a) smash; demolish: *~ up a box for firewood.* (b) (cause to) split, or divide: *~ up a piece of work (among several persons).* (c) (cause to) disperse: *The police broke up the crowd/meeting.* (d) bring to an end: *They broke up the alliance.* Hence, **'break-up n** (end of a marriage, coalition, etc).

break with, (a) end a friendship with: *~ with an old friend.* (b) give up; make an end of: *~ with old habits.*

break-able /'breikəbl/ *adj* easily broken.

break-age /'breikɪdʒ/ *n* [C] 1 act of breaking. 2 place in, part of, something that has been broken. 3 (usually *pl*) broken articles; loss by breaking: *The hotel allows £150 a year for ~s.*

break-away /'breikəweɪ/ *n* [C] 1 (instance of a) group leaving a larger one. 2 sudden fast action as in sport, a race, etc.

break-down /'breɪkdəʊn/ *n* [C] 1 failure in machinery: *A ~ on the motorway caused a huge traffic-jam.* 2 collapse of physical or mental health: *He had a nervous ~.* 3 analysis of statistics: *a ~ of expenses.*

breaker /'breɪkə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 large wave breaking into foam as it advances towards the shore; wave breaking against a rock, etc. 2 person or thing that breaks.

'ice-breaker, strongly built ship used to break up ice in harbours, etc.

break-fast /'brekfəst/ *n* [C] first meal of the day. □ *vi* have breakfast.

break-neck /'breɪknek/ *adj* **at breakneck speed**, at a dangerously fast speed.

break-through /'breɪkθru:/ *n* [C] 1 movement through or beyond the enemy's defenses. 2 major discovery or achievement in science, medicine, technology, etc.

break-water /'breɪkwɔ:tə(r)/ *n* [C] structure built out into the sea to shelter (part of) a harbour.

bream /brɪm/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) 1 freshwater fish of the carp family. 2 (also 'sea-~) salt-water variety of this.

breast /breɪst/ *n* [C] 1 either of the milk-producing parts of a woman's chest. 2 chest; upper front part of the human body, or of clothing covering this: *a troubled ~*, a sad, anxious, etc feeling. **make a clean breast of sth**, confess. 3 part of an animal corresponding to the human breast: *~ of lamb.* 4 (of a chimney) projection into the room for the fireplace, etc.

'breast bone, bone in the front of the chest supporting the ribs.

'breast pocket, small pocket in the top of the front of a jacket, shirt, etc.

'breast-stroke, (swimming) stroke in which both the arms are brought at the same time from in front of the chest to the sides of the body.

breath /breθ/ *n* 1 [U] air taken into and sent out of the lungs. 2 [C] single act of taking in and sending out air: *take a deep ~*, fill the lungs with air. **catch/hold one's breath**, stop breathing for a moment (from fear, excitement, etc). **in the same breath**, at the same moment: *They are not to be mentioned in the same ~*, cannot be compared. **out of breath**, unable to breathe quickly enough. **take sb's breath away**, startle or surprise him. **waste one's breath**, talk in vain. 3 [C] air in movement; light breeze: *There wasn't a ~ of air/wind.* The air was quite still. 4 [C] (fig) suggestion: *not a ~ of suspicion/scandal.*

breath-less *adj* (a) out of breath; likely to cause a shortness of breath. (b) unstirred by wind: *a ~less (= calm) evening.*

breath-less-ly *adv*

'breath-taking *adj* amazing.

breath-alyzer /'breðəlaɪzə(r)/ *n* [C] device (into which a person breathes) to test the alcoholic content of a person's breath.

breathe /bri:ð/ *vi, vt* 1 take air into the lungs and send it out again: *~ in/out.* *He's still breathing*, is still alive. 2 say quietly; send out, eg a scent, feeling: *Don't ~ a word of this*, keep it secret.

breather, short pause for rest or exercise: *take/go for a ~.*

breath-ing /'bri:ðɪŋ/ *n* [U] 1 act of one who breathes; single breath. 2 use of an *h*-sound.

'breath-ing space, time to pause, rest.

bred /bred/ *pt, pp* of breed.

breech /bri:tʃ/ *n* [C] back part of a rifle or gun barrel, where the cartridge or shell is placed.

breeches /'britʃɪz/ *n pl* (also a pair of ~) article of clothing fitting round the waist and below the knees. ⇨ riding-breeches.

breed /brɪd/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* bred /bred/) **1** keep (animals, etc) for the purpose of producing young, esp by selection of parents: ~ horses/cattle. **2** give birth to young; reproduce: Rabbits ~ quickly. **3** train, educate, bring up: a well-bred boy, one who has been trained to behave well. **4** be the cause of: Dirt ~s disease. □ *n* [C] kind or variety (of animals, etc) with hereditary qualities: a good ~ of cattle.

breeder, person who breeds animals.

breeding *n* [U] (a) (in verbal senses): the ~ing of horses; the ~ing season for birds. (b) knowledge of how to behave resulting from upbringing: a man of good ~ing.

breeze /brɪz/ *n* [C,U] wind, esp a gentle wind. □ *vi* breeze in/out, (informal) come in/go out happily or unexpectedly.

breezily *adv*

breeziness *n* [U]

breezy *adj* (a) pleasantly windy: breezy weather. (b) (of persons) lively; good-humoured.

brethren /'breðrən/ *n pl* (old use) brothers.

breve /brɪv/ *n* [C] musical note equal to two semibreves.

brevity /'brevəti/ *n* [U] shortness (of statements, human life and other non-material things).

brew /bru:/ *vt, vi* **1** prepare (beer, tea, etc). **2** (fig) bring about; gather, be forming: A storm is ~ing, gathering force. There's trouble ~ing between them, They are likely to quarrel. □ *n* [C] result of brewing: a good, strong ~ (of tea).

brewery, place where beer is made.

briar /'braɪə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] hard wood (root of a bush) used esp for making tobacco pipes. **2** [C] pipe made of this wood. **3** [C] thorny bush, esp the wild rose.

bribe /braɪb/ *n* [C] something given, offered or promised in order to influence or persuade a person (often to do something wrong): offer/take ~s. □ *vt* offer, give, a bribe to: ~ a judge/witness.

bribery, giving or taking of bribes.

bric-a-brac /'brɪk ə bræk/ *n* [U] old furniture, china, ornaments, etc esp of no great value.

brick /brɪk/ *n* **1** [C,U] (usually rectangular block of) clay moulded and baked by fire or sun, used for building purposes. **drop a brick**, (informal) do or say something indiscreet. **2** child's rectangular block used for building toy houses, etc. **3** rectangular block, eg of ice-cream. □ *vt* brick up/in, block (an opening) with bricks.

brick-layer, workman who builds with bricks.

brick-work, (part of a) structure made of bricks.

bride /brɪd/ *adj* of a bride or wedding.

bride /brɪd/ *n* [C] woman on her wedding-

day; newly married woman.

bridegroom /'brɪdgrəm/ *n* [C] man on his wedding-day; newly married man.

bridesmaid /'brɪdzmeɪd/ *n* [C] girl or young unmarried woman attending a bride at her wedding. ⇨ best man.

bridge /brɪdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** structure of wood, stone, brickwork, steel, concrete, etc providing a way across a river, canal, railway, etc. **2** platform over and across the deck of a ship for the use of the captain and officers. **3** upper, bony part of the nose. **4** movable part over which the strings of a violin, etc are stretched. □ *vt* join by means of a bridge.

bridging loan, loan (esp from a bank) to cover a period of time, eg between the purchase of one house and the sale of another.

bridge /brɪdʒ/ *n* [U] card-game in which two players (partners) play to win a certain number of tricks against another two players acting as defenders.

bridle /'braɪd/ *n* [C] that part of a horse's harness that goes on its head, including the metal bit for the mouth, the straps and the reins. □ *vt, vi* **1** put a bridle on (a horse). **2** (fig) control, check: Try to ~ your passions. **3** show pride, contempt, etc: ~ at her remarks.

brief /brɪf/ *adj* (-er, -est) (of time, events, writing, speaking) lasting only for a short time. **in brief**, in a few words.

briefly *adv*

brief /brɪf/ *n* **1** [C] summary of the facts of a case, drawn up for a barrister. **hold a no brief for (sb)**, argue in support/not be prepared to support. **2** information, instructions, advice, etc given in advance, eg to an aircraft crew before a combat mission. **3** instructions: My ~ did not include making coffee. □ *vt* **1** instruct or employ (a barrister). **2** give a brief (2) to. ⇨ debrief. **3** summarize the facts, eg of a business programme.

brief-case, flat case for documents, etc.

briefs /brɪfs/ *n pl* (also a pair of ~) woman's pants without legs, held in position by an elastic waistband.

brier /'braɪə(r)/ *n* [C] = briar (3).

brigade /brɪ'geɪd/ *n* [C] **1** army unit, usually of three battalions, forming part of an army division; corresponding armoured unit. **2** organized body of persons in uniform with special duties: the fire ~.

brigadier /brɪgə'dɪə(r)/ *n* [C] officer commanding a brigade (1).

brigand /'brɪgənd/ *n* [C] member of a band of robbers, esp one that attacks travellers in forests or mountains.

bright /braɪt/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** giving out or reflecting much light; shining: Sunshine is ~. The leaves on the trees are ~ green in spring. **2** cheerful and happy; lit up with joy or hope: ~ faces; a ~ smile. **3** clever: A ~ boy learns quickly.

brighten /-tn/ *vt, vi* make or become brighter, lighter or more cheerful, etc: These flowers

~en up the classroom. The sky is ~ening, becoming clearer, sunny.

bright-ly *adv*

bright-ness *n* [C]

brilliance /'brɪljəns/ *n* [U] **1** radiance, splendour. **2** intelligence.

brilliant /'brɪljənt/ *adj* **1** sparkling; very bright (1): a week of ~ sunshine. **2** very clever: a ~ scientist.

brilliant-ly *adv*

brim /brɪm/ *n* [C] **1** edge of a cup, bowl, glass, etc: full to the ~. **2** edge (rim) of a hat that turns out. □ *vi* (-mm-). **brim over**, (a) be so full that some spills over the top. (b) (fig) = overflow (1).

brine /braɪn/ *n* [U] salt water, esp for pickling food.

bring /brɪŋ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* brought /brɔ:t/) (For uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 5 below.) **1** cause to come towards the speaker, writer, etc carrying something or accompanying somebody: Take this empty box away and ~ me a full one. **2** cause to come; produce: Spring ~s warm weather and flowers. The sad news brought tears to her eyes. **3** **bring sb/oneself to do sth**, persuade, induce, lead: She couldn't ~ herself to speak about the matter. **4** (legal) start, put forward: ~ an action against her.

5 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

bring about, (a) cause to happen: ~ about a war/reforms. (b) (naut) cause (a sailing-ship) to change direction: The helmsman brought the ship about.

bring back, (a) return: Please ~ back the book tomorrow. (b) call to mind; cause to remember: Seeing you brought back many memories. (c) restore; reintroduce: ~ back hanging.

bring down, (esp) (a) cause to fall; cause to be down: ~ down a hostile aircraft, shoot it down; ~ down prices, lower them; ~ down a government, force an election. (b) kill or wound: He aimed, fired and brought down the antelope.

bring forward, (a) cause to be seen, discussed, etc: Please ~ the matter forward at the next meeting. (b) advance: The meeting has been brought forward from May 10 to May 3, is to be a week earlier. ⇨ postpone. (c) (abbr = b/f) (book-keeping) carry the total of a column of figures at the foot of one page to the top of the next page.

bring in, (a) produce as profit: He does odd jobs that ~ him in an extra £30 a month. (b) introduce: ~ in a new fashion. (c) introduce (legislation): ~ in a Bill on road safety. (d) admit (as a partner, adviser, etc): They've brought in experts to advise on the scheme. (e) (of the police) arrest or bring to a police station for questioning, etc: Two suspicious characters were brought in. (f) (of a jury) pronounce (a verdict): ~ in a verdict of guilty.

bring off, (esp) manage to do something successfully: It was a difficult task but we brought it off.

bring on, lead to, (help to) produce: He was out all day in the rain and this brought on a bad cold.

bring out, (a) cause to appear, show clearly: ~ out the meaning of a passage of prose. (b) publish (a book, etc): When are the publishers ~ing out his new book? (c) produce (a quality): Danger ~s out the best in him. (d) cause to strike: The shop-stewards brought out the miners.

bring round, (a) cause (sb) to regain consciousness after fainting. (b) convert to one's views, etc: He wasn't keen on the plan, but we managed to ~ him round.

bring to, = bring round (a).

bring under, (a) subdue; discipline: The rebels were quickly brought under. (b) include (within a category): The various points to be dealt with can be brought under three main headings.

bring up, (a) educate; rear: She has brought up five children. (b) vomit: ~ up one's dinner. (c) mention for discussion: These are matters that you can ~ up in committee.

brink /brɪŋk/ *n* [C] **1** upper edge of a steep place, a sharp slope, etc; border (of water, esp when deep): He stood shivering on the ~, hesitating to plunge into the water. **2** (fig) edge of something unknown, dangerous or exciting: on the ~ of war/an exciting discovery.

brisk /brɪsk/ *adj* (-er, -est) (of persons and movement) active; lively; quick-moving: a ~ walk. Trade is ~.

brisk-ly *adv*

bristle /'brɪsl/ *n* [C] one of the short stiff hairs on an animal; one of the short stiff hairs in a brush: a toothbrush with stiff ~s. □ *vi* **1** (of hair) stand up, rise on end: The dog was angry and ~d up/and its hair ~d. **2** (fig) show anger, indignation, etc: ~ with anger.

Brit-ish /'brɪtɪʃ/ *adj* **1** of the ancient Britons. **2** of Great Britain or its inhabitants: the ~, British people; ~ citizenship; a Jamaican with a ~ passport.

brittle /'brɪtl/ *adj* **1** hard but easily broken (eg coal, ice, glass). **2** (fig): He has a ~ temper, quickly loses his temper.

broach /brəʊtʃ/ *vt* (fig) begin a discussion of (a topic): ~ the subject of a pay rise.

broad /brɔ:d/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** wide: The river grows ~er as it nears the sea. **2** (after a phrase showing width) from side to side: a river fifty metres ~. **3** full and complete. **in broad daylight**, when there is light (and so surprising): rob a bank in ~ daylight. **4** general, not small or detailed: a ~ distinction. **in broad outline**, a general impression, without details. **It's as broad as it is long**, it's the same (however you look at the problem). **5** (of the mind and ideas) liberal; not kept within narrow limits: a man of ~ views, a tolerant man. **6**

(of speech) with a strong accent, showing that the speaker is from a definite part of the country.

'broad bean, a common variety growing in large pods.

'broad-minded *adj* willing to listen sympathetically to the views of others even though one cannot agree with them; having a liberal and tolerant mind.

broad-ly *adv*: *~ly speaking*, speaking in a general way, without going into detail.

broad² /brɔ:d/ *n* [C] the wide part: *the ~ of the back*.

broad-cast /'brɔ:dkɑ:st *US*: -kæst/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* ~) send out (speech, music, etc) in all directions, esp by radio or TV: *the news/a speech/a concert*. □ *n* [C] something broadcast: *a ~ of a football match*.

broad-side /'brɔ:dsaid/ *n* [C] **1** the whole of a ship's side above the water; (the firing on the same target of) all the guns on one side of a ship. **2** (*fig*) strong attack of any kind made at one time against one person or group.

bro-cade /brə'keid/ *n* [C,U] woven material richly ornamented with designs (eg in raised gold or silver thread). □ *vt* decorate (cloth) with raised patterns.

broc-coli /'brɒkəli/ *n* [C,U] (*pl* unchanged) kind of cauliflower with many white or purple sprouts (flower-heads), each like a small cauliflower.

bro-chure /'brɔ:ʃuə(r) *US*: brəu'ʃuə(r)/ *n* [C] short, usually illustrated, pamphlet, esp as an advertisement: *travel/holiday ~s*.

brogue¹ /brɔ:ʊg/ *n* [C] strong, thick-soled shoe for country wear.

brogue² /brɔ:ʊg/ *n* [C] provincial way of speaking, esp the Irish way of speaking English.

broil /brɔɪl/ *vt, vi* **1** cook, be cooked, by direct contact with fire; grill. **2** (*fig*) be very hot: *sit ~ing in the sun*.

broke /brɔ:k/ *pt* of break. (**stony/flat**) **broke**, (*st*) penniless.

bro-ken /'brɔ:kən/ *pp* of break: *a ~ marriage*, one that has failed; *a ~ home*, one in which the parents have separated or are divorced; ~ (= imperfect) *English*; ~ (= disturbed) *sleep*.

'broken-hearted, filled with grief.

bro-ker /'brɔ:kə(r)/ *n* [C] (usually 'stock-~) person who buys and sells (business shares, etc) for others.

bro-ll-y /'brɒli/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (*informal*) umbrella.

bron-chi /'brɒŋkai/ *n pl* (*sing* bronchus) two main branches into which the windpipe divides before entering the lungs, also called *bronchial tubes*.

bron-chial /'brɒŋkiəl/ *adj* of or affecting the bronchi: *bronchial asthma*.

bron-chi-tis /brɒŋ'kaiʃs/ *n* [C] inflammation of the bronchi.

bronze /brɒnz/ *n* **1** [U] alloy of copper and

tin: *a ~ statue*. **2** [U] goldish-brown colour. **3** [C] work of art made of bronze: *Benin ~*. □ *vt, vi* make or become bronze in colour: *faces ~d by the sun and wind*.

the 'Bronze Age, period when men used tools and weapons made of bronze (between the Stone Age and the Iron Age).

bronze medal, prize for third place in a sporting contest.

brooch /brəʊtʃ/ *n* [C] ornament with a pin for fastening on clothes.

brood /bru:d/ *n* [C] **1** all the young birds hatched at one time in a nest. **2** (*humorous*) family of children. □ *vi* **1** (of a bird) sit on eggs to hatch them. **2** (*fig*) think about (troubles, etc) for a long time: *~ing over/on his misfortunes*.

broody /'bru:di/ *adj* **1** (of hens) wanting to brood (**1**). **2** (*informal*) (of women) feeling the desire to have children.

brook¹ /brʊk/ *n* [C] small stream.

brook² /brʊk/ *vt* put up with; tolerate: *He cannot ~ interference*. (*Note*: usually used in the *negative* or in questions.)

broom /bru:m/ *n* [C] **1** long-handled implement for sweeping floors, etc. **2** shrub with yellow or white flowers growing on sandy banks, etc.

broth /brɒθ/ *n* [U] water in which meat has been boiled (flavoured and thickened with vegetables, etc, served as soup).

brothel /'brɒθl/ *n* [C] house at which prostitutes may be visited.

brother /'brʌðə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** son of the same parents as another person. **2** person united to others by membership of the same society, profession, etc: ~ *officers*, in the same regiment. **3** fellow member of a socialist organization, trade union, etc. **4** (*pl* = brethren /'breðrən/) fellow member of a religious society.

'brother-hood, (**a**) [U] feeling (as) of brother for brother. (**b**) [C] (members of an) association of men with the same interests and aims, esp a religious organization.

'brother-in-law /'brʌðə(r) ɪn lɔ:/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s-in-law) brother of one's husband or wife; husband of one's sister.

'brother-ly *adj*: ~ly affection.

brought /brɔ:t/ *pt, pp* of bring.

brow /braʊ/ *n* **1** (usually *pl*; also 'eye-brow') arch of hair above the eye. **2** forehead. ♀ highbrow, lowbrow. **3** top of a slope; steep slope: *the ~ of a hill*.

brow-beat /'braʊbi:t/ *vt* (*pt* ~, *pp* ~en /-bi:tən/) bully: *a ~en little woman*.

brown /braʊn/ *n* *adj* (-er, -est) (having the) colour of toasted bread, or coffee mixed with milk. □ *vt, vi* make or become brown. **brown-ed 'off**, (*st*) bored; fed up.

browse /braʊz/ *vi* **1** feed, as animals do (on grass, etc): *cattle browsing in the fields*. **2** read (parts of a book, newspaper) without any definite plan, for interest or enjoyment: *browsing among books in the public library*. □ *n* [C] (act,

period, of) browsing: *have a good ~.*

bruise /bru:z/ *n* [C] injury by a blow or knock to the body, or to a fruit, so that the skin is discoloured but not broken: *He was covered with ~s after falling off his bicycle.* □ *vi, vi 1* cause a bruise to: *Pack the peaches carefully so that they won't get ~d.* **2** show the effects of a blow or knock: *A child's flesh ~s easily.*

brunch /brantʃ/ *n* [C] late morning meal instead of breakfast and lunch.

bru-nette /bru:'net/ *n* [C] woman (of one of the white races) with dark skin and dark-brown or black hair.

brunt /brant/ *n* [C] chief stress or strain: *bear the ~ of an attack.*

brush¹ /brʌʃ/ *n* [C] **1** implement of bristles, hair, wire, etc fastened in wood, plastic, or other material, used for scrubbing, sweeping, cleaning (eg 'tooth~, 'nail~), or tidying the hair ('hair~); tuft of hair, etc set in a handle, used by painters and artists: *a 'paint-~.* **2** (act of) using a brush: *He gave his clothes a good ~.* **3** [U] rough low-growing bushes; undergrowth: *a ~ fire.* □ *bush* (2). **4** short, sharp fight or encounter: *a ~ with the enemy.*

brush² /brʌʃ/ *vi, vi 1* use a brush on; clean, polish, make tidy or smooth: *~ your hat/clothes/shoes/hair/teeth.* **2** *brush off*, come off as the result of being brushed: *The mud will ~ off when it dries.* **brush sth away/off**, remove with a brush, one's hand, etc: *He ~ed away a fly from his nose.* **brush sth aside/away**, (fig) pay no or little attention to (difficulties, objections, etc). **brush up (on)**, study or practise in order to get back skill that has been lost: *If you're going to France you'd better ~ up (on) your French.* **3** touch when passing: *He ~ed past/by/against me in a rude way.*

brusque /bru:sk/ *adj* (of speech or behaviour) rough and abrupt.

brusque-ly *adv*

brusque-ness *n* [U]

Brus-sels sprout /,brʌsl 'spraut/ *n* [C] green vegetable with buds growing thickly on the stem; one of the buds.

bru-tal /'bru:tl/ *adj* savage; cruel.

bru-tally /-əli/ *adv*

bru-tal-ity /'bru:təli/ *n* [U] cruelty; savagery. **(b)** [C] cruel or savage act.

brute /bru:t/ *n* [C] **1** animal (except man). **2** stupid, savage or cruel person. □ *adj 1* cruel, savage. **2** unthinking and physical: *~ strength.*

brut-ish /'bru:tɪʃ/ *adj* of or like a brute.

brut-ish-ly *adv*

bubble /'bʌbl/ *n* [C] **1** (in air) floating ball formed of liquid and containing air or gas: *'soap ~s.* **2** (in liquid) ball of air or gas that rises to the surface, eg in boiling water, in sparkling wine. **3** air-filled cavity in a solidified liquid, eg glass. □ *vi* send up, rise in, make the sound of, bubbles: *She was bubbling over with joy/laughter.*

'bubble-gum, chewing-gum which can be blown into bubbles.

'bubble-and-'squeak, dish of boiled potato and cabbage which are fried together.

bub-bly /'bu:blɪ/ *adj* full of bubbles. □ *n* [U] (informal) champagne.

buc-ca-neer /'bʌkə'nɪə(r)/ *n* [C] = pirate.

buck¹ /bʌk/ *n* [C] male of a deer, hare or rabbit. □ *doe*.

buck² /bʌk/ *vi, vi 1* (of a horse) jump up with the four feet together and the back arched; throw (the rider) to the ground by doing this.

2 buck (up), (informal) make haste; make or become more energetic or cheerful: *The good news ~ed us all up.*

buck³ /bʌk/ *n* [C] (sl) US dollar.

buck⁴ /bʌk/ *n* **pass the buck (to sb)**, (sl) shift the responsibility (to).

bucket /'bʌkɪt/ *n* [C] **1** vessel of wood, plastic, etc for holding or carrying water, etc. **kick the bucket**, (sl) die. **2** (also 'bucket-ful /-fʊl/) as much as a bucket can hold.

buckle /'bʌkl/ *n* [C] metal, plastic, etc fastener, with one or more spikes made to go through a hole in a belt, etc □ *vi, vi 1* fasten, be fastened with a buckle: *~ a belt; ~ on a sword.* **2** **buckle to/down to** (work, etc), begin (work) in earnest: *The sooner he ~s down to it, the better.* **3** (of metal work, etc) bend, become twisted, etc from strain or heat.

bud /bʌd/ *n* [C] leaf, flower or branch, at the beginning of its growth. **in bud**, having buds or sending out buds: *The trees are in ~.* **nip sth in the bud**, put an end to, eg a plot, while it is in the beginning stage. □ *vi* (-dd-) put out buds.

bud-ding *adj* beginning to develop: *a ~ lawyer/poet.*

Bud-dhism /'bʊdɪzəm/ *n* the religion founded by Gautama /'gaʊtəmə/ or Siddhartha /sɪ'dɑ:tə/ Buddha /'bʊdə/ (teacher) in N India, in about the 6th century BC.

Bud-dhist /'bʊdɪst/ *n* [C] follower of Buddhism. □ *adj* of Buddhism.

buddy /'bʊdi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (sl) pal; mate.

budge /bʌdʒ/ *vi, vi 1* (usually in the negative and with *can*, *could* or with *won't*, *wouldn't*) **1** (cause to) move very little, make the slightest movement. **2** (fig) (cause to) change a position or attitude: *It won't ~ an inch.*

bud-geri-gar /'bʌdʒərɪgə(r)/ *n* [C] Australian kind of small parakeet.

budget /'bʌdʒɪt/ *n* [C] **1** estimate of probable future income and expenditure, esp that made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons. **2** similar estimate made by a business company, society, private person, etc. □ *vi* **budget for**, allow or arrange for: *~ for the coming year.*

buff /bʌf/ *n* [U] **1** thick, strong, soft leather. **2** dull yellow colour. *stripped to the ~*, naked. □ *vt* polish (metal) with a buff.

buf-falo /'bʌfələʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) **1** kinds of ox in India, Asia, Europe and Africa. **2** (used in-

correctly for) N American bison.

buf-fer /'bʌfə(r)/ n [C] apparatus for lessening the effect of a blow or collision, eg on a railway engine or van.

buf-fet¹ /'bʌfeɪ/ US: /bʌfɛɪ/ n [C] 1 counter where food and drink may be bought and eaten, eg in a railway station or on a train. 2 sideboard or table from which (usually cold) food is served, eg in a hotel.

buf-fet² /'bʌfɪt/ n [C] blow, generally one given with the hand. □ vt, vi give a blow to: *flowers ~ed by rain and wind.*

buf-foon /bʌ'fu:n/ n [C] clown; fool.

bug /bʌg/ n [C] 1 small, flat, ill-smelling, blood-sucking insect that infests dirty houses and beds. 2 (esp US) any small insect. 3 (informal) germ; virus infection: *You've got the Asian 'flu ~.* 4 (sl) defect, snag, eg in a computer. 5 small hidden microphone (for listening to conversations, etc). 6 (modern informal) addiction: *She's always in the library; she really has got the ~!* □ vt (-gg-) 1 (informal) use electronic devices (in a room, etc) in order to listen secretly to conversations. 2 (sl) annoy: *That man really ~s me.*

bug-bear /'bʌgbɛə(r)/ n [C] thing feared or disliked, with or without good reason: *the ~ of rising prices.*

bugle /'bju:gl/ n [C] musical wind-instrument of copper or brass (like a small trumpet but without keys or valves), used for military signals.

bugler, person who plays a bugle.

build¹ /bɪld/ vt, vi (pt, pp built /bɪlt/) 1 make by putting parts, materials, etc together: ~ a house/railway. 2 put parts together to form a whole: *He has built these scraps of metal into a very strange-looking sculpture.* 3 base (hopes, etc) on; rely on: *Don't ~ too many hopes on his helping you.* 4 **build up**, (a) accumulate; form a block: *Traffic is ~ing up* (= The number of vehicles is increasing steadily) *along the roads to the coast.* (b) come or build together (so as to increase or intensify): *Their pressure on the enemy is ~ing up.* **build sb/sth up**, (a) try to increase a person's, an institution's reputation (through publicity, praise): *Don't ~ me up too much; I may disappoint you.* (b) make, acquire, steadily and gradually: *He has built up a good business.* (c) become covered with buildings: *The district has been built up since I was last there.*

builder, (a) person who builds, esp houses. (b) (fig) person who builds up (b): *a great 'em-pire ~er*, person who owns or controls many businesses, etc.

'build-up, (a) increase: *a ~up of forces/pressure.* (b) accumulation: *a ~up of traffic.* (c) flattering publicity, etc: *The press gave him a tremendous ~up.*

build² /bɪld/ n [U] 1 general shape or structure. 2 (of the human body) general characteristics of shape and proportion: *a man of powerful ~.*

building /'bɪldɪŋ/ n 1 [C] house or other structure: *Houses, schools, churches, factories and sheds are all ~s.* 2 [U] (art of) constructing houses, etc: ~ materials.

'building-society, organization for making loans with interest to members who wish to build or buy a house, using funds supplied by its members.

bulb /bʌlb/ n [C] 1 almost round, thick, underground part of a plant sending roots downwards and leaves upwards. 2 thing like a bulb in shape, eg the swollen end of a glass tube eg in a thermometer. 3 glass case for an electric light.

bul-bous /'bʌlbəs/ adj of, having, like, growing from, a bulb.

bulge /bʌldʒ/ n [C] 1 irregular swelling; place where a swelling or curve shows. 2 temporary increase in volume or numbers. □ vi, vt (cause to) swell beyond the usual size; curve outwards: *His pockets were bulging with apples.*

bulk /bʌlk/ n [U] quantity, volume, esp when large: *in bulk.* (a) in large amounts: *buy in ~.* (b) loose, not packed in boxes, tins, etc. **the bulk of**, the greater part or number of: *He left the ~ of his property to his brother.* □ vi appear large or important.

bulky adj (-ier, -iest) taking up much space; clumsy to move or carry.

bulk-head /'bʌlkhed/ n [C] water-tight or air-tight division or partition in a ship or tunnel, spacecraft, etc.

bull¹ /bʊl/ n [C] 1 uncastrated male of any animal of the ox family (♂ cow): *a man with a neck like a ~*, with a thick neck. **a bull in a china shop**, person who is rough and clumsy where skill and care are needed. **take the bull by the horns**, meet a difficulty boldly instead of trying to escape from it. 2 male of the whale, elephant and other large animals.

'bull-dog, large, powerful breed of dog, with a short, thick neck, noted for its strong grip and its courage.

'bull-doze vt (a) remove earth, flatten obstacles, with a bull-dozer. (b) force a person into doing something by using physical strength or by intimidating him.

bull-dozer, powerful tractor with a broad steel blade in front, used for shifting large quantities of earth, etc.

'bull-finch, small songbird with a rounded beak and coloured feathers.

'bull-frog, large American species of frog.

'bull-headed adj clumsy, impetuous, obstinate.

'bull's-eye, centre of a target (for archers, gunners, etc).

'bull-terrier, cross between a bulldog and a terrier.

bull² /bʊl/ n [C] official order from the Pope.

bul-let /'bʊlt/ n [C] shaped piece of lead, usually coated with another metal, (to be) fired from a rifle or revolver. (Note: shells are fired

from guns.)

bullet-proof *adj* able to stop bullets: *a ~-proof jacket*.

bull-etin /'bʊlətɪn/ *n* [C] **1** official statement of news: *The doctors issued ~s twice a day.* **2** printed sheet of paper with official news or announcements.

bul-lion /'bʊliən/ *n* [U] gold or silver in bulk or bars.

bul-lock /'bʊlək/ *n* [C] castrated bull.

bully ¹ /'bʊli/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) person who uses his strength or power to frighten or hurt those who are weaker. □ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) use strength, etc in this way.

bul-rush /'bʊləʃ/ *n* [C] (kinds of) tall rush or reed with a thick head.

bul-wark /'bʊlwək/ *n* [C] **1** wall, esp one built of earth, against attack. **2** (*fig*) thing that defends or protects: *Law is the ~ of society*, gives us security. **3** (usually *pl*) wall round (esp a sailing) ship's deck.

bum¹ /bʌm/ *n* [C] (*informal*) part of the body on which one sits; buttocks.

bum² /bʌm/ *n* [C] (*sl*) habitual beggar or lazy person. □ *vi* (-mm-) **bum around**, wander about doing nothing. **• bum off sb.** (*sl*) scrounge.

bumble-bee /'bʌmbl bi:/ *n* [C] large kind of hairy bee.

bump /bʌmp/ *vt, vi* **1** come into contact with a blow or knock: *The room was dark and I ~ed (my head) against the door. The blind man ~ed into me.* **2** move with a jerky, jolting motion (like a cart on a bad road): *The heavy bus ~ed along the rough mountain road.* **3 bump sb off.** (*sl*) murder him. □ *adv* suddenly; violently: *Our bus ran ~ into the wall.* □ *n* [C] **1** blow or knock; dull sound made by a blow (as when two things come together with force). **2** swelling on the body as caused by such a blow. **3** irregularity on a road surface. **4** (jolt felt in an aircraft, caused by a) sudden change in air-pressure.

bumpy *adj* (-ier, -iest) with many bumps: *a ~y road/ride*.

bum-per¹ /'bʌmpə(r)/ *n* [C] (*US* = fender) steel bar on a bus, motor-vehicle (front and rear) to lessen the effect of a collision; fender (on the side of a boat or ship).

bum-per² /'bʌmpə(r)/ *adj* unusually large or abundant: *a ~ harvest*.

bump-kin /'bʌmpkɪn/ *n* [C] person without elegant manners, esp from the country.

bump-tious /'bʌmpʃəs/ *adj* conceited: *~ officials*.

bun /bʌn/ *n* [C] **1** small round, sweet cake. **2** twisted knot of hair above the back of the neck.

bunch /bʌntʃ/ *n* [C] **1** numbers of small, similar things naturally growing together: *a ~ of grapes/bananas.* **2** collection of things of the same sort placed or fastened together: *a ~ of flowers/keys.* □ *pick*¹. □ *vt, vi* **bunch up**, form into a bunch.

bundle /'bʌndl/ *n* [C] number of things fastened, tied or wrapped together: *The books were tied up in ~s of twenty.* □ *nerve.* □ *vt, vi* **1 bundle up**, make into a bundle. **2** put together or away in a confused heap: *We ~d everything into a drawer.* **3** send or go in a hurry: *They ~d him into a taxi.*

bung /bʌŋ/ *n* [C] large (usually rubber, cork or plastic) stopper for closing a hole in a cask or barrel. □ *vt* put a bung into. **bunged up**, (*a*) (of the nose) stopped up with mucus. (*b*) (of drains) blocked with dirt.

bun-ga-low /'bʌŋgələʊ/ *n* [C] small house with only one storey.

bungle /'bʌŋɡl/ *vt, vi* **1** do (a piece of work) badly and clumsily. **2** spoil (a task, etc) by not using or having skill.

bun-ion /'bʌniən/ *n* [C] inflamed swelling, esp on the large joint of the big toe.

bunk¹ /bʌŋk/ *n* [C] **1** narrow bed fixed on the wall, eg in a ship. **2** one of two narrow beds built one above the other, usually for children.

bunk² /bʌŋk/ *n* **do a bunk**, (*sl*) run away.

bunker /'bʌŋkə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** that part of a ship where coal or fuel oil is stored. **2** sandy hollow, made as an obstacle, on a golf-course. **3** (*mil*) underground shelter, fortified point, of steel and concrete. □ *vt, vi* fill a ship's bunkers with fuel.

bunny /'bʌni/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (child's word for a) rabbit.

bun-sen burner /,bʌnsn 'bʊ:zn(r)/ *n* [C] (used in science laboratories) burner using gas mixed with air.

buoy /bɔi/ *n* [C] **1** floating object, anchored to the bottom, to show a navigable channel or to indicate reefs, submerged wrecks, etc. **2** = life-buoy. □ *vi* **1** mark the position of with a buoy: *~ a wreck/channel.* **2 buoy up.** (*a*) keep afloat. (*b*) (*fig*) keep up hopes, dreams, etc.

buoy-ancy /'bɔiənsi/ *n* [U] **1** power to float or keep things floating. **2** (*fig*) lightness of spirits; cheerfulness. **3** (*fig*) (of the stock market) tendency of prices to rise.

buoy-ant /'bɔiənt/ *adj* **1** able to float or to keep things floating. **2** (*fig*) cheerful: *a ~ disposition.* **3** (*fig*) (of the stock market, etc) maintaining high prices.

buoy-ant-ly *adv*

bur, burr /bʌ:(r)/ *n* [C] (plant with a) seed-case or flower-head that clings to the hair or fur of animals.

burble /'bɜ:(b)l/ *vi* make a gentle murmuring or bubbling sound: *burbling with happiness.*

bur-den /'bɜ:(d)ən/ *n* [C] **1** load (esp one that is heavy): *beast of ~*, animal that carries packs on its back. **2** (*literary* or *fig*) something difficult to bear: *the ~ of taxation on industry.* **3** [U] ship's carrying capacity, tonnage; *a ship of 3000 tons ~.* **4** obligation to prove: *The ~ of proof rests with him.* □ *vt* load; put a burden on: *~ oneself with a heavy overcoat/with useless facts.*

bur-den-some /-səm/ *adj* hard to bear; making tired.

bureau /'bjʊərəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~x /-rəʊz/) **1** writing desk with drawers. **2** government or municipal department or office: *the Information B~*

bureauc-racy /bjʊə'rɒkrəsi/ *n* [U] government by privileged stratum of higher officials intertwined with the ruling classes; red tape system of administration; [C] this system of government; the officials as a body.

bureau-cratic /'bjʊərəkræt/ *n* [C] official who works in a bureau or government department, esp one who obeys the rules of his department without exercising much judgement.

bureau-cratic /'bjʊərə'krætɪk/ *adj* of or like a bureaucrat; too much attached to rules.

bureau-crati-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

burg-lar /'bɜ:glə(r)/ *n* [C] person who breaks into a house at night in order to steal.

'burglar-alarm, device to give warning of burglars.

'burglar-proof *adj* made so that burglars cannot break in or into.

bur-glary /'bɜ:gləri/ *n* [*pl* -ies] [U] crime of breaking into a house by night to steal; [C] instance of this.

burg-le /'bɜ:gl/ *vt, vi* break into (a building) to commit burglary; commit burglary.

bur-ial /'berɪəl/ *n* [U] burying; [C] instance of this.

'burial-ground, cemetery.

bur-lesque /bɜ:'lesk/ *n* 1 [C] imitation, eg of a book, speech, person's behaviour, for the purpose of making fun of it or of amusing people. **2** [U] amusing imitation.

burly /'bɜ:li/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (of a person) big and strong.

burn /bɜ:n/ *n* [C] injury, mark, made by fire, heat or acid: *He died of the ~s he received in the fire.*

burner, (a) person who burns or makes something by burning: *a 'charcoal~er*. (b) (that part of an) apparatus from which the light or flame comes: *an 'oil~er*.

burn-ing *adj* intense; exciting: *a ~ing thirst/desire/question*.

burn² /bɜ:n/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* ~t /bɜ:nt/, occasionally ~ed /bɜ:nd/) (For uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*, ⇨ 6 below.) **1** use for the purpose of lighting or heating: *Most large steamships now ~ oil instead of coal.* **2** damage, hurt, destroy by fire, heat or the action of acid: *Be careful not to ~ the meat. Wood ~s easily.* **3** make by heat: *~ a hole in a carpet*, eg by dropping a cigarette end. **4** be hurt or spoilt by fire or heat; be or feel warm or hot: *She has a skin that ~s easily*, is quickly hurt by the sun. **5** (*fig*) be filled with strong feeling: *He was ~ing with anger.*

6 (uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*):

burn away, (a) continue to burn: *The fire was ~ing away cheerfully.* (b) make, become

less, by burning: *Half the candle had ~t away.*

burn down, be destroyed, destroy to the foundations, by fire: *The house (was) ~t down.*

burn out, (a) become extinguished: *The fire ~t (itself) out.* (b) (of a rocket) use up its fuel. (c) be destroyed by fire: *~t-out 'factories/'tanks.*

burn up, (a) burst into flames, flare up: *Put some wood on the fire and make it ~ up.* (b) get rid of, by burning: *We ~t up all the garden rubbish.* (c) (of a rocket, etc re-entering the atmosphere from space) catch fire and be destroyed.

bur-nish /'bɜ:niʃ/ *vt, vi* polish by, or as if by, rubbing.

burp /bɜ:p/ *vi, n* [C] (*st*) belch.

burr¹ *n* ⇨ bur.

burr² /bɜ:(r)/ *n* [C] whirling sound made by parts of machines that turn quickly.

bur-row /'bɜ:rəʊ *US*: 'bɜ:-/ *n* [C] hole made in the ground (by rabbits, etc). □ *vi, vt* make a burrow.

bur-sar /'bɜ:sə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** treasurer (esp of a college). **2** (student holding a) scholarship or grant: *British Council ~s in Great Britain.*

bur-sary, (a) scholarship, grant. (b) office of a bursar.

burst¹ /bɜ:st/ *n* [C] **1** bursting explosion: *the ~ of a shell/bomb*; *a ~ in the water main.* **2** brief, violent effort: *a ~ of energy/speed.* **3** outbreak: *a ~ of applause*; *a ~ of gunfire.* **4** ⇨ bust².

burst² /bɜ:st/ *vi, vt* (*pt, pp* ~) (For uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*, ⇨ 5 below.) **1** (of a bomb, shell, etc) (cause to) fly or break apart from internal pressure; explode. **2** (of river banks, a dam, an abscess, a boil) (cause to) break outwards; (of a bubble) break; (of leaf and flower buds) open out. **be bursting to**, be eager to: *He was ~ing to tell us the news.* **3** be full to over-flowing; be able to contain with difficulty: *They were ~ing with happiness/impatience/health.* **4** make a way or entry suddenly or by force: *He ~ into the room. The sun ~ through the clouds.*

5 (uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*):

burst in (on/upon), (a) interrupt: *He ~ in on our conversation.* (b) appear or arrive suddenly.

burst into, (a) send out suddenly; break out into: *The coat fell in the fire and ~ into flames.* (b) ~ into tears/laughter/song, suddenly begin to cry/laugh, etc; ~ into blossom, begin to bloom.

burst out laughing/crying, suddenly begin to laugh/cry.

bury /'beri/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** place (a dead body) in the ground, in a grave or in the sea; (of a clergyman) perform the Burial Service over: *He's dead and buried.* **2** put underground; cover with earth, leaves, etc; cover up and forget; hide from view: *buried treasure.* *She buried (= hid) her face in her hands.*

bus /bas/ *n* (pl ~es) (= omnibus which is not now used) public motor-vehicle that travels along a fixed route and takes up and sets down passengers at fixed points: *Shall we walk or go by ~? miss the bus.* (sl) be too late to use an opportunity. □ *vi, vt* (-ss-) **1** go, take, by bus. **2** (esp US) transport children to their schools: *the ~ing of children to achieve racial integration.*

'bus-stop, signed stopping place for buses.

bush /buʃ/ *n* **1** [C] low-growing plant with several or many woody stems coming up from the root: *a ~rose-~.* **2** [U] (often the ~) wild, uncultivated land, with or without trees or bushes, esp in Africa and Australia.

'bush-man, member of certain tribes in the S African bush.

'bushy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) covered with bushes. (b) growing thickly; thick and rough: *~y eyebrows.*

bushel /'buʃl/ *n* [C] (before metrication) measure for grain and fruit (= 8 gallons).

busier, busiest, busily ⇨ busy.

busily /'bizli/ *adv* in a busy way: *~ engaged in working.*

business /'biznis/ *n* **1** [U] buying and selling; commerce; trade: *We do not do much ~ with them.* **on business**, for the purpose of doing business: *Are you here on ~ or for pleasure?* **2** [C] shop; commercial enterprise, etc: *He is the manager of three different ~es.* **3** [U] task, duty, concern; what has to be done: *It is a teacher's ~ to help his pupils.* **get down to business**, start the work that must be done. **mean business**, (informal) be serious, determined (to act, not just talk). **mind one's own business**, attend to one's own duties and not interfere with those of others.

'business-like *adj* using, showing, promptness, care, organization, etc.

'business-man, man who is engaged in buying and selling, etc (not a lawyer, doctor, etc).

busk /bask/ *vi* entertain people for tips, eg singing to queues outside cinemas.

busker, person who busks.

bust /bast/ *n* [C] **1** head and shoulders of a person cut in stone, or cast in bronze, etc. **2** woman's breast; measurement round the chest and back.

bust /bast/ *vt, vi* (sl for burst) **bust sth**, smash it: *The business went ~, failed.*

bustle /'basl/ *vi, vt* (cause to) move quickly and excitedly: *Everyone was bustling about/in and out.* □ *n* [U] excited activity: *the ~ of city streets.*

bustle /'basl/ *n* [C] frame formerly used to increase a woman's skirt at the back.

busy /'bizi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** working; occupied; having much to do: *The doctor is a ~ man.* **2** full of activity: *a ~ day;* (of places) filled with active people, traffic, etc: *The shops are ~ before Christmas.* **3** (of a telephone line) in use. □ *vt* keep busy, occupy oneself with: *He busied himself with all sorts of little tasks.*

'busy-body, person who interferes although his help is not wanted.

but /bat/ *adv* only (now the usual word): *We can ~ try. He's ~ a boy.*

but /bat/ *strong form:* bat/ *conj* **1** (coordinating): *Tom was not there ~ his brother was.* *Never a month passes ~ she writes* (= in which she does not write) to her old parents. **2** (formal) (with cannot or could not): *I could not choose ~ go, had no choice.*

but /bat/ *strong form:* bat/ *prep* (The uses of *but* as a *prep* and as a *conj* are not always easily distinguished.) (used with negatives, eg *no one*, *none*, *nothing*, and interrogatives, eg *who*, and such words as *all*, *every one*) except, excluding: *Nothing ~ disaster would come from such a plan.* *No one ~ he/him showed much interest in the proposal.* **but for**, except for, without: *B~ for your help we should not have finished in time.* **but then**, on the other hand: *London is a noisy place, ~ then it's also the place where you get the best entertainment.*

butcher /'bʊtʃə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who kills, cuts up and sells animals for food. **2** person who has caused unnecessary death, eg a general who wastes the lives of soldiers. **3** person who kills savagely and needlessly. □ *vt* **1** prepared meat for selling as food. **2** kill violently, esp with a knife.

butch-ery, (esp) needless and cruel killing of people.

but-ler /'bʌtlə(r)/ *n* [C] head of a household staff (in charge of the wine-cellar, pantry, etc).

butt /bat/ *n* [C] **1** large cask for wine or ale. **2** large barrel for storing rainwater, eg from roofs.

butt /bat/ *n* [C] **1** thicker, larger end (esp of a fishing-rod or rifle). **2** unburned end, eg of a smoked cigar or cigarette.

butt /bat/ *n* **1** the ~s, shooting-range; the targets and the mound of earth behind them (used for practice in firing rifles). **2** [C] person who is a target for ridicule, jokes, etc: *He is the ~ of the whole school.*

butt /bat/ *vt, vi* **1** push with the head (as a goat does): *~ a man in the stomach.* **2 butt in**, (informal) force oneself into the conversation or company of others.

but-ter /'bʌtə(r)/ *n* [U] **1** fatty food substance made from cream, used on bread, in cooking, etc: *She looks as if ~ would not melt in her mouth,* has an innocent appearance. **2** substance similar to butter, made from other materials: *peanut ~.* □ *vt* **1** spread, cook with, butter. **2 butter sb up**, flatter.

'but-ter-cup, wild plant with small yellow flowers.

'but-ter-fin-gers, person unable to hold or catch things well.

'but-ter-milk, liquid that remains after butter has been separated from milk.

'but-ter-scotch, [U] sweet substance made by boiling sugar and butter together.

but-ter-fly /'bʌtəflaɪ/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) insect

with four wings, often brightly coloured.

but-tock /'bʌtək/ *n* [C] either side of that part of the body on which a person sits: *a smack on the ~s*.

but-ton /'bʌtn/ *n* [C] 1 small, usually round, bit of plastic, metal, etc for fastening articles of clothing, or sewn on as an ornament. 2 small, round object, esp one that, when pushed, makes an electrical contact, eg for a bell: *press/push/touch the ~*. 3 small, unopened mushroom. □ *vt, vi* fasten with a buttons: ~ (up) *one's coat*.

'button-hole *n* [C] (a) hole through which a button is passed. (b) flower worn in a hole (eg in the lapel of a jacket or coat). □ *vt* hold a person (to get his attention).

but-ress /'bʌtrɪs/ *n* [C] 1 support built against a wall. 2 (fig) prop; thing that supports: *the ~es of society/the constitution*. □ *vt* strengthen, support ~ *up an argument*.

bux-om /'bʌksəm/ *adj* (of women) large and healthy-looking.

buy /baɪ/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp bought /bɔ:t/) 1 get in return for money, get by paying a price: *Can money ~ happiness?* 2 obtain at a sacrifice: *Victory was dearly bought*. □ *n* (informal) purchase: *a good ~*, a bargain.

buyer, (a) person who buys articles on sale. (b) person who chooses articles to be sold in a shop.

buzz /bʌz/ *vi, vt* 1 make a humming sound (as of bees or machinery in quick motion). 2 move quickly or excitedly: ~ *about/around*; ~ing *along the road*. **buzz off**, (sl) go away. 3 (of the ears) be filled with a buzzing noise: *My ears ~*. 4 (of an aircraft) fly near to or low over (another plane) in a threatening manner: *Two fighters ~ed the airliner*. □ *n* [C] 1 sound of people talking, of whirling machinery, etc. 2 humming (of bees or other insects).

buz-zer, electrical bell that produces a buzzing note when the current flows.

buz-zard /'bʌzəd/ *n* [C] kinds of falcon.

by¹ /baɪ/ *adverbial particle* 1 near: *He hid the money when nobody was ~*. 2 past: *He hurried ~ without a word*. **by and /by**, later on. **by and /large**, on the whole; taking everything into consideration.

by² /baɪ/ *prep* 1 near; at or to the side of: *Come and sit ~ me* / ~ *my side*. **stand by sb**, support him. 2 (showing direction of movement) through, along, across, over: *We came ~ the fields, not by the roads*. 3 past: *He walked ~ me without speaking*. 5 (of time, esp to show conditions and circumstances) during: *The enemy attacked ~ night*. 6 (of time) as soon as; not later than; when (the time indicated) comes: *Can you finish the work ~ tomorrow?* 7 (in phrases of a unit of time, length, weights, measurements, etc): *rent a house ~ the year*; *sell cloth ~ the metre/eggs ~ the dozen*. 8 through the agency, means, of: *He makes a living ~ teaching*. *He was killed ~ lightning*. 9 (of means of travel, transport, conveyance):

travel ~ land/sea/air; ~ *bus/car/boat/train*. 10 (of a part of the body that is touched, etc): *grab him ~ the arm*. 11 according to: *B ~ my watch it is 2 o'clock*. 12 to the extent of: *The bullet missed me ~ a centimetre*. 13 **know/learn sth by heart**, so that one can repeat it from memory. **by accident/mistake/chance**, not on purpose or intentionally. **by oneself**, (a) alone: *He was (all) ~ himself*. (b) without help: *He built it ~ himself*.

bye-bye /ˌbaɪˈbaɪ/ *int* (informal) goodbye.

by-election /'baɪ ɪlekʃn/ *n* [C] election made necessary by the death or resignation of a member during the life of Parliament. ☞ *general election*.

by-gone /'baɪɡɒn/ *adj* past: *in ~ days*, in the time now past. □ *n* (pl) **let bygones be bygones**, forgive and forget the past.

by-law, bye-law /'baɪ lɔ:/ *n* [C] law or regulation made by a local authority (eg a town or railway company).

by-pass /'baɪ pɑ:s/ *US: pæs/ n* [C] wide road passing round a heavily populated urban area or village, to take through traffic. □ *vt* 1 provide with, make, a bypass. 2 (fig) ignore.

by-product /'baɪ prɒdʌkt/ *n* [C] substance obtained during the manufacture of some other substance.

by-stander /'baɪstændə(r)/ *n* [C] person standing near but not taking part in an event or activity.

by-word /'baɪwɜ:d/ *n* [C] person, place, etc regarded and spoken of as a notable example of a (bad) quality.

Cc

C, c /sɪ:/ (pl C's, c's /si:z/) the third letter of the English alphabet.

cab /kæb/ *n* [C] 1 ('taxi-~) = taxi: *Shall we go by bus or take a ~?* 2 part of a railway engine, bus, lorry, etc for the driver. 3 (formerly) horse-drawn carriage.

cab-aret /'kæbəreɪ/ *n* [C] 1 entertainment (songs, dancing, etc) provided in a restaurant, etc while guests are dining or drinking.

cab-bage /'kæbɪdʒ/ *n* [C] (kinds of) plant with a round head of thick green or red leaves; [U] these leaves as a vegetable.

ca-ber /'keɪbə(r)/ *n* [C] trunk of a young fir-tree thrown in Highland games (Scotland) as a trial of strength and skill: *toss the ~*.

cabin /'kæbɪn/ *n* [C] 1 room in a ship or aircraft, esp (in a ship) one for sleeping in. 2 small house, usually made of logs; railway signal-box.

'cabin cruiser, motor-boat with a cabin.

cabi-net /'kæbɪnɪt/ *n* [C] 1 piece of furniture with drawers or shelves for storing or display-

ing things: *a* **medicine** ~: *a* **filing** ~, for storing letters, documents. **2** plastic, wooden or metal container for radio or record-playing equipment. **3** group of men (chief ministers of state) chosen by the head of the government (the prime minister in GB) to be responsible for government administration and policy: *C~ Minister*, one of these men.

cable /'keɪbl/ *n* **1** [C,U] (length of) thick, strong rope (of fibre or wire), used on ships, bridges, etc. **2** protected bundle of insulated wires for carrying electrical power or messages by electric telegraph; message so carried. □ *vt, vi* send (a message) by cable.

'cable-car/railway, one moving up a steep slope, worked by a cable(1).

'cable-gram, telegram sent via a cable(2).

ca-cao /kə'kɑʊ/ *n* [C] **1** (also ~-*bean*) seed of a tropical tree from which cocoa and chocolate are made. **2** (also ~-*tree*) the tree.

cackle /'kækl/ *n* **1** [U] noise made by a hen after laying an egg. **2** [C] loud laugh; [U] foolish talk. □ *vi* **1** (of a hen) make this noise. **2** (of a person) talk or laugh noisily.

cac-tus /'kæktəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es or cacti /'kæktai/) (sorts of) plant from hot, dry climates with a thick, fleshy stem, often with no leaves and covered with clusters of spines or prickles.

ca-dence /'keɪdəns/ *n* [C] rhythm in sound; the rise and fall of the voice in speaking.

ca-det /kə'det/ *n* [C] **1** student at a naval, military or air force college. **2** young person under training for a profession: *police* ~s.

cadge /kædʒ/ *vt, vi* (*informal*) beg; (try to) get by begging: *be always cadging*.

cad-ger, person who cadges.

Caesar-ian /sɪ'zæəriən/ *adj, n* [C] (of a) delivery of a child by cutting the walls of the abdomen and uterus: *a* ~ *section*.

café /'kæfeɪ/ *US: kə'feɪ* *n* [C] **1** (in Europe) place where the public may buy and drink coffee, beer, wine, spirits, etc. **2** (in GB) small, usually self-service, restaurant at which meals, drinks (but not alcoholic drinks) may be bought.

cafe-teria /kə'feɪtəriə/ *n* [C] = *café*(2).

caf-tan /'kæftən/ *n* [C] **1** long tunic with a cord at the waist, worn by men in the Near East. **2** woman's loosely hanging dress.

cage /keɪdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** framework, fixed or portable, with wires or bars, in which birds or animals may be kept. **2** framework in which cars are lowered or raised in the shaft of a mine. □ *vt* put, keep, in a cage.

cagey /'keɪdʒi/ *adj* (*informal*) unwilling to provide information; secretive.

ca-jole /kə'dʒəʊl/ *vt* use flattery or deceit to persuade or to get information, etc.

cake /keɪk/ *n* **1** [C,U] sweet mixture of flour, eggs, butter, etc baked in an oven: *a slice of* ~.

a piece of **cake**, (*sl*) very easy and pleasant work. **2** [C] shaped mixture of other kinds of food: *'fish* ~s. **3** [C] shaped piece of other

materials or substances: *a* ~ *of soap*. □ *vt, vi* coat thickly, become coated (with mud, etc).

ca-lami-tous /kə'lemɪtəs/ *adj* disastrous; serious: *a* ~ *error of judgement*.

ca-lam-ity /kə'ləməti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) great and serious misfortune or disaster (eg a big earthquake or flood).

cal-cium /'kælsɪəm/ *n* [U] soft white metal (symbol **Ca**), the chemical basis of many compounds essential to life, occurring in bones and teeth and forming part of limestone, marble and chalk.

cal-cu-lable /'kælkjələbl/ *adj* that may be measured, reckoned or relied on.

cal-cu-late /'kælkjuleɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** find out by working with numbers: ~ *the cost of a journey*.

2 planned or designed to: *This advertisement is ~d to attract the attention of housewives*. **3** consider, etc and be confident (that something will happen, etc).

cal-cu-lat-ing *adj* scheming; crafty.

cal-cu-la-tion /kælkjuleɪʃn/ *n* [U] act of calculating; careful thought; [C] result of this: *I'm out in my* ~s, have made a mistake.

cal-cu-la-tor /'kælkjuleɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who calculates. **2** machine that calculates automatically: *an electronic/pocket* ~.

cal-cu-lus /'kælkjʊləs/ *n* (*pl* -li /-laɪ/ or ~es) **1** [U] branch of mathematics that deals with variable quantities, used to solve many mathematical problems. **2** [C] (*med*) stone in some part of the human body.

cal-en-dar /'kælɪndə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** list of the days, weeks, months, of a particular year; list with dates that are important to certain people. **2** system by which time is divided into fixed periods, and marking the beginning and end of a year: *the Muslim* ~.

calendar **'month**, month as marked on the calendar (contrasted with a *lunar month* of 28 days).

calf /kɑ:f/ *US: kæf* *n* **1** [C] (*pl* calves /kɑ:vz/ *US: kævz*) young of the domestic cow; young of the seal, whale and some other animals for the first year. **2** [U] (also ~ *skin*) leather from the skin of a calf.

calf /kɑ:f/ *US: kæf* *n* [C] (*pl* calves /kɑ:vz/ *US: kævz*) fleshy part of the back of the human leg, between the knee and the ankle.

cali-brate /'kælibreɪt/ *vt* determine or correct the scale of a thermometer, gauge or other graduated instrument.

cali-bra-tion /kæli'bɹeɪʃn/ *n* [C] degree marks, etc on a measuring instrument.

cal-ibre (*US* = **cali-ber**) /'kælibə(r)/ *n* **1** [C] inside diameter of a tube, gun, etc. **2** [U] quality of mind or character: *a man of considerable* ~, importance.

cali-pers /'kælipəz/ *n pl* (*US*) = callipers.

cal-iph, ca-lif /'keɪlɪf/ *n* [C] title once used by rulers who were descendants and successors of Muhammad; chief civil and religious ruler: *the C~ of Baghdad*.

cal-iph-ate /'keɪlɪfət/, caliph's position and

residence.

call¹ /kɔ:l/ *n* [C] **1** shout; cry: *a ~ for help*. **2** characteristic cry of a bird. **3** military signal (on a bugle, etc). **4** short visit (to a house, etc); short stop (at a place): *I paid a ~ on her friend. I have several ~s to make*. **5** message; summons; invitation: *'telephone ~s*. **on call**, (of doctors, nurses, etc) ready to go on duty if asked. **6** [U] (chiefly *negative* or *interrogative*) need; occasion: *There's no ~ for you to worry*. **7** (in card-games) player's right or turn to make a bid; bid made in this way. **'call-box**, small public kiosk with a telephone.

call² /kɔ:l/ *vt, vi* (For special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*, ⇨ 9 below.) **1** say in a loud voice; cry; speak or shout to attract attention: *She ~ed to her father for help*. **call out**, cry or shout when needing help, or from surprise, pain, etc. ⇨ 9 below. **2** pay a short visit: *I ~ed on Mr Green. This train ~s at every station*. **call for**, visit (a house, etc) to get something, or to go somewhere with somebody: *I'll ~ for you at 6 o'clock and we'll go to the cinema together*. **3** name; describe as: *His name is Richard but we all ~ him Dick*. **call sb names**, abuse or insult him. **call it a day**, ⇨ day(3). **4** consider; regard as: *I ~ that a shame*. **5** summon; wake; send a message to: *Please ~ a doctor. Please ~ me (= wake me up) at 6 tomorrow morning. Please ~ me a taxi/~ a taxi for me*. **6** (special uses with *nouns*) **call attention to**, require (a person) to give his attention to. **call a meeting**, announce that one will be held and summon people to attend. **call a strike**, instruct workers to go on strike. **7** make a bid in card-games. ⇨ call¹(7). **8 be called to the bar**, ⇨ bar¹(9). **9** (uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*):

call by, (informal) visit for a short time.

call for, demand, require: *You must take such steps as seem (to be) ~ed for*.

call sth in, order or request the return of: *The librarian has ~ed in all books*. **call in on**, visit briefly.

call (sth) off, (a) tell it to go/come away: *Please ~ your dog off*. (b) decide, give orders, to stop: *The strike/attack was ~ed off*, was either not started or was stopped.

call on, make a short visit.

call on/upon, appeal to; invite; require: *I now ~ on (= invite) Mr Grey to address the meeting*.

call out, (a) summon, esp to an emergency: *The fire brigade was ~ed out twice yesterday*. (b) instruct (workers) to come out on strike.

call sb/sth up, (a) telephone to: *I'll ~ you up this evening*. (b) bring back to the mind: *~ up scenes of childhood*. (c) summon for (military, etc) service: *If war breaks out, we shall be ~ed up at once*. Hence, **'call-up**

call-ler /'kɔ:lə(r)/ *n* [C] person who makes a

visit.

cal-ligra-phy /kə'ligrəfi/ *n* [U] handwriting; (art of) beautiful handwriting.

cal-ling /'kɔ:liŋ/ *n* [C] (esp) occupation, profession or trade.

cal-li-pers /'kælipəz/ *n pl* **1** instrument for measuring the diameter of round objects or the inside measurement of tubes, etc. **2** metal supports attached to the legs of a disabled person to enable him to walk.

cal-lous /'kæləs/ *adj* **1** (of the skin) made hard (by rough work, etc). **2** (fig) hard-hearted, unsympathetic.

cal-low /'kæləʊ/ *adj* young; inexperienced: *a ~ youth*.

cal-lus /'kæləs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) area of thick, hardened skin.

calm /kɑ:m/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (of the weather) quiet; not windy; (of the sea) still; without large waves. **2** not excited; untroubled; quiet: *keep ~*. □ *n a ~*, a time when everything is quiet and peaceful. □ *vt, vi* make or become calm: *He asked the workers to ~ down*.

calm-ly *adv*

calm-ness *n* [U]

cal-orie /'kæləri/ *n* [C] unit of heat; unit of energy supplied by food: *An ounce of sugar supplies about 100 ~s*.

cal-or-ific /kə'lə'rɪfɪk/ *adj* producing heat: *calorific value*, (of food or fuel) quantity of heat produced by a given quantity.

cal-umny /'kæləmni/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) false statement about a person, made to damage his character; [U] slander.

ca-lyp-so /kə'lipsoʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) improvised popular song, as composed by West Indians, on a subject of current interest.

cal-lyx /'keɪlɪks/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es or calyces /'keɪlɪsɪz/) ring of leaves (called *sepals*) forming the outer support of the petals of an unopened flower-bud.

cam-ber /'kæmbə(r)/ *n* [C] slight rise in the middle of a surface (eg a road).

came /keɪm/ *pt* of come.

camel /'kæmɪl/ *n* [C] long-necked animal, with either one or two humps on its back, used in desert countries for riding and for carrying goods.

cameo /'kæmiəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) piece of hard stone with a raised design, often of a different colour, used as a jewel or ornament.

cam-era /'kæmərə/ *n* [C] **1** apparatus for taking single photographs or (/'film/'movie ~) moving pictures, or, (/'TV ~) for broadcasting programmes, etc. **2 in camera**, privately.

cam-ou-flage /'kæməflɑ:ʒ/ *n* [U] **1** that which makes it difficult to recognize the presence or real nature of something or somebody: *The white fur of the polar bear is a natural ~*, because the bear is not easily seen in the snow. **2** (in war) the use of paint, netting, branches, etc to deceive the enemy. □ *vt* try to conceal by means of camouflage.

camp /kæmp/ *n* [C] **1** place where people (eg

people on holiday, soldiers, explorers) live in tents or huts. **2** number of people with the same ideas (esp on politics or religion): *We're in the same ~*, are in agreement, are working together. **3** (also *'holiday-~*) organized centre, usually near the sea, for family holidays. \square *vi* **1** make, live in, a camp: *Where shall we ~ to-night?* **go camping**, spend a holiday in tents, etc: *The boys have decided to go ~ing next summer.* **2 camp it up**, overact.

camper, person who camps, esp on holiday.

cam-paign /kæm'peɪn/ *n* [C] **1** group of military operations with a set purpose, usually in one area. **2** series of planned activities to gain a special object: *an 'advertising ~*, \square *vi* take part in, go on, a campaign: *~ing for the Labour Party.*

cam-paigner, person who campaigns.

cam-pus /'kæmpəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) grounds of a school, college or university.

can¹ /kæn/ *n* [C] **1** metal container for liquids, etc: *an 'oil-~*. **2** (formerly US but now also GB) tin-plated airtight container (for food, etc); contents of such a container: *a ~ of beer.* \Rightarrow tin. **3** (US *sl*) prison. \square *vt* (-nn-) preserve (food, etc) by putting in a can (**2**).

can-ner-y, place where food is canned.

can² /kən *strong form*: kæn/ *auxiliary verb* (negative **cannot** /'kænət/, **can't** /kɑːnt *US*: kənt/, *pt could* /kəd *strong form*: kʊd/, negative **couldn't** /'kʊdnt/) **1** be able to; know how to: *C ~ you lift this box?* *She ~ speak French.* **2** (used with verbs of perception): *I ~ hear people talking in the next room. We could hear someone singing in the bathroom.* **3** (informal) (used to show permission; *may* is more formal): *You ~ go home now. The children asked whether they could go for a swim. You can't travel first-class with a second-class ticket.* **4** (used to show possibility): *That couldn't be true.* **5** (used in questions to show surprise, doubt, etc): *What ~ he 'mean?* **6** (used to indicate what is considered characteristic, what somebody or something is considered capable of being or doing): *It ~ be very cold here, even in May. I could have danced all night.*

can-al /kə'næl/ *n* [C] **1** channel cut through land for use of boats or ships (eg the *Suez C~*) or to carry water to fields for irrigation. **2** tube or pipe (or system of these) in a plant or animal body for food, air, etc: *the alimentary ~*.

ca-nary /kə'neəri/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [C] small, yellow-feathered songbird. **2** [U] its colour, light yellow.

can-cel /'kænsəl/ *vt, vi* (-ll-, *US* -l-) **1** cross out, draw a line through (words or figures); make a mark on (eg postage stamps to prevent re-use). **2** say that something already arranged or decided will not be done, will not take place, etc: *The sports meeting was ~led.*

can-cel-la-tion /'kænsə'leɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

can-cer /'kænsə(r)/ *n* [C, U] diseased growth in the body, often causing death: *lung ~*.

can-cer-ous /'kænsərəs/ *adj* of, like, having,

cancer.

Can-cer /'kænsə(r)/ *n* **1** **Tropic of ~**, the parallel of latitude 32½°N. **2** the Crab, fourth sign of the zodiac.

can-did /'kændɪd/ *adj* straightforward, frank: *I will be quite ~ with you: I think you acted foolishly.*

can-did-ly *adv*

can-di-date /'kændɪdət/ *n* [C] **1** person who wishes, or who is put forward by others, to take an office or position (eg for election to Parliament): *The Labour ~ was elected.* **2** person taking an examination.

candle /'kændl/ *n* [C] wax, etc with a string (*wick*) through it, for giving light.

'candle-stick, holder for a candle.

can-dour (*US* = **can-dor**) /'kændə(r)/ *n* [U] quality of saying freely what one thinks.

candy /'kændi/ *n* [U] (also *'sugar-~*) sugar made hard by boiling; [C] (*pl* -ies) piece of this. \square *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) preserve (eg fruit) by boiling or cooking in sugar: *candied lemon peel.*

cane /keɪn/ *n* [C] **1** long, hollow, jointed stem of tall reeds and grass-like plants (eg bamboo); [U] this material: *a chair with a ~ seat.* **2** [C] length of cane used to punish children. \square *vt* punish with a cane (**2**).

ca-nine /'keɪnəm/ *adj* of, as of, dogs.

can-is-ter /'kænɪstə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** small box (usually metal) with a lid, used for holding tea, etc. **2** cylinder which, when thrown or fired from a gun, bursts and scatters its contents: *a 'tear-gas ~*.

can-ker /'kæŋkə(r)/ *n* [U] **1** disease that destroys the wood of trees. **2** disease that causes the formation of ulcers. **3** (fig) evil influence or tendency that causes decay. \square *vt* destroy by canker.

can-ker-ous /'kæŋkərəs/ *adj* of, like, causing, canker.

can-na-bis /'kænəbɪs/ *n* [U] drug smoked or chewed as an intoxicant. \Rightarrow hemp.

can-ner-y \Rightarrow can¹.

can-ni-bal /'kænəbl/ *n* [C] person who eats human flesh; animal that eats its own kind.

can-ni-bal-ism /-ɪzəm/, practice of eating the flesh of one's own kind.

can-ni-bal-ist-ic /,kænɪbə'listɪk/ *adj* of or like cannibals.

can-non /'kænən/ *n* **1** [C] (*pl* often unchanged) large, heavy gun, fixed to the ground or to a gun-carriage, esp the old kind that fired a solid ball of metal (called a *'~ball*). (*Note: gun and shell* are the words used for modern weapons.) **2** [C] heavy, automatic gun, firing explosive shells, used in modern aircraft.

can-non-ade /,kænə'neɪd/ *n* [C] continued firing of big guns.

can-not /'kænət/ \Rightarrow can².

ca-noe /kə'nu:/ *n* [C] light boat moved by one or more paddles. \Rightarrow paddle¹. \square *vi* travel by canoe.

ca-noe-ist, person who paddles a canoe.

canon /'kænən/ *n* [C] **1** church law. **2** general

standard or principle by which something is judged: *the ~s of conduct/good taste*. **3** body of writings accepted as genuine (esp those of the Bible). **4** official list (esp of RC saints). **5** priest (*the Rev Canon*) who is one of a group with duties in a cathedral.

ca-noni-cal /kə'nɒnɪkl/ *adj* according to church law; of the canon(3): ~ *books*.

canon-ize (also **-ise**) /'kənənəɪz/ *vt* place (a person) in the list of saints.

can-opy /'kænəpi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** (usually cloth) covering over a bed, throne, etc or held (on poles) over a person. **2** cover for the cockpit of an aircraft.

cant /kænt/ *n* [U] **1** insincere talk; hypocrisy. **2** special talk, words, used by a particular class of people.

can't /kɑːnt *US*: kænt/ = cannot. ⇨ *can*².

can-ta-loup, -loupe /'kæntəluːp/ *n* [C] kind of melon.

can-tank-er-ous /kæn'tæŋkərəs/ *adj* bad-tempered; quarrelsome.

can-tata /kæn'tɑːtə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) short musical work (usually telling a story) to be sung by soloists and a choir.

can-teen /kæn'tiːn/ *n* [C] **1** place (esp in factories, offices, barracks) where food and drink are sold and meals bought and eaten. **2** box or chest of table silver and cutlery (knives, forks, spoons). **3** soldier's, camper's, eating and drinking utensils.

can-ter /kæntə(r)/ *n* [C] (of a horse) slow gallop. □ *vt, vi* (cause to) gallop slowly.

can-ticle /'kæntɪkl/ *n* [C] short hymn.

can-ti-lever /'kæntɪlɪvə(r)/ *n* [C] long, large bracket extending from a wall or base (eg to support a balcony).

canto /'kæntəu/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) chief division of a long poem.

can-vas /'kænvəs/ *n* (*pl* ~ses) **1** [U] strong, coarse cloth used for tents, sails, bags, etc and by artists for oil-paintings. **2** [C] (piece of this for an) oil-painting.

can-vass /'kænvəs/ *vt, vi* go from person to person and ask for votes, orders for goods, subscriptions, etc or to learn about people's views on a question. □ *n* [C, U] (instance of) canvassing.

can-yon, cañon /'kænjən/ *n* [C] deep gorge (usually with a river flowing through it).

cap /kæp/ *n* [C] **1** head-covering, worn by boys and men, without a brim, but with a peak. **2** special cap showing membership of a team, occupation, etc. **3** waterproof head-covering for swimming, etc. **4** indoor head-dress worn by nurses and formerly by old women. **5** cover (eg on a milk bottle; tube of toothpaste). **and to cap it 'all...**, and the final, best, etc reason, description, etc is ... □ *vt* (-pp-) **1** put a cap on; cover the top of. **2** do or say something better than somebody else. **cap a joke/story**, tell a better one. **3** award (a player) a cap(2) (as a member of a football team, etc): *He's been ~ped 36 times for Eng-*

land.

ca-pa-bil-ity /'keɪpə'bɪləti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] power, fitness or capacity: *nuclear ~*, power to wage nuclear war. **2** (*pl*) talent that can be developed: *The boy has great capabilities*.

ca-pable /'keɪpəbl/ *adj* **1** talented; able: *a very ~ teacher*. **2 capable of**, (a) (of persons) having the power, ability or inclination: *He's ~ of any crime*. (b) (of things, situations, etc) ready for; open to: *The situation is ~ of improvement*.

ca-pably *adv*

ca-pac-ity /ke'pæsəti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] possibility of holding, containing, learning: *The hall has a seating ~ of 500*, has seats for 500 people. **2** [C] position: *I am your friend, but in my ~ as your Manager I must ask you to resign*.

cape¹ /keɪp/ *n* [C] loose sleeveless article of clothing, hanging from the shoulders.

cape² /keɪp/ *n* [C] high point of land going out into the sea: *the C ~ of Good Hope*.

cap-il-lary /kə'pɪləri *US*: 'kæpələri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) small, narrow tube, esp a very small blood-vessel.

cap-i-tal /'kæpɪtl/ *n* [C] (often used as an adjective) **1** town or city where the government of a country, state or county is carried on: *Melbourne is the ~ of Victoria*. *London, Paris and Rome are ~ cities*. **2** (of letters of the alphabet): *Write your name in ~s*, eg JOHN. **3** [U] wealth, money or property that may be used for the production of more wealth; money with which a business, etc is started: *The company has a ~ of £500000*. **4** head, top part, of a column(1). □ *adj* punishable by death: ~ *punishment*.

capital letter, eg A, B, C, D.

cap-i-tal-ism /'kæpɪtəlizəm/ *n* [U] economic and social system based on the private ownership of the means of production operated for private profit, and on the exploitation of man by man. ⇨ *communism, socialism*.

cap-i-tal-ist, (a) supporter of capitalism. (b) person who controls much capital(3).

cap-i-tal-is-tic /'kæpɪtə'lɪstɪk/ *adj*

cap-i-tal-ize (also **-ise**) /'kæpɪtəlaɪz/ *vt, vi* **1** write or print with a capital letter. **2** convert into, use as, capital(3). **3** (fig) take advantage of; use to one's advantage or profit.

ca-pitu-late /kə'pɪtʃuleɪt/ *vt* surrender (on stated conditions).

ca-pitu-la-tion /kə'pɪtʃʊleɪʃən/ *n* [U]

ca-pon /'keɪpən *US*: -pɒn/ *n* [C] cock (male domestic fowl) castrated and fattened for eating.

ca-price /kə'prɪs/ *n* [C] (tendency towards a) sudden change of mind or behaviour that has no obvious cause.

ca-pri-cious /kə'prɪʃəs/ *adj* often changing, irregular; unreliable.

ca-pri-cious-ly *adv*

Cap-ri-corn /'kæprɪkɔːn/ *n* **1** Tropic of ~, the parallel of latitude 23½°S. **2** the Goat,

tenth sign of the zodiac.

cap-si-cum /'kæpsɪkəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) kinds of plant (*green pepper*) with seed-pods containing hot-tasting seeds; such pods prepared for use in cooking, etc.

cap-size /'kæpsaɪz/ *vt, vi* (esp of a boat in the water) (cause to) overturn, upset.

cap-stan /'kæpstən/ *n* [C] upright device, like a bollard, turned to raise anchors, sails, etc and for pulling a ship to a wharf, etc.

cap-sule /'kæpsju:l/ *US: -səl* *n* [C] **1** seed-case that opens when the seeds are ripe. **2** tiny soluble container for medicine. **3** metal cap for a bottle. **4** (recoverable or non-recoverable) compartment which can be ejected from a spacecraft.

cap-tain /'kæptɪn/ *n* [C] **1** leader or chief commander: *the ~ of a ship/football team*. **2** (army) officer (below a major and above a lieutenant) who commands a company. **3** (navy) officer below an admiral and above a commander. □ *vt* act as captain.

cap-tion /'kæpʃn/ *n* [C] **1** short title or heading of an article in a periodical, etc. **2** words printed with a photograph or illustration.

cap-ti-vate /'kæptɪveɪt/ *vt* fascinate: *He was ~d by Helen*.

cap-tive /'kæptɪv/ *n* [C], *adj* (person, animal) taken prisoner, kept as a prisoner.

captive **'audience**, one that cannot get away easily and so avoid being persuaded.

cap-tiv-ity /kæp'tɪvətɪ/ *n* [U] state of being held captive: *Some birds will not sing in ~.*

cap-tor /'kæptə(r)/ *n* [C] person who takes another person captive.

cap-ture /'kæptʃə(r)/ *vt* make a prisoner of; take or obtain as a prize by force, trickery, skill, etc: *Our army ~d 500 of the enemy*. □ **n** [U] act of capturing: *the ~ of a thief*. **2** [C] thing that is caught.

car /kɑ:(r)/ *n* [C] **1** = motor-car. **2** = tram-/street-car. **3** coach of a train: *the 'dining-~*. **4** that part of a lift, etc used by passengers.

'car-ferry, ferry (sea or air) for taking cars (eg across the English Channel).

'car-park, place, building, for parking motor-vehicles.

'car-port, open-sided shelter for a motor-vehicle.

cara-mel /'kærəmel/ *n* [U] burnt sugar used for colouring and flavouring. **2** [C] small, shaped piece of boiled sugar.

cara-pace /'kærəpeɪs/ *n* [C] shell on the back of a tortoise, etc.

carat /'kærət/ *n* [C] **1** unit of weight (about three and one-fifth grains) for precious stones. **2** measure of the purity of gold, pure gold being 24 carat.

cara-van /'kærəvæn/ *n* [C] **1** company of persons (eg pilgrims, merchants) making a journey together for safety, usually across desert country. **2** covered cart or wagon used for living in, eg by gipsies. **3** modern kind on two wheels, used by people on holiday and pulled

behind a motor-vehicle. ⇨ also trailer.

carbo-hy-drate /kɑ:bəʊ'haɪdreɪt/ *n* **1** [C, U] (kinds of) organic compound including sugars and starches. **2** (*pl*) starchy foods, considered to be fattening.

car-bolic acid /kɑ:bəlɪk 'æsɪd/ *n* [U] strong-smelling, powerful liquid used as an antiseptic and disinfectant.

car-bon /'kɑ:bən/ *n* **1** [U] non-metallic element (symbol **C**) that occurs in all living matter, in its pure form as diamonds and graphite and in an impure form in coal and charcoal. **2** [C, U] (also **'~paper**) (sheet of) thin paper coated with coloured matter, used between sheets of writing paper for taking copies. **3** [C] copy made by the use of a carbon(2).

car-buncle /kɑ:bʌŋkl/ *n* [C] (esp) red (usually painful) inflamed swelling under the skin.

car-bu-ret-tor, (also **-retor**, **-ret-ter**) /kɑ:bju'retə(r) *US: 'kɑ:rɒrɪtər* *n* [C] that part of an engine, eg in a car, in which petrol and air are mixed to make an explosive mixture.

car-cass, **car-case** /'kɑ:kəs/ *n* [C] dead body of an animal (esp one prepared for cutting up as meat).

card /kɑ:d/ *n* [C] **1** (usually small, oblong-shaped) piece of stiff paper or thin cardboard, as used for various purposes: *a 'Christmas/New 'Year/Birthday ~*, sent with greetings at Christmas, etc. ⇨ also **postcard**. **2** programme for a race meeting or game, with details, and space for marking results: *a 'score ~*. **3** (often **'playing-~**) one of the 52 cards used for various games (whist, bridge, poker, etc) and for telling fortunes. **on the cards**, likely or possible. **put one's cards on the table**, make one's plans, intentions, etc known.

'card-game, game using playing-cards.

'card index, index, catalogue, on cards.

card-board /kɑ:dbɔ:d/ *n* [U] thick, stiff kind of paper used for making boxes, etc.

car-diac /'kɑ:dɪæk/ *adj* of, concerning, the heart: *~ muscle/surgery*.

car-di-gan /'kɑ:dɪgən/ *n* [C] knitted woollen jacket that buttons up the front, made with sleeves.

car-di-nal ¹ /'kɑ:dɪnl/ *adj* chief; most important; on which something depends: *the ~ virtues*, justice, prudence, etc.

cardinal number, any number eg 2, 5, 17, (contrasted with *second*, *fifth*, etc).

cardinal points, chief points of the compass (N, S, E and W).

car-di-nal ² /'kɑ:dɪnl/ *n* **1** [C] member of the Sacred College of the RC Church, which elects Popes. **2** [U] bright red.

care ¹ /keə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] serious attention or thought: *You should take more ~ over your work*. **take care of**, (informal) deal with, be responsible for. **2** [U] protection; charge; responsibility: *The child was left in its sister's ~.*

care of, (often written **c/o**) used in addresses before the name of the person(s) to whose

house, office, etc a letter is sent. **3** [U] sorrow; anxiety; troubled state of mind caused by doubt or fear: *C~ has made him look ten years older.* **4** [C] (usually *pl*) cause of sorrow and anxiety: *He was poor and troubled by the ~s of a large family.*

'care-free *adj* free from care(3).

'care-taker, person in charge of a building: *the school ~taker.*

'care-worn *adj* troubled by anxiety.

care² /'keə(r)/ *vi* **1** feel interest, anxiety or sorrow: *He failed in the examination but I don't think he ~s very much/he doesn't seem to ~.*

be past caring, no longer having interest, energy, feeling. **2** (only in the *negative* or in questions) like; be willing: *Would you ~ to go for a walk?* **3** **care for**, (a) like (to have): *Would you ~ for a drink?* (b) have a taste for; like: *Do you ~ for modern music?* (c), look after, provide food, attendance, etc: *Who will ~ for the children if their mother dies?*

care-reer /'kæriə(r)/ *n* **1** [C] progress through life; development and progress of a political party, principle etc: *We can learn much by reading about the ~s of great men.* **2** [C] way of making a living; profession: *All ~s should be open to women.* **3** [U] quick or violent forward movement. *□ vi* rush wildly: *~ about/past.*

care-ful /'keəfl/ *adj* **1** (of a person) cautious; thinking of, paying attention to, what one does, says, etc: *Be ~ not to break the eggs.* *Be more ~ with your work.* **2** done with, showing, care: *a ~ piece of work.*

care-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

care-ful-ness *n* [U]

care-less /'keəlis/ *adj* **1** (of a person) not taking care; thoughtless: *A ~ driver is a danger to the public.* **2** done or made without care: *a ~ mistake.* **3** unconcerned about: *He is ~ of his reputation.*

care-less-ly *adv*

care-less-ness *n* [U]

care-ress /'kæres/ *n* [C] loving or affectionate touch; kiss. *□ vt* give a caress to.

cargo /'kɑ:gəʊ/ *n* [C, U] (*pl* ~es) goods carried in a ship, aircraft or other vehicle.

cari-ca-ture /'kærɪkətʃə(r)/ *n* **1** [C] picture, imitation of a person's voice, behaviour, etc stressing certain features in order to cause amusement or ridicule. **2** [U] art of doing this. *□ vt* make, give, a caricature of.

car-ies /'keəriʒ/ *n* [U] decay (of bones or teeth): *dental ~.*

car-nage /'kɑ:nɪdʒ/ *n* [U] killing of many people.

car-nal /'kɑ:nəl/ *adj* of the body or flesh; sensual: *~ desires.*

car-na-tion /kɑ:'neɪʃn/ *n* [C] garden plant with sweet-smelling white, pink or red flowers; the flower.

car-ni-val /'kɑ:nɪvl/ *n* [U] public entertainment and feasting, usually with processions of persons in fancy dress; [C] festival of this kind.

car-ni-vore /'kɑ:nɪvə(r)/ *n* [C] flesh-eating

animal.

car-ni-vor-ous /kɑ:'nɪvərəs/ *adj* flesh-eating.

carol /'kæərəl/ *n* [C] song of joy or praise, esp a Christmas hymn.

ca-rouse /'kɑ:raʊz/ *vt* drink heavily and be merry (at a noisy feast, etc).

carp¹ /kɑ:p/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) freshwater fish that lives in lakes and ponds.

carp² /kɑ:p/ *vt* make unnecessary complaints about small matters: *She's always ~ing at her husband.*

car-pal /'kɑ:pl/ *adj* (*anat*) of the wrist. *□ n* [C] (*anat*) bone in the wrist.

car-pen-ter /'kɑ:pɪntə(r)/ *n* [C] workman who makes and repairs (esp) the wooden parts of buildings and other structures of wood.

car-pen-try, work of a carpenter.

car-pet /'kɑ:pɪt/ *n* [C] **1** thick covering for floors or stairs, often with a pattern. **2** something suggesting a carpet: *a ~ of moss.* *□ vt* cover (as) with a carpet: *to ~ the stairs.*

car-riage /'kærɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [C] vehicle, esp one with four wheels, pulled by a horse or horses, for carrying people. **2** [C] car or coach for passengers on a railway train. **3** [U] (cost of) carrying of goods from place to place. **4** [C] wheeled support on which a heavy object may move or be moved (eg a 'gun-~). **5** [C] moving part of a machine, changing the position of other parts (eg the roller of a typewriter). **6** [U] manner of holding the head or the body (when walking, etc): *She has a graceful ~.*

'car-riage-way, (part of a) road used by vehicles. *⇒* dual carriageway.

car-rier /'kæriə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person or company that carries goods or people for payment. **2** support for luggage, etc fixed to a bicycle, etc. **3** person, animal, etc that carries or transmits a disease without himself or itself suffering from it. **4** vehicle, ship, etc used for the transport of troops, aircraft, tanks, etc: *an 'aircraft ~.*

'carrier 'bag, strong paper or plastic bag for carrying away purchases from shops.

'carrier-pigeon, pigeon used to carry messages because it can find its way home from a distant place.

car-ri-on /'kæriən/ *n* [U] dead and decaying flesh.

car-rot /'kærət/ *n* [C] (plant with an) orange root used as a vegetable.

carry /'kæri/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) (For uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*, *⇒* 11 below.) **1** support the weight of and move from place to place; take a person, a message, etc from one place to another: *He was ~ing a box on his shoulder. Some kinds of seeds are carried by the wind for great distances. The police seized the spy and carried him off to prison.* **2** have with one; wear; possess: *Do you always ~ an umbrella? Can you ~ all these figures in your head, remember them without writing them down?* **3** support: *These pillars ~ the weight of the roof.* **4** involve; have as a result:

The loan carries 12% interest. **5** (of pipes, wires, etc) conduct; take: *Wires ~ sound. Copper carries electricity.* **6** make longer; extend; take (to a specified point, in a specified direction, etc): ~ pipes under a street. **carry a joke too far**, be no longer amusing. **7** win; capture; persuade; overcome: *The bill/motion/resolution was carried.* There were more votes for it than against it. **carry the day**, be victorious. **8** hold oneself, head, etc in a particular way: *He carries himself like a soldier,* stands and walks like one. **9** (of missiles, sounds, voices, etc) (have the power to) go to: *The sound of their voices carried many miles.* **10** (of a newspaper, etc) print in its pages: *a newspaper that carries several pages of advertisements.*

11 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

be carried away, lose self-control: *He was carried away by his enthusiasm,* was so enthusiastic that he was unable to judge calmly, etc.

carry back, take back in the memory: *an incident that carried me back to my schooldays,* made me remember them.

carry forward, transfer (a total of figures on a page) to the top of a new column or page.

carry off, win: *Tom carried off all the school prizes.* **carry it off (well)**, succeed in a difficult situation; cover a mistake, etc.

carry on, (a) conduct; manage: *Rising costs made it hard to ~ on the business.* (b) talk loudly and complainingly; behave strangely or suspiciously: *Did you notice how they were ~ing on?* **carry on (with)**, (a) continue: *C~ on (with your work).* (b) (often suggesting disapproval) have a love affair with.

carry out, complete something: ~ out a plan. **carry through**, (a) help (through difficulties, etc): *Their courage will ~ them through.* (b) complete something: *Having made a promise, you must ~ it through.*

carry-cot /'kæri kɒt/ *n* [C] portable cot for a baby.

cart /kɑ:t/ *n* [C] two-wheeled vehicle pulled by a horse. **put the cart before the horse**, do or put things in the wrong order. □ *vi* **1** carry in a cart: ~ing away the rubbish. **2** (informal) carry in the hands, etc: *Have you really got to ~ these parcels around for the rest of the day?*

'cart-horse, strong horse for heavy work.

'cart-load, as much as a cart holds.

carte blanche /kɑ:t 'blɑ:nʃ/ *n* (Fr) full authority or freedom (to use one's own judgement about how to proceed, etc): *be given ~ to do it.*

car-ti-lage /'kɑ:tlɪdʒ/ *n* [C,U] (structure, part, of) tough, white tissue attached to the joints in animal bodies.

car-togra-pher /kɑ:'tɒgrəf(r)/ *n* [C] person who makes maps and charts.

car-to-graphic /kɑ:'tɒgræfɪk/ *adj* of cartography.

car-togra-phy /kɑ:'tɒgrəfɪ/ *n* [U] the drawing of maps and charts.

car-ton /'kɑ:tn/ *n* [C] cardboard box for holding goods: *a ~ of cigarettes.*

car-toon /kɑ:'tu:n/ *n* [C] **1** drawing dealing with contemporary (esp political) events in an amusing way. **2** full-size preliminary drawing on paper, used as a model for a painting, etc. **3** (also animated ~) cinema film made by photographing a series of drawings: *a Walt Disney ~*. □ *vi* represent (a person, etc) in a cartoon.

car-toon-ist, person who draws cartoons (**1**).

car-tridge /'kɑ:trɪdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** case containing explosive (for blasting), or explosive with a bullet or shot (for firing from a rifle or shotgun). **2** detachable head of the device which picks up sound (on a record-player), holding the stylus. **3** (large) cassette.

carve /kɑ:v/ *vi, vi* **1** form by cutting away material from a piece of wood or stone: ~ a statue out of wood; *a boy ~d from marble*; (fig) ~ out a career for oneself, achieve one by great effort. **2** inscribe by cutting on a surface: ~ one's initials. **3** cut up (cooked meat) into pieces or slices at or for the table: *carving a leg of lamb.*

carver, (a) carving-knife. (b) person who carves.

carv-ing, something carved (in wood, etc): *a 'wood-~.*

cas-cade /kæ'skeɪd/ *n* [C] **1** waterfall. **2** similar fall of lace, cloth, etc. □ *vi* fall as or like a cascade.

case¹ /keɪs/ *n* [C] **1** instance or example of the occurrence of something; actual state of affairs; circumstances or special conditions relating to a person or thing: *If that's the ~ (= If the situation is as stated or suggested), you'll have to work much harder. No, that's not the ~, is not true. I can't make an exception in your ~, for you and not for others. It's a clear ~ of cheating,* is clear that cheating has taken place. **(just) in 'case**, if it should happen that; because of a possibility: *It may rain; you'd better take an umbrella (just) in ~. In ~ I forget, please remind me about the debt of my promise.*

in 'any case, ⇨ any¹(5). **in 'this/tha**t **case**, if this/that happens, has happened or should happen. **2** person suffering from a disease; instance of this: *There were five ~s of influenza.* **3** (legal) question to be decided in a law court; the facts, arguments, etc used on one side in a law court: *When will the ~ come before the Court?* **make out a case (for/against)**, give arguments in favour of/against. **4** (gram) (change in the) form of a noun or pronoun that shows its relation to another word: *The first person pronoun has three ~s, 'I', 'me' and 'my'.*

'case-book, record kept, eg by a doctor, of cases (**2**) dealt with.

'case-'history, record of the past history of a person's health, social state, etc.

'case-law, law based on decisions made by judges.

'case-load, list of cases (2) to be dealt with in a particular period: *Dr Jones has a heavy (= large) ~load tomorrow.*

'case-work, work involving study of individuals or families with social problems.

case² /keɪs/ *n* [C] **1** box, bag, covering, container: *a pillow-~, of cloth for covering a pillow.* ⇨ also **suitcase**, **bookcase** and other compounds. **2** (in printing): *upper ~*, capital letters; *lower ~*, small letters. □ *vt* enclose in a case or casing.

case-ment /'keɪsmənt/ *n* [C] window that opens outwards or inwards like a door.

cash /kæʃ/ *n* [U] **1** money in coin or notes: *I have no ~ with me; may I pay by cheque?* **cash on delivery**, payment on delivery of the goods. **2** money in any form: *be short of ~*, without money. □ *vt, vi* **1** give or get cash for: *Can you ~ this cheque for me? ~ me a cheque?* **2** take advantage of; benefit from: *shopkeepers who ~ in on shortages by putting up prices.*

'cash and 'carry, place to buy household equipment cheaply and take it away oneself.

'cash crop, food-crop (eg coffee, ground-nuts) to be sold for cash (not for use by the growers).

'cash desk, desk or counter (in a shop, etc) where payment (by cash or cheque) are made.

'cash flow, movement of cash in a business.

'cash price, price if payment is immediate.

cash register, cash box with a device for recording and storing cash received.

ca-shew /'kæʃu:/ *n* [C] (tropical American tree with a small kidney-shaped nut (*~nut*)).

cash-ier /kæʃiə(r)/ *n* [C] person who receives and pays out money in a bank, store, hotel, restaurant, etc.

cash-mere /kæʃ'mɪə(r)/ *n* [U] fine soft wool of Kashmir /kæʃ'mɪə(r)/ goats of India.

cas-ing /'keɪsɪŋ/ *n* [C,U] covering; protective wrapping: *copper wire with a rubber ~.*

ca-sino /kə'sɪnəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) public room or building for music, dancing, etc and (usually) for gambling.

cask /kɑːsk/ *US*: /kæsk/ *n* [C] **1** barrel for liquids. **2** amount that a cask holds.

cas-ket /'kɑːskɪt/ *US*: /'kæskɪt/ *n* [C] **1** small box to hold letters, jewels, cremated ashes, etc. **2** (*US*) coffin.

cas-sava /kə'sɑːvə/ *n* [C,U] (tropical plant with) starchy roots eaten as food.

cas-ser-ole /'kæsarəʊl/ *n* [C] **1** heat-proof dish with a lid in which food is cooked. **2** food so cooked: *a ~ of lamb.*

cas-sette /kə'set/ *n* [C] (*US* = *cartridge*) sealed container for magnetic tape or for photographic film.

cas-sock /'kæsək/ *n* [C] long, close-fitting outer article of clothing, worn by some priests.

cast¹ /kɑːst/ *US*: /kæst/ *n* [C] **1** act of throwing (eg a net or fishing line). **2** thing made by casting (3) or by pressing soft material into a

mould: *His leg was in a plaster ~.* **3** mould for a casting. **4** set of actors in a play; the distribution of the parts among these actors: *a play with an all-star ~.* **5** type or quality: *~ of mind.* **6** (of the eyes) slight squint.

cast² /kɑːst/ *US*: /kæst/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* ~) **1** throw; allow to fall or drop: *The fisherman ~ his net into the water.* **be cast down**, be depressed, unhappy. ⇨ **downcast**. **cast a vote**, give a vote. **2** turn or send in a particular direction. **cast one's eye over sth**, look at, examine, it. **3** pour (liquid metal) into a mould; make in this way: *a figure ~ in bronze.* **4** give (an actor) a part in a play: *He was ~ for the part of Hamlet.* **5 cast sb or sth aside**, abandon; throw away as useless or unwanted. **cast off**, (a) unloose (a boat) and let go. (b) (fig) abandon: throw away as unwanted. Hence, **'cast-off n** unwanted article. (c) remove the last row of stitches from a knitting needle. **cast on**, make the first row of stitches when knitting.

'cast iron n [U] iron in a hard, brittle form, made in moulds after melting the ore in a blast furnace. Hence, **'cast-iron adj** (a) made of cast iron. (b) (fig) hard; strong; unyielding: *a man with a ~iron will/constitution.*

'cast-ing 'vote, one given (eg by the chairman) to decide a question when votes on each side are equal.

cas-ta-nets /'kæstə'net/ *n pl* (also *a pair of ~s*) instruments of wood, etc used in pairs on the fingers to make rattling sounds as a rhythm for dancing.

cast-away /'kɑːstəweɪ/ *US*: /'kæst-/ *n* [C] shipwrecked person, esp one reaching a strange country or lonely island.

caste /kɑːst/ *US*: /kæst/ *n* **1** [C] one of the Hindu hereditary social classes; any exclusive social class. **2** [U] this system.

cas-tel-lated /'kæstlə'teɪtɪd/ *adj* having turrets or battlements (like a castle).

cas-ti-gate /'kæstɪgeɪt/ *vt* punish severely with blows or by criticizing.

cas-ti-ga-tion /'kæstɪ'geɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

cast-ing /'kɑːstɪŋ/ *n* [C] thing made by being poured into a mould. ⇨ **cast²** (3).

castle /'kɑːsl/ *US*: /'kæsl/ *n* [C] **1** large building or group of buildings fortified against attack, esp as in olden times; house that was once such a fortified building. **2** piece (also called *rook*) used in the game of chess. □ *vi* (*chess*) move the king sideways two squares and place the castle on the square the king moved across.

cas-tor, cas-ter /'kɑːstə(r)/ *US*: /'kæst-/ *n* [C] **1** wheel fixed to the legs of a chair, etc (so that it may be turned easily). **2** bottle or metal pot, with holes in the top, for sugar, salt, etc.

'castor sugar, white, finely powdered sugar.

cas-tor oil /'kɑːstə'ɔɪl/ *US*: /'kæstə'ɔɪl/ *n* [U] thick oil, used as a medicine.

cas-trate /kæ'streɪt/ *US*: /'kæstreɪt/ *vt* make (a male animal) useless for breeding purposes.

cas-tra-tion /kæ'streɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

cas-ual /'kæʒʊəl/ *adj* **1** happening by chance: *a ~ meeting*. **2** careless; informal: *a ~ glance*; *~ clothes*, for informal occasions, holidays, etc. **3** irregular; not continued: *~ labourers*, not permanently engaged by one employer.

cas-ual-ly *adv*

casu-alty /'kæʒʊəlti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** accident, esp one involving loss of life or serious injury. **2** person killed or seriously injured in war or an accident: *The enemy suffered heavy casualties*.

'Casualty Ward/Department, part of a hospital to which injured persons are taken.

cat /kæt/ *n* [C] **1** small, fur-covered animal often kept as a pet, to catch mice, etc. **not room to swing a cat (in)**, very small, narrow space. **2** any animal of the group that includes cats, tigers, lions, panthers and leopards.

'cat burglar, one who enters a building by climbing up walls, drainpipes, etc.

'cat-call *vi*, *n* [C] (make a) loud, shrill whistle expressing disapproval (eg at a political meeting).

'cat-nap, short sleep or doze (in a chair, etc not in bed).

,cat-o'-nine-tails, knotted whip formerly used to punish offenders.

'cat suit, woman's or child's tight-fitting one-piece clothing for the whole body.

'cat-walk, narrow footway along a bridge, or through machinery, engines, etc.

'cat's whisker, (esp) excellent example, proposal, person.

cata-clysm /'kætəklɪzəm/ *n* [C] sudden and violent change (eg an earthquake, a political or social revolution).

cata-clys-mic /'kætə'klɪzmɪk/ *adj*

cata-combs /'kætəku:mz/ *n pl* series of underground galleries with openings along the sides for the burial of the dead (as in ancient Rome).

cata-falque /'kætəfælk/ *n* [C] decorated stand or stage for a coffin at a funeral.

cata-logue (US also **catalog**) /'kætələg/ *US*: -ləg/ *n* [C] list of names, places, goods, etc in a special order: *a 'library ~*. □ *vt* make, put in, a catalogue.

cata-maran /'kætəmə'ræn/ *n* [C] boat with twin hulls.

cata-pult /'kætəpʌlt/ *n* [C] **1** Y-shaped stick with a piece of elastic, for shooting stones, etc from. **2** (in ancient times) machine for throwing heavy stones in war. **3** apparatus for launching aircraft without a runway (eg from the deck of a carrier). □ *vt* **1** shoot (as) from a catapult. **2** launch (aircraft) with a catapult.

cata-ract /'kætə'rækt/ *n* [C] **1** large, steep waterfall. **2** growth over the eyeball, that progressively obscures sight.

ca-tarrh /kə'tɑ:(r)/ *n* [U] inflammation, esp in the nose and throat, causing flow of liquid, as when one has a cold.

ca-tas-trophe /kə'tæstrəfi/ *n* [C] sudden event causing great suffering and destruction

(eg a flood).

cata-strophic /'kætə'strofɪk/ *adj*

catch¹ /kætʃ/ *n* [C] **1** act of catching (esp a ball): *That was a difficult ~*. **2** that which is caught or worth catching: *a fine ~ of fish*. **3** something intended to trick or deceive: *There's a ~ in it somewhere*. **4** device for fastening or securing a lock, door, etc.

catch² /kætʃ/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* caught /kɔ:t/) **1** stop (something in motion) (eg by getting hold of it with the hands, by holding out something into which it may come): *I threw the ball to him and he caught it*. **2** capture; seize; intercept: *~ a thief*. *How many fish did you ~?* **3** surprise a person doing something (wrong): *I caught the boys stealing apples from my garden*. **catch sb out**, detect an offender. **4** be in time for: *~ a train/the bus*. **5 catch 'on**, (informal) become popular: *Her records never really caught on*. **catch sb up/up with sb**, (a) come up to a person who is going in the same direction. (b) do all the work that has not yet been done: *Tom has got to work hard to ~ up with the rest of the class*. **catch up on sth**, (esp) do something, eg housework, sleep, revision, that is necessary. **6** (cause to) become fixed or prevented from moving; (cause to) be trapped: *I caught my fingers in the door*. **7** get (the meaning of); hear (the sound); receive (punishment, etc): *I don't quite ~ your meaning*. *I didn't ~ the end of the sentence*. *You'll ~ it!* You'll be scolded, punished, etc! **catch sb's eye**, look at him to attract his attention when he looks in your direction. **catch sight/a glimpse of**, see for a short time. **8** become infected with: *~ a disease/a cold*. **9** (try to) grasp: *A drowning man will ~ at a straw*. *He caught hold of my arm*. **10** hit: *She caught him one (= gave him a blow) on the cheek*. **11 catch one's breath**, fail to breathe regularly for a moment (from surprise, etc). **catch fire**, begin to burn.

'catch-word, (a) word placed so as to draw attention, eg one of the words at the top of this page. (b) phrase or slogan in frequent current use.

catch-ing /'kætʃɪŋ/ *adj* (esp of diseases) infectious.

catchy /'kætʃɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** (of a tune, etc) easily remembered. **2** tricky, deceptive.

cat-echism /'kætɪkɪzəm/ *n* **1** [U] instruction (esp about religion) by question and answer. **2** [C] number, succession, of questions and answers designed for this purpose.

cat-echize (also -ise) /'kætɪkaɪz/ *vt* teach or examine by asking many questions.

cat-egori-cal /'kætɪ'gɔ:rɪkl/ *US*: -'gɔ:r-/ *adj* (of a statement) unconditional; absolute: *the ~ truth*.

cat-egori-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

cat-egor-ize (also -ise) /'kætɪgəraɪz/ *vt* place in a category.

cat-egory /'kætɪgəri/ *US*: -'gɔ:rɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) division or class in a complete system or

grouping.

ca-ter /'keɪtə(r)/ *vi* **1** **cater for**, provide food: *Weddings and parties ~ed for*. **2** **cater for/to**, supply amusement, etc: *TV programmes try to ~ for all interests*.

ca-terer, person who provides meals, etc to clubs, etc.

cat-er-pil-lar /'kætəpɪlə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** larva of a butterfly or moth. **2** endless belt passing over toothed wheels on tanks, etc.

cat-gut /'kætgʌt/ *n* [U] material used for the strings of violins, tennis rackets, etc.

ca-thar-sis /kə'thɑːsɪs/ *n* (*pl* -ses /-sɪz/) **1** [U] emptying of the bowels. **2** [C] outlet for strong emotion (eg as given by an account of deep feelings given to another person).

ca-thar-tic /kə'thɑːtɪk/ *adj*.

ca-the-dral /kə'thiːdrəl/ *n* [C] chief church in a diocese.

cath-ode /'kæθəʊd/ *n* [C] negative electrode in a battery, etc; electrode which releases negative electrons in a ~ 'ray tube.

cath-olic /'kæθəlɪk/ *adj* **1** liberal; general; including many or most things: *a man with ~ interests*. **2** **C~**, = Roman Catholic. □ **C~**, = Roman Catholic.

Ca-tholi-cism /kə'thɒlɪsɪzəm/ *n* [U] teaching, beliefs, etc of the Roman Catholic Church.

cat-kin /'kætkɪn/ *n* [C] length of flowers hanging down from twigs of such trees as willows and birches.

cattle /'kætl/ *n* *pl* bulls, bullocks, cows: *twenty head of ~*. *The ~ are grazing*.

catty /'kæti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (esp) sly and spiteful.

cau-cus /'kɔːkəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) (meeting of the) organization or committee of a political party (making plans, decisions, etc).

caught /kɔːt/ *pt, pp* of catch².

caul-dron /'kɔːldrən/ *n* [C] large, deep, open pot in which things are boiled.

cauli-flower /'kɔːlɪflaʊə(r)/ *US*: 'kɔːli-/ *n* [C, U] (vegetable with a) large, white flower-head.

cau-sal /'kɔːzəl/ *adj* of cause and effect; of, expressing, cause.

cau-sal-ity /kɔː'zæləti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) relation of cause and effect; the principle that nothing can happen without a cause.

cau-sa-tive /'kɔːzətɪv/ *adj* acting as, expressing, cause.

cause /kɔːz/ *n* **1** [C, U] that which produces an effect, that makes something happen: *The ~ of the fire was carelessness*. **2** [U] reason: *You have no ~ for complaint/no ~ to complain*. **3** [C] purpose for which efforts are being made: *fight in the ~ of justice*. □ lose (7). □ *vt* be the cause of: *What ~d his death?*

cause-less *adj* without any natural or known reason.

cause-way /'kɔːzweɪ/ *n* [C] raised road or footpath, esp across wet land or a swamp.

caus-tic /'kɔːstɪk/ *adj* **1** able to burn or destroy by chemical action: ~ soda. **2** (fig) sar-

castic: ~ remarks.

caus-ti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

cau-ter-ize (also -ise) /'kɔːtəraɪz/ *vt* burn (eg a snake-bite) with a caustic substance or with a hot iron (to destroy infection).

cau-tion /'kɔːʃn/ *n* **1** [U] taking care; paying attention (to avoid danger or making mistakes): *When crossing a busy street we must use ~*. **2** [C] warning words: *The judge gave the prisoner a ~ and set him free*. □ *vt* give a caution to: *I ~ed him against being late*. *The judge ~ed the prisoner*.

cau-tion-ary /'kɔːʃənəri/ *US*: -nəri/ *adj* giving advice or warning: ~ tales.

cau-tious /'kɔːʃəs/ *adj* having or showing caution.

cau-tious-ly *adv*

cav-al-cade /'kævl'keɪd/ *n* [C] procession of persons on horseback or in carriages. ⇨ motorcade.

cava-li-er /'kævə'lɪə(r)/ *n* **1** [C] (*old use*) horseman or knight. **2** (in the Civil War, England, 17th century) supporter of Charles I. □ *adj* discourteous.

cav-al-ry /'kævləri/ *n* (usually treated as *pl*) soldiers who fight on horseback.

cave /keɪv/ *n* [C] hollow place in the side of a cliff or hill; large natural hollow under the ground. □ *vi, vt* **cave 'in**, (cause to) fall in, give way to pressure: *The roof of the tunnel ~d in*.

'cave-man, cave dweller.

cav-ern /'kævən/ *n* [C] (*literary*) cave.

caviar, cavi-are /'kævɪə(r)/ *n* [U] pickled roe (eggs) of the sturgeon or certain other large fish.

cav-ity /'kævəti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) empty space; small hole, within a solid body: *a ~ in a tooth*.

ca-vort /kə'vɔːt/ *vi* (*informal*) prance or jump about like an excited horse.

caw /kɔː/ *n* [C] cry of a raven, rook or crow. □ *vi, vt* make this cry.

cay-en-ne /keɪ'en/ *n* [U] (also ~ pepper) very hot kind of red pepper.

cease /siːs/ *vt, vi* stop (the usual word): *C ~ fire!*

cease-less *adj* never ending.

cease-less-ly *adv*

cedar /'siːdə(r)/ *n* **1** [C] evergreen tree with hard, red, sweet-smelling wood. **2** [U] the wood.

cede /siːd/ *vt* **cede to**, give up (rights, land, etc to another state, etc).

ce-dilla /si'dɪlə/ *n* [C] mark put under the c (c) in the spelling of some French, Spanish and Portuguese words (as in *façade*) to show that the sound is /s/.

ceil-ing /'siːlɪŋ/ *n* [C] **1** upper or overhead surface of a room. **2** highest (practicable) level (to be) reached by an aircraft: *an aircraft with a ~ of 20000 ft*. **3** maximum height, limit or level: *price ~s; wage ~s*.

cel-eb-rate /'selɪbreɪt/ *vt* **1** do something to show that a day or an event is important, or an occasion for rejoicing: ~ *Christmas/one's*

birthday: ~ *Mass*, consecrate the Eucharist. **2** praise and honour: *The names of many heroes are ~d by the poets.*

cele-brated *adj* famous: a ~d painter.

cele-bration /sɪˈleɪbrɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

cele-b-ri-ty /sɪˈleɪbrɪti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] being celebrated; fame and honour. **2** [C] famous person.

cel-ery /ˈsɛləri/ *n* [U] garden plant of which the white stems are eaten raw as salad or cooked as a vegetable: ~ *soup*.

cel-es-tial /sɪˈlestiəl/ *US*: -tʃəl/ *adj* **1** of the sky; of heaven: ~ *bodies*, eg the sun and the stars. **2** divinely good or beautiful.

celi-bacy /ˈsɛlibəsi/ *n* [U] state of living unmarried, esp as a religious obligation.

celi-bate /ˈsɛlibət/ *adj*, *n* [C] (of an) unmarried person (esp for religious reasons).

cell /sɛl/ *n* [C] **1** small room for one person (esp in a prison or a monastery). **2** compartment in a larger structure, esp in a honeycomb. **3** unit of an apparatus for producing electric current by chemical action. **4** microscopic unit of living matter. **5** (of persons) centre of (usually revolutionary) propaganda: *communist ~s in an industrial town.*

cel-lar /ˈsɛlə(r)/ *n* [C] underground room for storing coal, wine, etc; (person's) store of wine.

cel-list /ˈtʃɛlɪst/ *n* [C] cello player.

cello, **'cello** /ˈtʃɛləʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) (common abbr for) violoncello.

cel-lu-lar /ˈsɛljələ(r)/ *adj* consisting of cells(4): ~ *tissue*.

Cel-si-us /ˈsɛlsiəs/ *n* (of thermometers) = centigrade.

ce-ment /sɪˈmɛnt/ *n* [U] **1** grey powder (made by burning lime and clay) which, after being wetted, becomes hard like stone and is used for building, etc. ⇨ *concrete*. **2** any similar soft substance that sets firm, used for filling holes (eg in the teeth), or for joining things. □ *vt* **1** put on or in, join with cement. **2** (fig) strengthen; unite firmly: ~ *a friendship*.

ce-ment-mixer, (vehicle with a) revolving drum in which concrete is mixed.

cem-et-ery /ˈsɛmɪtri/ *US*: ˈsɛmətri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) area of land, not a churchyard, used for burials.

ce-no-taph /ˈsɛnətə:f/ *US*: -tæf/ *n* [C] monument put up in memory of a person or persons buried elsewhere.

cen-sor /ˈsɛnsə(r)/ *n* [C] (esp) official with authority to examine letters, books, periodicals, plays, films, etc and to cut out anything regarded as immoral or in other ways undesirable, or, in time of war, helpful to the enemy. □ *vt* examine, cut out, parts of (a book, etc).

'cen-sor-ship, office, duties, etc of a censor.

cen-sure /ˈsɛnʃə(r)/ *vt* criticize unfavourably: *censuring her for being lazy*. □ *n* [U] disapproval: *pass a vote of ~*; [C] expression of disapproval: *unfair ~s of a new book*.

cen-sus /ˈsɛnsəs/ *n* [C] (pl ~es) official

counting of the population, traffic, etc.

cent /sɛnt/ *n* [C] the 100th part of a dollar and some other metric units of currency; metal coin of this value. **per cent**, (%) in, by or for, every 100. (*agree, etc*) **one hundred per cent**, completely.

cen-taur /ˈsɛntə:(r)/ *n* [C] (in old Greek stories) creature, half man and half horse.

cen-ten-ar-ian /ˈsɛntɪˈnɛəriən/ *n* [C] *adj* (person who is) (more than) 100 years old.

cen-ten-ary /ˈsɛntɪˈnəri/ *US*: ˈsɛntənəri/ *adj*, *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** (having to do with a) period of 100 years. **2** 100th anniversary.

cen-ten-nial /ˈsɛntɪˈniəl/ *adj*, *n* [C] = centenary.

cen-ten-nial-ly *adv*

cen-ter /ˈsɛntə(r)/ *n* (US) = centre.

cent(i)- /sɛnt(i)-/ *prefix* a hundred; a hundredth part: *centimetre*.

cen-ti-grade /ˈsɛntɪɡreɪd/ *adj* in or of the temperature scale that has 100 degrees between the freezing-point and the boiling-point of water: 100° ~ (100°C).

cen-ti-gram(me) /ˈsɛntɪɡræm/ *n* [C] the 100th part of a gram(me).

cen-ti-metre (US = -meter) /ˈsɛntɪˈmɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] the 100th part of a metre.

cen-ti-pede /ˈsɛntɪˈpiːd/ *n* [C] small, long, crawling creature with numerous joints and feet.

cen-tral /ˈsɛntrəl/ *adj* **1** of, at, from or near, the centre: *My house is very ~*, is in or near the middle of the town. **2** chief; most important: *the ~ idea of an argument*.

'cen-tral heating, system of heating a building from a central source through radiators, etc.

cen-tral-ly *adv*

cen-tral-ize (also -ise) /ˈsɛntrəlaɪz/ *vt, vi* **1** bring to the centre. **2** come, put, bring, under central (esp government) control.

cen-tral-iz-ation (also -isation) /ˌsɛntrəlaɪˈzeɪʃn/ *US*: -lɪz-/ *n* [U]

centre (US = **cen-ter**) /ˈsɛntə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** middle part or point: *the ~ of Frankfurt*.

'centre of gravity, point in an object about which the weight is evenly balanced in any position. **2** place of great activity, of special interest, etc: *a 'health-~*; *the 'shopping ~ of a town*. **3** person or thing that attracts interest, attention, etc: *She loves to be the ~ of attraction*. **4** that which occupies a middle position, eg in politics, persons with moderate views. □ *vt, vi* **1** place in, pass to, come to, be at, the centre: *The defender ~d the ball*. **2** **centre on/upon**: *Our thoughts ~ on one idea*.

cen-tri-fu-gal /ˈsɛntrɪˈfʊɡl/ *adj* moving, tending to move, away from the centre or axis.

centrifugal force, the force which causes a body spinning round a centre to tend to move outwards.

cen-tury /ˈsɛntʃəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** 100 years. **2** one of the periods of 100 years before or since the birth of Jesus Christ: *in the 20th ~*,

AD 1901-2000. **3** 100 runs made in cricket by a batsman in one innings.

ce-ram-ic /sɪ'ræmɪk/ *adj* of the art of pottery.

ce-ram-ics, (**a**) art of making and decorating pottery. (**b**) (used with a *pl verb*) articles made of porcelain, clay, etc.

cer-eal /'sɪəriəl/ *n* [C] **1** any kind of grain used for food. **2** food prepared from cereals: *break-fast* ~s.

cer-e-bral /'sɛrɪbrəl/ *adj* of the brain: *a ~ haemorrhage*.

cer-emo-nial /,sɛrɪ'məʊniəl/ *adj* formal; as used for ceremonies: ~ *dress*. □ *n* [C,U] special order of ceremony, formality, for a special event, etc.

cer-emo-nial-ly *adv*

cer-emo-ni-ous /,sɛrɪ'məʊniəs/ *adj* fond of, marked by, formality.

cer-emo-ni-ous-ly *adv*

cer-emony /'sɛrɪməni/ *US*: -məʊni/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** [C] special act(s), religious service, etc on an occasion such as a wedding, funeral, the opening of a new public building, etc. **2** [U] behaviour required by social customs, esp among officials, people of high class, etc: *There's too much ~ on official occasions*. **stand on ceremony**, pay great attention to rules of behaviour.

cert¹ /sɜ:t/ *n* [C] (*sf*) something looked on as certain to happen or that certainly has happened: *a dead ~*, an absolute certainty.

cert² /sɜ:t/ *n* [C] (*informal*) (abbr for) certificate.

cer-tain /'sɜ:tn/ *adj* **1** settled; of which there is no doubt: *It is ~ that two and two make four*. **2** convinced; having no doubt; confident: *I'm ~ (that) he saw me*. **for certain**, without doubt: *I cannot say for ~ (= with complete confidence) when he will arrive*. **make certain**, (**a**) inquire in order to be sure: *I think there's a train at 8.20 but you ought to make ~*. (**b**) do something in order to be assured: *I'll go and make ~ of our seats*. **3** reliable; sure to come or happen: *There is no ~ cure for this disease*. **4** not named, stated or described, although it is possible to do so: *on ~ conditions*; *a ~ person I met yesterday*. **5** some, but not much: *There was a ~ coldness in her attitude towards me*.

cer-tain-ly *adv* (**a**) without doubt: *He will ~ly die if you don't get a doctor*. (**b**) (in answer to questions) yes: *'Will you pass me the towel, please?' 'C~ly.'*

cer-tain-ty, (**a**) thing that is certain: *Prices have gone up—that's a ~ty*. (**b**) state of being sure; freedom from doubt: *We can have no ~ty of success*.

cer-ti-fi-able /,sɜ:tɪ'faɪəbl/ *adj* that can be certified.

cer-tifi-cate /sə'tɪfɪkət/ *n* [C] written or printed statement, that may be used as proof or evidence: *a birth/marriage ~*.

cer-tify /'sɜ:tɪfaɪ/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) declare (usually by giving a certificate) that one is certain, that something is true, correct, in order: *I*

~ (*that*) *this is a true copy of...*

cer-ti-tude /'sɜ:tɪtju:d/ *US*: -tu:d/ *n* [U] certainty (the more usual word).

cer-vi-cal /sɜ:'vaɪkəl/ *US*: 'sɜ:vɪkəl/ *adj* of the neck: *a ~ smear*, smear taken from the cervix, to test for cancer.

cer-vix /'sɜ:vɪks/ *n* [C] (*anat*) narrow part of the womb.

ces-sa-tion /'seɪsɪʃn/ *n* [U] (*formal*) ceasing: *the ~ of hostilities*.

ces-sion /'seɪʃn/ *n* [U] (*legal*) act of ceding or giving up lands, rights etc by agreement; [C] thing ceded.

cess-pit /'sespɪt/, **cess-pool** /'sespu:l/ *n* [C] (usually covered) hole, pit or underground tank into which drains (esp for sewage) empty.

chafe /tʃeɪf/ *vi, vt* **1** rub (the skin, one's hands) to get warmth. **2** make or become rough or sore by rubbing: *Her skin ~s easily*. **3** feel irritation or impatience: ~ *at the delay/inefficiency*; ~ *under restraints*. □ *n* [C] sore place on the skin.

chaff¹ /tʃɑ:f/ *US*: tʃæf/ *n* [U] **1** outer covering (*husks*) of grain, removed before the grain is used as human food. **2** hay or straw cut up as food for cattle. □ *vt* cut up (hay, straw).

chaff² /tʃɑ:f/ *US*: tʃæf/ *n* [U] good-humoured teasing or joking. □ *vt* tease.

chaf-finch /'tʃæfɪntʃ/ *n* [C] small European songbird.

chag-rin /'ʃægryn/ *US*: ʃə'grɪn/ *n* [U] feeling of disappointment or annoyance (at having failed, made a mistake, etc): *Much to his ~, he did not win the race*. □ *vt* affect through disappointment, etc.

chain /tʃeɪn/ *n* [C] **1** flexible line of connected rings or links for connecting, continuing, restraining, ornament, etc. **2** (*pl*) kind used for prisoners. **3** number of connected things, events, etc: *a ~ of events/ideas/mountains*. **4** measure of length (66 ft). □ *vt* make fast with a chain.

'chain-armour/-mail, armour made of metal rings linked together.

'chain-gang, gang of prisoners in chains while at work outside their prison.

'chain reaction, chemical change forming products that themselves cause more changes so that the process is repeated again and again.

'chain-smoker, person who smokes cigarettes one after the other.

'chain-stitch, kind of sewing in which each stitch makes a loop through which the next stitch is taken.

'chain-store, one of many shops owned and controlled by the same company.

chair /tʃeə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** separate movable seat for one person, usually with a back and in some cases with arms (*'arm~*): *Won't you take a ~, sit down?* **2** seat, office, of a person who presides at a meeting. **be in/take the chair**, act as chairman. **3** position of a professor: *the C~ of Philosophy*. □ *vt* **1** place in a chair; raise

up and carry (a person who has won a contest): *The newly elected MP was ~ed by his supporters.* **2** ~ a meeting, act as chairman.

'chair-man, person controlling a meeting.

'chair-person, chairman (male or female).

chalet /'ʃæleɪ/ *n* [C] **1** Swiss mountain hut or cottage built of wood and with a sharply sloping and overhanging roof. **2** summer cottage built in the same style. **3** small hut in a holiday camp, etc.

chal-ice /'tʃælɪs/ *n* [C] goblet, esp that used for the Eucharist.

chalk /tʃɔ:k/ *n* **1** [U] soft, white substance (a kind of limestone) used for making lime. **2** [C, U] this material, or a material similar in texture, white or coloured, made into sticks for writing and drawing. □ *vt* write, draw, mark, whiten, with chalk.

chalky *adj* of, containing, like, chalk.

chal-enge /'tʃælɪndʒ/ *n* [C] **1** invitation or call to play a game, run a race, have a fight, etc to see who is better, stronger, etc. **2** order given by a sentry to stop and explain who one is. □ *vt* give, send, be, a challenge to; ask for facts (to support a statement, etc): ~ a person's right to do something.

chal-enger, person who challenges.

cham-ber /'tʃeɪmbə(r)/ *n* **1** (old use) room, esp a bedroom. **2** (pl) judge's room for hearing cases that need not be taken into court; rooms in a large building to live in or to use as offices. **3** (hall used by a) group of legislators, often distinguished as the 'Upper C~ and the 'Lower C~. **4** offices of barristers, etc esp in the Inns of Court. **5** group of persons organized for purposes of trade: a C~ of Commerce. **6** enclosed or walled space in the body of an animal or plant, in a gun, in some kinds of machinery.

'chamber concert, concert of chamber music.

'chamber-maid, housemaid who keeps bedrooms in order (now chiefly in hotels).

'chamber music, music for a small number of players (eg a string quartet).

'chamber-pot, vessel for urine.

cha-meleon /kə'mɪliən/ *n* [C] **1** small lizard with a long tongue whose colour changes according to its background. **2** (fig) person who changes his voice, manner, etc to suit his audience.

chammy-leather /'ʃæmɪ leðə(r)/ *n* = chamois-leather.

cham-ois /'ʃæmwɑ: US: 'ʃæmɪ/ *n* [C] small animal like a goat that lives in the high mountains of Europe and SW Asia.

'chamois-leather, soft leather from the skin of goats and sheep.

champ¹ /tʃæmp/ *vt, vi* **1** (of horses) bite (food, the bit) noisily. **2** (fig) show impatience: ~ with rage.

champ² /tʃæmp/ *n* [C] (informal) (abbr for) champion(2).

champ-pagne /ʃæm'peɪn/ *n* [C, U] (kinds of)

white sparkling French wine.

cham-pion /'tʃæmpjən/ *n* [C] **1** person who fights, argues or speaks in support of another or of a cause: a ~ of free speech/of woman's rights. **2** person, team, animal, etc taking the first place in a competition: a 'boxing/'tennis ~. □ *vt* support; defend.

cham-pion-ship, [U] act of championing; [C] position of a champion.

chance¹ /tʃɑ:ns US: tʃæns/ *n* **1** [U] the happening of events without any warning or cause that can be seen or understood; the way things happen; fortune or luck: *Let's leave it to ~.* **by chance**, unexpectedly, not by design or on purpose. **take a chance (on sth)**, trust to luck accepting that you may be unlucky. **2** [C, U] possibility: *He has no/not much ~/a poor ~ of winning. The ~s are that you'll lose.* **on the 'off chance (of)**, in the hope (of). **3** [C] opportunity; occasion when success seems very probable. ⇨ lifetime. **stand a (good/fair) chance (of...)**, have a (good) hope (of). □ *adj* coming or happening by chance(1): a ~ meeting.

chance² /tʃɑ:ns US: tʃæns/ *vi, vt* **1** find, happen or meet by chance: *I ~d to be there.* **2** take a risk, esp **chance it/one's arm**, (informal) take a risk.

chan-cel /'tʃɑ:nsəl US: 'tʃæn-/ *n* [C] eastern part of a church, round the altar, used by the priest(s) and choir.

chan-cel-lor /'tʃɑ:nsələ(r) US: 'tʃæns-/ *n* [C] **1** State or law official of various kinds: *the C~ of the Exchequer.* **2** (of some universities) honorary head or president (the duties being performed by the Vice-C~). **3** chief secretary of an embassy. **4** (in some countries, eg Germany) chief minister of state.

chancy /'tʃɑ:nsɪ US: 'tʃænsɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (informal) risky; uncertain.

chan-de-lier /,ʃændə'liə(r)/ *n* [C] branched support, hanging from a ceiling, for a number of lights.

chan-dler /'tʃɑ:ndlə(r) US: 'tʃænd-/ *n* [C] **1** person who makes or sells candles, paint, etc. **2** ship's ~, dealer in canvas, ropes and other supplies for ships.

change¹ /tʃeɪndʒ/ *n* **1** [C] changed or different condition(s); thing used in place of another or others; move from one place to another: *a welcome ~ from town to country life. Take a ~ of clothes with you, extra clothes to change into.* **2** [U] money in small(er) units; money that is the difference between the price or cost and the sum offered in payment: *Can you give me ~ for a pound note? Don't leave your ~ on the shop counter!* **3** [C, U] alteration; changing: *Let's hope there will be a ~ in the weather. for a change*, for the sake of variety; to be different from one's routine: *Why not phone 'me for a ~? make a change*, produce one to vary the routine: *Let's go camping this weekend; it'll make a ~.*

change² /tʃeɪndʒ/ *vi, vi* **1** leave one place and

go to, enter, another: *I've ~d my address, moved to a different house.* **2** take off something and put something else on: *It won't take me five minutes to ~, to put on different clothes.* **3** give and receive in return: *He ~d his Italian money before leaving Rome. I ~d places with her.* **4** make or become different: *That has ~d my ideas. The wind has ~d from north to east.* **change one's mind**, ⇨ *mind*¹(2). **change up/down**, change to a higher/lower gear when driving a motor-vehicle. ⇨ also *subject*²(2).

change-able /-əbl/ *adj* likely to alter; able to be changed: ~able weather.

chan-nel /'tʃænl/ *n* [C] **1** stretch of water joining two seas; the *English C~*, between France and England. **2** natural or artificial bed of a stream of water; passage along which a liquid may flow. **3** (fig) any way by which news, ideas, etc may travel: *He has secret ~s of information. through the usual channels*, by the usual means of communication. **4** band of radio or TV frequencies within which signals from a transmitter must be kept. □ *vt* (-ll-, US also -l-) **1** form a channel in; cut out (a way): *The river had ~led its way through the soft rock.* **2** cause to go through channels.

chant /tʃɑːnt US: /tʃænt/ *n* [C] often-repeated tune for psalms and canticles; several syllables or words to one note. ⇨ *hymn*. □ *vi, vt* sing; sing a chant.

chaos /'keɪs/ *n* [U] complete absence of order or shape; confusion: *The room was in complete ~ when the burglars had left.*

cha-otic /keɪ'ɒtɪk/ *adj* in a state of chaos; confused.

cha-oti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

chap¹ /tʃæp/ *n* [C] (informal) man; boy.

chap² /tʃæp/ *vt, vi* (-pp-) **1** (of the skin) become sore, rough, cracked: *My skin soon ~s in cold weather.* **2** cause to become cracked or rough: *hands and face ~ped by the cold.* □ *n* [C] crack, esp in the skin.

chapel /'tʃæpl/ *n* [C] **1** place (not a parish church) used for Christian worship, eg in a school, prison, etc. **2** small place within a Christian church, used for private prayer, with an altar. **3** service held in a chapel. **4** trade union group in a factory, etc.

chap-eron /'ʃæpəʊn/ *n* [C] married or elderly person (usually a woman) in charge of a girl or young unmarried woman on social occasions. □ *vt* act as a chaperon to.

chap-lain /'tʃæplɪn/ *n* [C] priest or clergyman, esp in the armed forces, or of a chapel(1).

chap-ter /'tʃæptə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (usually numbered) division of a book. **chapter and verse**, the exact reference. **2** period: *the most brilliant ~ in our history.* **3** (general meeting of the) canons of a cathedral church, or the members of a monastic order or a group of trade union members.

chapter-house, building used for meetings

of chapters(3).

char¹ /tʃɑː(r)/ *vt, vi* (-rr-) (of a surface) make or become black by burning: ~red wood.

char² /tʃɑː(r)/ *vi* (-rr-) do the cleaning of offices, houses, etc with payment by the hour or the day: *go out ~ring.* □ *n* [C] = charwoman.

'char-woman, woman who earns money by charring.

char³ /tʃɑː(r)/ *n* [U] (GB sl) tea: *a cup of ~.*

char-ac-ter /'kærɪktə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] (of a person, community, race, etc) mental or moral nature; mental or moral qualities that make one person, race, etc different from others: *a woman of fine/strong/noble ~; the ~ of the French.* **in/out of character**, appropriate/inappropriate to a person's known character. **2** [U] moral strength; reputation: *a man of ~.* **3** [U] all those qualities that make a thing, place, etc what it is and different from others: *the ~ of the desert areas of N Africa.* **4** [C] person who is well known; person in a novel, play, etc: *the ~s in the novels of Charles Dickens.* **5** [C] letter, sign, etc used in a system of writing or printing: *Greek/Chinese ~s.*

char-ac-ter-less *adj* undistinguished; ordinary.

char-ac-ter-is-tic /'kærɪktə'rɪstɪk/ *adj* forming part of, showing, the known character of: *It's so ~ of him.* □ *n* [C] special mark or quality.

char-ac-ter-is-ti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

char-ac-ter-ize (also -ise) /'kærɪktəraɪz/ *vt* show or mark in a special way: *Your work is ~d by great attention to detail.*

cha-rade /ʃə'reɪd US: -reɪd/ *n* [C] **1** game in which a word is guessed by the onlookers after each syllable of it has been suggested by acting a little play. **2** pointless action.

char-coal /'tʃɑːkəʊl/ *n* [U] black substance, used as fuel, for drawing, etc made by burning wood slowly in an oven with little air.

charge¹ /tʃɑːdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** accusation; statement that a person has done wrong, esp that he has broken a law. **bring a charge against sb**, accuse him of (a crime). **2** sudden and violent attack at high speed (by soldiers, animals, a football player, etc). **3** price asked for goods or services: *hotel ~s.* **4** amount of powder, etc (to be) used in a gun or for causing an explosion; quantity of energy (to be) contained in an electrical battery, etc: *a positive/negative ~.* **5** [C, U] work, responsibility, given to a person as a duty: *Mary was in ~ of the baby.* **take charge of**, be responsible for. **6** instructions: *the judge's ~ to the jury*, instructions concerning their duty (in reaching a verdict).

charge² /tʃɑːdʒ/ *vt, vi* **1** accuse; bring a charge(1) against: *He was ~d with murder.* **2** rush forward (and attack): *The wounded lion suddenly ~d at me.* **3** ask in payment: *He ~d me fifty pence for it.* **4** load (a gun); fill, put a charge(4) into: ~ a battery. **5 charge with**, give as a task or duty: *He was ~d with an im-*

portant mission. **6** (esp of a judge, a bishop or person in authority) command; instruct: *I ~ you not to forget what I have said.*

charge-able /'tʃɑ:dʒəbl/ *adj* **1** that can be, is liable to be, charged: *If you steal, you are ~ with theft.* **2** that may be added (to an account); that may be made an expense: *Costs of repairs are ~ to the owner.*

chargé d'affaires /ʃɑ:ʒeɪ dæ'feə(r)/ *n* [C] (*pl* *chargés d'affaires*, pronunciation unchanged) official who takes the place of an ambassador or minister when the ambassador, etc is away.

char-i-ot /'tʃæriət/ *n* [C] horse-drawn vehicle with two wheels, used in ancient times in fighting and racing.

char-io-teer /'tʃæriətə(r)/ *n* [C] driver of a chariot.

cha-ri-sma /kə'rizmə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** spiritual grace. **2** creative ability of an unusually high degree. **3** ability to encourage devotion and enthusiasm.

char-is-matic /,kæriz'mætɪk/ *adj*

chari-table /'tʃæritəbl/ *adj* showing, having, for, charity: ~ *trusts.*

chari-tably /-əbli/ *adv*

char-ity /'tʃærəti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] (kindness in giving) help to the poor; money, food, etc so given. **2** [C] society or organization for helping the poor. **3** [U] willingness to judge other persons with kindness or love.

char-la-tan /'ʃælətən/ *n* [C] person who claims to have more skill, knowledge or ability than he really has.

charm /tʃɑ:m/ *n* **1** [U] attractiveness; power to give pleasure. **2** [C] pleasing quality or feature: *Her ~ of manner made her very popular.* **3** [C] thing believed to have magic power, good or bad: *a good-luck ~*. □ *vt, vi* **1** attract; give pleasure to: *We were ~ed with the scenery.* **2** use magic on; influence or protect as if by magic: *She ~ed away his sorrow.*

charm-ing *adj* delightful: *a ~ing young lady.*

chart /tʃɑ:t/ *n* [C] **1** map used by sailors, showing the coasts, depth of the sea, position of rocks, lighthouses, etc. **2** sheet of paper with information, in the form of curves, diagrams, etc: *a ~ weather ~*. □ *vt* make a chart of; show on a chart.

char-ter /'tʃɑ:tə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (written or printed statement of) rights, permission, esp from a ruler or government (eg to a town, city or university). **2** hiring or engagement (of an aircraft, a ship, etc): *a ~ flight*. □ *vt* **1** give a charter to. **2** hire or engage a ship, an aircraft, etc for an agreed time, purpose and payment. **3** *chartered ac'countant*, (in GB) member of the Institute of Accountants.

char-woman /'tʃɑ:wəməŋ/ *n* ⇨ *char*².

chary /'tʃeəri/ *adj* (-ier, iest) cautious; careful: ~ of catching cold.

char-ily /'tʃeəri/ *adv*

chase¹ /tʃeis/ *vt, vi* **1** run after in order to capture, kill, overtake or drive away: *Dogs like*

chasing rabbits. **2** (*informal*) hurry; rush: *The children all ~d off after the procession.* □ *n* [C] **1** act of chasing: *After a long ~, we caught the thief.* **2** hunted animal, person or thing being pursued.

chase² /tʃeis/ *vt* cut patterns or designs on; engrave: ~d silver.

chasm /'kæzəm/ *n* [C] **1** deep opening or crack in the ground. **2** (*fig*) wide difference (of feeling or interests, between persons, groups, nations, etc).

chas-sis /'ʃæsi/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) **1** framework of a motor-vehicle on which the body is fastened or built. **2** landing gear of an aircraft.

chaste /tʃeist/ *adj* **1** virtuous in word, thought and deed. **2** (esp) abstaining from unlawful or immoral sexual intercourse. **3** (of style, taste) simple.

chaste-ly *adv*

chas-ten /'tʃeɪsn/ *vt* **1** punish in order to correct. **2** make chaste (2).

chas-tise /tʃæ'staɪz/ *vt* punish severely.

chas-tise-ment *n* [U] punishment.

chas-tity /'tʃæstəti/ *n* [U] state of being chaste.

chat /tʃæt/ *n* [C] friendly, informal talk: *I had a long ~ with him.* □ *vi, vt* (-tt-) **1** have a chat: *They were ~ing (away) in the corner.* **2** *chat sb up*, (*informal*) talk to in order to win friendship: ~ up a pretty barmaid.

chat show, TV programme where celebrities are interviewed.

chatty *adj* (-ier, -iest) fond of chatting.

châ-teau /'ʃætəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~x /-təʊz/) castle or large country house in France.

chat-tel /'tʃætəl/ *n* [C] (*legal*) article of personal movable property (eg a chair, a car).

chat-ter /'tʃætə(r)/ *vi* **1** (of a person) talk quickly or foolishly; talk too much. **2** (of the cries of monkeys and some birds, of a person's upper and lower teeth striking together from cold or fear) make quick, indistinct sounds. □ *n* [C] sounds of the kind noted above: *the ~ of children.*

chat-ter-box, person who chatters (1).

chauf-feur /'ʃəʊfə(r)/ *US*: /ʃəʊ'fɜ:/ *n* [C] man paid to drive a private car.

chau-vin-ism /'ʃəʊvɪnɪzəm/ *n* [U] too much support or enthusiasm for national military glory, sexual superiority, etc.

chau-vin-ist, person with such enthusiasm: *a male ~.*

chau-vin-is-tic /'ʃəʊvɪnɪstɪk/ *adj*

cheap /tʃi:p/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** costing little money: *travel by the ~est route.* **2** worth more than the cost. **3** of poor quality: ~ and nasty. **4** shallow; insincere: ~ emotion.

cheap-ly *adv*

cheap-ness *n* [U]

cheapen /'tʃi:pən/ *vt, vi* make or become cheap; lower the price or quality of: *Don't ~ yourself.*

cheat /tʃi:t/ *vi, vt* act in a dishonest way to win

an advantage or profit: ~ a person out of his money; ~ in an examination. □ *n* [C] **1** person who cheats. **2** dishonest trick.

check¹ /tʃek/ *n* [U] **1** control; person or thing that checks or restrains: *Wind acts as a ~ on speed.* **2** examination to make certain of accuracy; mark or tick (usually written ✓) to show that something has been proved to be correct. **3** receipt given temporarily in return for something handed over.

check-up, (esp a medical) examination.

check² /tʃek/ *vt, vi* **1** examine in order to learn whether something is correct: *Will you please ~ these figures?* **check up on sb/sth**, examine to see whether he/it is, has done, what is claimed. **2** hold back; cause to go slow or stop: *He couldn't ~ his anger.* **3** (chess) threaten an opponent's king. **4** **check 'in**, arrive and register at a hotel, airport, etc. **check 'out**, pay one's bill and leave.

check-in, place (in an airport, etc) where one registers for a flight.

check-out, (esp) place (eg in a supermarket) where one pays the bill, wraps one's goods and leaves.

checker, person who checks orders, etc.

check³ /tʃek/ *n* [U] pattern of crossed lines forming squares (often of different shades or colours); cloth with such a pattern.

check-mate /tʃekmeɪt/ *vt* **1** (chess) make a move that prevents the opponent's king from being moved away from a direct attack (and so win the game). **2** (fig) obstruct and defeat (a person, his plans). □ *n* [C] complete defeat.

cheek /tʃi:k/ *n* [C] **1** either side of the face below the eye. **2** [U] impudence: *He had the ~ to ask me to do his work for him!* □ *vt* be impudent to: *Stop ~ing your mother!*

cheek-bone, bone below the eye.

cheek-ily /-əli/ *adv*

cheeky *adj* (-ier, -iest) rude, impolite.

cheep /tʃi:p/ *vi, n* [C] (make a) weak, shrill note (as young birds do).

cheer¹ /tʃiə(r)/ *n* [U] state of hope, gladness: words of ~, of encouragement. **2** [C] shout of joy or encouragement.

cheer² /tʃiə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** fill with gladness, hope, high spirits; comfort: *Your visit has really ~ed me (up).* **2** take comfort, become happy: *He ~ed up when I promised to go.* **3** give shouts of joy, approval or encouragement: *The speaker was loudly ~ed.*

cheer-ing *n* [U]: *The ~ing could be heard half a mile away.* □ *adj*: *That's ~ing news.*

cheer-ful /tʃiəfəl/ *adj* **1** bringing or suggesting happiness: *a ~ day/room/smile.* **2** happy and contented; willing: ~ workers.

cheer-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

cheer-ful-ness *n* [U]

cheerio /tʃiəriəʊ/ *int* (informal) (used when parting) goodbye.

cheer-less /tʃiəlis/ *adj* without comfort; gloomy; miserable: *a wet and ~ day.*

cheery /tʃiəri/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) lively; merry: *a*

~ smile/greeting.

cheer-ily /-əli/ *adv*

cheese /tʃi:z/ *n* **1** [U] kinds of solid food made from milk curds. **2** [C] shaped and wrapped portion of this.

cheesed off, (sl) bored; angry.

'cheese-cloth, (a) thin cotton cloth (gauze) put round some kinds of cheese. (b) similar (thicker) cloth used to make shirts, etc.

'cheese-paring, excessive carefulness in the spending of money.

chee-tah /tʃi:tə/ *n* [C] kind of leopard.

chef /ʃef/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) head male cook in a hotel, restaurant, etc.

chef-d'oeuvre /,ʃeɪ 'dʒ:və/ *n* [C] (pl chefs-d'oeuvre, pronunciation unchanged) (Fr) (person's) masterpiece.

chem-ical /'kemɪkl/ *adj* of, made by, chemistry: ~ warfare, using poison gas, smoke, etc. □ *n* [C] (often pl) substance used in, or obtained by, chemistry.

chem-ically /-kli/ *adv*

chem-ist /'kemɪst/ *n* [C] **1** person who is expert in chemistry. **2** person who prepares and sells medical goods, toilet articles, etc.

chem-is-try /'kemɪstri/ *n* [U] branch of science that deals with how substances are made up, how they (their elements) combine, how they act under different conditions.

cheque /tʃek/ *n* [C] (US = **check**) written order to a bank to pay money: *a ~ for £10; pay by ~.*

'cheque-book, number of blank cheques fastened together.

'cheque-card, identification for paying by cheque, cashing cheques, etc.

cher-ish /tʃeriʃ/ *vt* **1** care for tenderly. **2** keep alive (hope, ambition, feelings, etc) in one's heart: *For years she ~ed the hope that her husband might still be alive.*

cherry /tʃeri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (tree with) soft, small, round fruit, red, yellow or black when ripe and with a stone-like seed in the middle. □ *adj* bright red: ~ lips.

cherub /tʃerəb/ *n* [C] **1** (pl ~s) small beautiful child; (art) such a child with wings. **2** (pl ~im /-bim/) one of the second highest order of angels.

chess /tʃes/ *n* [U] board game for two players with sixteen pieces each (called 'men /-men/), on a board with sixty-four squares (called a 'board).

chest /tʃest/ *n* [C] **1** large, strong (usually wooden) box with a lid for storing things. **2** upper front part of the body, enclosed by the ribs, containing the heart and lungs. **get sth off one's chest**, (sl) say something that one is anxious to say.

'chest of 'drawers, piece of furniture with drawers for clothes.

chest-nut /tʃesnat/ *n* **1** [C,U] (sorts of, wood of) tree with smooth, bright reddish-brown nut (some being edible). **2** [U] colour of the nut. **3** horse of this colour. □ *adj* reddish-

brown.

chew /tʃu:/ *vt, vi* **1** move (food, etc) about between the teeth in order to crush it: *C ~ your food well before you swallow it.* **2** **chew sth over/on sth.** (informal) think over, consider. □ *n* [C] act of chewing; thing to chew.

'chew-ing-gum, sticky substance sweetened and flavoured for chewing.

chic /ʃi:k/ *adj* (of clothes, their wearer) showing excellent style(2). □ *n* [C] superior style(2).

chick /tʃɪk/ *n* [C] **1** young bird, esp a young chicken. **2** small child. **3** (sf) girl.

chicken /ˈtʃɪkɪn/ *n* [C] **1** young bird, esp a young hen. (**Don't**) **count your chickens before they are hatched.** (Don't) be too hopeful of your chances of success, etc. **2** [U] its flesh as food.

'chicken-'hearted *adj* not having courage.

'chicken-pox, disease producing red spots on the skin.

'chicken-run, fenced-in area for chickens.

chic-ory /ˈtʃɪkəri/ *n* [U] **1** plant used as a vegetable and for salad. **2** the root roasted and made into a powder (used with or instead of coffee).

chide /tʃaɪd/ *vt, vi* (*pt* ~d or *chid* /tʃɪd/, *pp* ~d,) scold; complain.

chief /tʃi:f/ *n* [C] **1** leader or ruler: *the ~ of the tribe.* **2** head of a department; highest official. □ *adj* **1** principal; most important: *the ~ thing to remember.* **2** first in rank: *the C ~ Justice.*

-in-' **chief**, supreme: *the Commander-in-~.*

chief-ly *adv* (a) above all; first of all. (b) mostly; mainly.

chief-tain /ˈtʃi:ftæn/ *n* [C] chief of a highland clan or of a tribe.

chi-gnon /ˈʃi:ɲɔŋ/ *US*: -nɔŋ/ *n* [C] (Fr) knot or roll of hair worn at the back of the head by women.

child /tʃaɪld/ *n* [C] (*pl* children /ˈtʃɪldrən/) **1** young human being. **2** son or daughter (of any age).

'child-birth, the process of giving birth to a child.

'child-hood, state, time, of being a child.

'child-ish *adj* of, behaving like, suitable for, a child: ~ish games/arguments.

child-less *adj* having no child(ren).

'child-like *adj* simple, innocent.

'child-minder, person who looks after a child (while the parents are working).

'child's play, something very easily done.

chill /tʃɪl/ *n* **1** (sing only) unpleasant feeling of coldness: *There's quite a ~ in the air this morning.* **2** (sing only) (fig) something that causes a depressed feeling: *The bad news cast a ~ over the gathering.* **3** [C] illness caused by cold and damp, with shivering of the body. □ *adj* unpleasantly cold: *a ~ breeze.* □ *vt, vi* make or become cold or cool: *He was ~ed to the bone,* very cold. ⇨ marrow(1).

chilly *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) rather cold: *feel ~y.* (b) (fig) unfriendly: *a ~y welcome*

chilli /ˈtʃɪli/ *n* [C,U] dried pod of red pepper, often made into powder and used to give a hot flavour.

chime /tʃaɪm/ *n* [C] (series of notes sounded by a) tuned set of bells: *a ~ of bells;* □ *vi, vt* **1** (of bells, a clock) make (bells) ring; ring bells: *The bells are chiming.* **2** break in on the talk of others: *'Of course,' he ~d in.*

chim-ney /ˈtʃɪmni/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** structure through which smoke from a fire is carried away through the wall or roof of a building. **2** narrow opening by which a cliff face may be climbed.

'chimney-pot, pipe fitted to the top of a chimney(1).

'chimney-stack, group of chimneys.

'chimney-sweep(er), man who sweeps soot from chimneys.

chimp /tʃɪmp/ *n* [C] (informal) (abbr for) chimpanzee.

chim-pan-zee /ˈtʃɪmpænˈzi:/ *n* [C] African ape, smaller than a gorilla.

chin /tʃɪn/ *n* [C] part of the face below the mouth; front of the lower jaw.

china /ˈtʃaɪnə/ *n* [U] **1** baked and glazed fine white clay. **2** articles (eg cups, saucers, plates) made from this.

chink /tʃɪŋk/ *n* [C] narrow opening or crack.

'chink² /tʃɪŋk/ *vt, vi, n* [C] (make or cause the) sound of coins, glasses, etc striking together.

chip /tʃɪp/ *n* [C] **1** small piece cut or broken off (from wood, stone, china, glass, etc). **have a chip on one's shoulder**, resent or exaggerate prejudice against oneself. **2** strip cut from a potato, etc: *fish and ~s*, fried fish and potato pieces. **3** place (in china) from which a chip has come. **4** flat plastic counter used as money (esp in gambling). **5** (informal) very small electronic circuit. □ *vt, vi* (-pp-) **1** cut or break (a piece off or from): *All the plates have ~ped edges.* **2** make into chips(2). **3** (of things) be broken at the edge: *These cups ~ easily.* **4**

'chip'in, (informal) (a) interrupt. (b) contribute money (to a fund).

chi-rop-odist /kɪˈrɒpədɪst/ *n* [C] person who is expert in the treatment of troubles of the feet and toe-nails.

chi-rop-ody /kɪˈrɒpədi/ *n* [U] work of a chiropodist.

chirp /tʃɪɜ:p/ *vi, vt, n* [C] (make) short, sharp note(s) or sound(s) (as of small birds or insects).

chirpy /ˈtʃɜ:pi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) lively, happy, cheerful.

chir-rup /ˈtʃɪrəp/ *vt, n* [C] (make a) series of chirps.

chisel /ˈtʃɪzl/ *n* [C] steel tool used for shaping wood, stone or metal. □ *vt* (-ll-) **1** cut or shape with a chisel. **2** (informal) cheat.

chit¹ /tʃɪt/ *n* [C] **1** young child. **2** young, small, slender woman.

chit² /tʃɪt/ *n* [C] note of a sum of money owed.

chit-chat /ˈtʃɪt tʃæt/ *n* [U] light, informal conversation.

chivalry /ˈtʃɪvlrɪ/ *n* [U] **1** laws and customs (religious, moral and social) of the knights in the Middle Ages. **2** qualities such as courage, honour, courtesy, loyalty, devotion to the weak and helpless, to the service of women).

chivalrous /ˈtʃɪvlrəs/ *adj*

chloroform /ˈklɒrəfɔ:m US: /ˈklɔ:r-/ *n* [U] thin, colourless liquid given to make a person unconscious during a surgical operation. □ *vt* use chloroform.

chlorophyll /ˈklɒrəfɪl US: /ˈklɔ:r-/ *n* [U] green colouring matter in the leaves of plants.

choc-ice /ˈtʃɒk aɪs/ *n* [C] brick of ice-cream covered in chocolate.

chock-a-block /tʃɒk ə ˈblɒk/ *adv* (informal) very full; crammed.

chocolate /ˈtʃɒklət/ *n* **1** [U] substance (powder or bar) made from the crushed seeds of the cacao tree. **2** drink made by mixing this with hot water or milk. **3** [C,U] sweet(1) made from this: *a bar of ~*; *a box of ~s*. **4** [U] the colour of this substance, dark brown. □ *adj* dark brown.

choice /tʃɔɪs/ *n* **1** [C] act of choosing: *take your ~*. **2** [U] right or possibility of choosing: *I have no ~ in the matter*, must act in this way. **3** [C] variety from which to choose: *This shop has a large ~ of bags*. **4** [C] person or thing chosen: *This is my ~*. □ *adj* unusually good: *~ fruit*.

choir /ˈkwaɪə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** company of persons trained to sing together, esp to lead the singing in church. **2** part of a church building for the choir.

choke ¹ /tʃɒk/ *vi, vt* **1** be unable to breathe because of something in the windpipe, or because of emotion: *~ over one's food*; *~ with anger*. **2** stop the breathing of, by pressing the windpipe from outside or blocking it up inside, or (of smoke, etc) by being unfit to breathe: *She was ~d with sobs*. **3** fill, partly or completely, a passage, space, etc that is usually clear: *a drain ~d (up) with dirt*. **4** *choke sth back/down*, hold or keep it back/down: *~ back one's tears*.

choke ² /tʃɒk/ *n* [C] valve in a petrol engine to control the intake of air.

choker /tʃɒkə(r)/ *n* [C] close-fitting necklace.

cholera /ˈkɒlərə/ *n* [U] infectious and often fatal disease, common in hot countries.

choose /tʃu:z/ *vi, vt* (*pt* chose /tʃəʊz/, *pp* chosen /tʃəʊzn/) **1** pick out from a greater number; show what or which one wants by taking: *She took a long time to ~ a new dress*. *There's nothing/not much/little to ~ between them*. They are about equal, are equally good/bad, etc. **2** decide; be pleased or determined: *He chose to stay at home*.

choosy /tʃu:zi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (informal) (of persons) careful and cautious in choosing; difficult to please.

chop ¹ /tʃɒp/ *n* [C] **1** chopping blow. **2** thick slice of meat with the bone in it, (to be) cooked

for one person. **3** (informal) = sack².

chop ² /tʃɒp/ *vi, vt* (-pp-) cut into pieces by blow(s) with an axe, etc: *Meat is often ~ped up before being cooked*. *I'm going to ~ that tree down*.

chop ³ /tʃɒp/ *vi* (-pp-) **chop and 'change**, be inconsistent: *He's always ~ping and changing*, always changing his mind.

chop-per ¹ /tʃɒpə(r)/ *n* [C] heavy tool with a sharp edge for chopping meat, wood, etc.

chop-per ² /tʃɒpə(r)/ *n* [C] (informal) helicopter.

choppy /tʃɒpi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** (of the sea) moving in short, irregular waves. **2** (of the wind) continually changing.

chop-sticks /tʃɒpstɪks/ *n pl* pair of sticks (of wood, ivory, etc) used by Chinese and Japanese for lifting food to the mouth.

choral /ˈkɔ:əl/ *adj* of, for, sung by or together with, a choir: *a ~ society*.

chord /kɔ:d/ *n* [C] **1** straight line that joins two points on the circumference of a circle or the ends of an arc. **2** combination of three or more musical notes sounded together in harmony. **3** = cord(2).

chore /tʃɔ:(r)/ *n* [C] **1** small task or piece of work, esp an ordinary everyday task (eg in the home). **2** small unpleasant duty.

chor-eogra-phy /ˌkɔ:riˈɒgrəfi US: /ˌkɔ:r-/ *n* [U] art of designing ballet and other dance patterns.

chor-eogra-pher, person who designs ballet and other group dancing.

chorus /ˈkɔ:rəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) **1** (music for a group of singers. **2** (part of a) song for all to sing (after solo verses): *Mr White sang the verses and everybody joined in the ~*. **3** birds' song: *the dawn ~*. **4** something said or cried by many people together: *a ~ of approval*. □ *vt* sing, speak, in chorus.

chose, chosen ⇨ choose.

Christ /kraɪst/ *n* title given to Jesus, now used as part of or for His name.

christen /ˈkrɪsn/ *vt* **1** receive (an infant) into the Christian church by baptism; give a name to at the baptism. **2** give a name to (a new ship when it is launched).

'christen-ing *n* [C] ceremony of baptizing or naming.

Christen-dom /ˈkrɪnsdəm/ *n* all Christian people and Christian countries.

Chris-tian /ˈkrɪstʃən/ *adj* **1** of Jesus and his teaching. **2** of the religion, beliefs, church, etc based on this teaching. □ *n* person believing in the religion of Christ.

'Christian name, name given at baptism; forename.

Chris-ti-an-ity /ˌkrɪstɪˈænəti/ *n* [U] the Christian faith, religion or character.

Christ-mas /ˈkrɪsməs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) (also ~ 'Day) yearly celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, 25 Dec; the week beginning on 24 Dec: *the ~ holidays*.

'Christmas-box, money given at Christmas

to the postman, etc.

'Christmas card, sent as a greeting to friends at Christmas.

'Christmas cracker, roll of brightly coloured paper, which explodes harmlessly when the ends are pulled.

'Christmas-tree, small decorated evergreen tree set up at Christmas.

chrome /krəʊm/ *n* [U] yellow colouring matter used in paints, etc.

chromium /'krəʊmiəm/ *n* [U] element (symbol **Cr**) used for covering taps, motor-car fittings, etc and in stainless steel.

chromosome /'krəʊməsəʊm/ *n* [C] one of the tiny threads in every nucleus in animal and plant cells, carrying genes.

chronic /'krɒnɪk/ *adj* (of a disease or physical condition) continual, lasting for a long time: ~ *rheumatism*; a ~ *illness*.

chronically /-kli/ *adv*

chronicle /'krɒnɪkl/ *n* [C] record of events in the order of their happening. □ *vt* make, a chronicle.

chronological /,krɒnə'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* in order of time: *Shakespeare's plays* in ~ *order*, the order in which they were written.

chronologically /-kli/ *adv*

chronology /krə'nɒlədʒi/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] science of fixing dates. **2** [C] arrangement or list of events with dates.

chronometer /krə'nɒmɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] kind of watch that keeps very accurate time.

chrysalis /'krɪsəlɪs/ *n* [C] (pl ~es) **1** form taken by an insect between the time when it creeps or crawls as a larva and the time when it flies as a moth, butterfly, etc. **2** the sheath that covers it during this time.

chrysanthemum /krɪ'sænθəməm/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) (flower of a) garden plant blooming in autumn and early winter.

chubby /'tʃʌbi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) fat, round: ~ *cheeks*.

chuck¹ /tʃʌk/ *vt* (informal) **1** throw: ~ *away rubbish*; ~ *a drunken man out of a pub*. **2** abandon, give up: ~ *up one's job*.

chuck² /tʃʌk/ *n* [C] **1** part of a lathe which grips the work to be operated on. **2** part which grips the bit on a drill.

chuckle /'tʃʌkl/ *n* [C] low, quiet laugh with closed mouth (showing satisfaction or amusement). □ *vt* laugh in this way: *He was chuckling (away) to himself*.

chuffed /tʃʌft/ *adj* (informal) very pleased and proud.

chug /tʃʌg/ *vi* (-gg-) make the short explosive sound (of an oil-engine or small petrol-engine running slowly): *The boat ~ged along*. □ *n* [C] this sound.

chum /tʃʌm/ *n* [C] (dated) close friend (esp among boys).

chummy *adj* (-ier, -iest) friendly.

chump /tʃʌmp/ *n* [C] **1** thick piece of meat: a ~ *chop*. **2** (dated) fool.

chunk /tʃʌŋk/ *n* [C] thick, solid piece or lump

cut off a loaf, a piece of meat, pineapple, etc.

chunky *adj* (-ier, -iest) short and thick.

church /tʃɜ:tʃ/ *n* [C] **1** building for public Christian worship. **2** [U] service in such a building: *What time does ~ begin?* **enter the Church**, become a minister of religion.

'church-goer, person who goes to church regularly.

'church-yard, burial ground round a church. ⇨ *cemetery*.

churn /tʃɜ:n/ *n* [C] **1** tub in which cream is shaken or beaten to make butter. **2** very large can in which milk is carried from the farm. □ *vt, vi* **1** make (butter) in a churn. **2** stir or move about violently: *The ship's propellers ~ed up the waves*.

chute /ʃu:t/ *n* [C] **1** long, narrow, steep slope down which things may slide: an *'escape ~*, canvas tunnel by which passengers leave an aircraft in an emergency. **2** smooth, rapid fall of water over a slope.

chutney /tʃʌtni/ *n* [U] hot-tasting mixture of fruit, peppers, etc eaten with curry, cold meat, etc.

cicada /sɪ'kɑ:də/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) winged insect with transparent wings. The male chirps shrilly in hot, dry weather.

cider /saɪdə(r)/ *n* [U] fermented apple juice.

cigar /sɪ'gɑ:(r)/ *n* [C] tight roll of tobacco leaves with pointed end(s) for smoking.

cigarette /sɪgə'ret/ *n* [C] pieces of tobacco in a roll of thin paper for smoking.

'cigarette-case, small one for carrying cigarettes.

'cigarette-holder, tube in which a cigarette may be put for smoking.

cinch /sɪntʃ/ *n* (sing with a) (sl) something that is certain, easy or sure: *It's a ~!*

cinder /sɪndə(r)/ *n* [C] small piece of coal, wood, etc partly burned, no longer flaming, and not yet ash.

cine- /sɪni/ *prefix* form used for *cinema* in compounds.

'cine-camera, one used for taking moving pictures.

'cine-projector, machine for showing films on a screen.

cinema /sɪnəmə/ *n* **1** [C] place where films are shown. **2** [U] moving pictures as an art-form or industry.

cinamon /sɪnəmə/ *n* [U] **1** spice from the inner bark of an E Indian tree, used in cooking. **2** its colour, yellowish-brown.

cipher, cypher /saɪfə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** the symbol 0, representing nought or zero. **2** any Arabic numeral, 1 to 9. **3** (fig) person or thing of no importance. **4** (method of, key to) secret writing: a message in ~. □ *vt, vi* put into secret writing. ⇨ *decipher*.

circa /sɜ:kə/ *prep* (Latin) (abbr = **c, ca**) about (with dates): *born ~ 150 BC*.

circle /sɜ:kl/ *n* [C] **1** space enclosed by a curved line, every point on which is the same distance from the centre; the line enclosing this

space. **2** ring: *a ~ of trees; standing in a ~*. **3** block of seats in curved rows, between the highest part (the gallery) and the floor of a theatre or hall. **4** number of persons having the same or similar interests: *He has a large ~ of friends*. □ *vt, vi* move in a circle; go round: *The aircraft was circling (over) the landing-field*.

circuit /'sɜːkɪt/ *n* [C] **1** journey round, from place to place: *The ~ of the race track is three kilometres*. **2** closed path for an electrical current; apparatus for using an electric current: *~ diagram*, one that shows the connections in such an apparatus. ⇨ *short-circuit*.

circuitous /'sɜːkjʊɪtəs/ *adj* going a long way round: *a ~ route*.

circuitous /'sɜːkjʊlə(r)/ *adj* round or curved in shape; moving round: *a ~ tour/trip*, ending at the starting-point without visiting a place more than once. □ *n* [C] printed letter, advertisement, announcement, etc. of which many copies are made and distributed.

circuitous (also **-ise**) /-aɪz/ *vt* send circulars to.

circuitous /'sɜːkjʊlət/ *vi, vt* **1** go round continuously; move from place to place freely: *Blood ~s through the body. Let's ~ among the other guests*. **2** cause to circulate: *I'll ~ this book among you*.

circuitous /'sɜːkjʊlətʃən/ *n* **1** [U] circulating or being circulated, esp the movement of the blood from and to the heart: *He has a good/bad ~*. **2** [U] state of being circulated: *When were British decimal coins put into ~?* **3** [C] number of copies of a newspaper or other periodical sold to the public.

circuitous /'sɜːkəmsaɪz/ *vt* remove the skin at the end of the male sex organ.

circuitous /'sɜːkəmsɪʒn/ *n* [C, U]

circuitous /'sɜːkəmfərəns/ *n* [C] **1** line that marks out a circle or other curved figure. **2** distance round: *The ~ of the earth is almost 25000 miles*.

circuitous /'sɜːkəmfleks/ *n* [C] mark (^) placed over a vowel to show how it is to be sounded (as in French *rôle*).

circuitous /'sɜːkəmnævigeɪt/ *vt* sail round (esp the world).

circuitous /'sɜːkəmnævigeɪtʃən/ *n* [C, U]

circuitous /'sɜːkəmsɪstəns/ *n* [C] **1** (usually *pl*) conditions, facts, etc connected with an event or person: *Don't judge the crime until you know the ~s. in/under the circumstances*, such being the state of affairs. *in/under no circumstances*, never. **2** fact or detail: *He has plenty of money, which is a fortunate ~*. **3** (*pl*) financial condition.

circuitous /'sɜːkəmsɪstənʃl/ *adj* **1** (of a description) giving full details. **2** (of evidence) based on details that suggest strongly but do not provide direct proof.

circuitous /'sɜːkəmvənt/ *vt* **1** gain advantage over; defeat (a person's plans). **2**

prevent (a plan) from being carried out; find a way to get round (a law, rule, etc).

circuitous /'sɜːkəm'ventʃən/ *n* [U]

circuitous /'sɜːkəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) **1** (round or oval) place with seats on all sides for (in modern times) a show of performing animals, acrobats, etc; persons and animals giving such a show. **2** (esp in proper names) open space where a number of streets converge: *Piccadilly C~*, in London.

circuitous /'sɪrəs/ *n* [C, U] type of cloud, high in the sky, delicate and feathery in appearance.

circuitous /'sɪstən/ *n* [C] water tank, eg as above the bowl of a lavatory, or for storing water in a building.

circuitous /satt/ *vt* **1** give or mention as an example (esp by quoting from a book, to support an argument, etc). **2** (*legal*) summons at law: *be ~d in divorce proceedings*.

circuitous /saɪ'teɪʃən/ *n* [U] citing; [C] (esp) a statement that is cited.

circuitous /'sɪtɪzn/ *n* [C] **1** person who lives in a town, not in the country: *the ~s of Paris*. **2** person who has full rights in a State, either by birth or by gaining such rights: *immigrants who have become ~s of the United States*.

'citizenship, being, rights and duties of, a citizen.

citric /'sɪtrɪk/ *adj* **citric acid**, acid from such fruits as lemons and limes.

citron /'sɪtrən/ *n* [C] (tree with) pale yellow fruit like a lemon but larger, less acid, and thicker skinned.

citrus /'sɪtrəs/ *adj* of the citrus fruits.

citrus /'sɪtrəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) kinds of tree including the lemon, lime, citron, orange and grapefruit. □ *adj* of these trees: *~ fruit*.

city /'sɪti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** large and important town; town given special rights in self-government. **2** **the C~**, the oldest part of London, now the commercial and financial centre. **3** people living in a city.

civic /'sɪvɪk/ *adj* of the official life and affairs of a town or a citizen: *~ pride; a ~ centre*, where the official buildings, eg the town hall, library, etc are grouped together.

civics /'sɪvɪks/ *n* *pl* (used with a *sing verb*) study of city government, the rights and duties of citizens, etc.

civil /'sɪvl/ *adj* **1** of human society; of people living together: *We all have ~ rights and ~ duties*. **2** not of the armed forces. **3** politely helpful: *Can't you be more ~?*

'civil defence, official protection of people and property during a war.

'civil engineering, the design and building of roads, railways, canals, docks, etc.

'civil law, law dealing with private rights of citizens, not with crime.

'civil marriage, without religious ceremony but recognized by law.

'civil rights, rights of a citizen to political, racial, legal, social freedom or equality.

'civil servant, official in the Civil Service.

the Civil Service, all government departments except the Navy, Army and Air Force.

civil-ly *adv* politely.

ci-vil-ity /sɪˈvɪləti/ *n* (formal) **1** [U] politeness. **2** (pl) polite acts.

ci-vil-ian /sɪˈvɪliən/ *n* [C], *adj* (person) not serving with the armed forces: *In modern wars ~s as well as soldiers are killed.*

civi-li-za-tion (also **-isation**) /sɪˈvɪlaɪzəʃn/ *US*: -lɪz-/ *n* **1** [U] civilizing or being civilized; state of being civilized: *The ~ of mankind has taken thousands of years.* **2** [C] system, stage of, social development: *the ~s of ancient Egypt.* **3** [U] civilized persons generally: *acts that horrify ~.*

civi-lize (also **-ise**) /sɪˈvɪlaɪz/ *vt* **1** bring out of a savage or ignorant state (by education, moral teaching, etc). **2** improve and educate.

clack /klæk/ *vi*, *n* [C] (make the) short, sharp sound of objects struck together.

claim¹ /kleɪm/ *n* **1** [C] act of claiming (1): *His ~ to own the house is invalid.* **2** [C] sum of money demanded, eg under an insurance agreement: *make/put in a ~ (for a refund).* **3** [U] right to ask for: *You have no ~ on my sympathies.* **4** [C] something claimed; land (esp in a gold-bearing region) given to a miner.

claim² /kleɪm/ *vt*, *vi* **1** demand recognition of the fact that one is, owns or has a right to (something): *He ~ed to be the owner of/ ~ed that he owned the land.* **claim damages**, ⇨ **damage**. ⇨ also **bonus**. **2 lay claim to**, (a) demand as a right: *lay ~ to your father's land.* (b) say that something is a fact: *He ~ed to be the best tennis player in the school.* **3** (of things) need; deserve: *There are several matters that ~ my attention.*

claim-ant /ˈkleɪmənt/ *n* [C] person who makes a claim, esp in law.

clair-voy-ance /kleɪˈvɔɪəns/ *n* [U] abnormal power of seeing in the mind what is happening or what exists beyond the normal range of the senses.

clair-voy-ant /-ənt/, person with such power.

clam /klæm/ *n* [C] large shellfish, with a shell in two halves, used for food.

clam-ber /ˈklæmbə(r)/ *vi* climb with difficulty, using the hands and feet: *~ up/over a wall.* □ *n* [C] awkward or difficult climb.

clammy /ˈklæmi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) damp and sticky to the touch: *hot, ~ hands.*

clam-our (*US* = **clam-or**) /ˈklæmə(r)/ *n* [C,U] loud confused noise or shout, esp of people complaining angrily or making a demand. □ *vi*, *vt* make a clamour: *The foolish people were ~ing for war.*

clamp /klæmp/ *n* [C] **1** appliance for holding things together tightly by means of a screw. **2** band of iron, etc for strengthening or tightening. □ *vt*, *vi* **1** put a clamp on; put in a clamp. **2 clamp down (on)**, (informal) put pressure on or against (in order to stop something): *They ~ed down on drug pushers.* Hence,

'clamp-down *n* [C]

clan /klæn/ *n* [C] large family group, esp Scottish Highlanders.

clan-des-tine /klænˈdestɪn/ *adj* secret; done secretly; kept secret: *a ~ marriage.*

clang /klæŋ/ *vt*, *vi*, *n* [C] (make a) loud ringing sound: *The ~ of the firebell alarmed the village.*

clanger /ˈklæŋɡə(r)/ *n* [C] **drop a clanger**, (informal) make an indiscreet remark.

clank /klæŋk/ *vt*, *vi*, *n* [C] (make a) ringing sound (not so loud as a clang): *prisoners ~ing their chains.*

clan-nish /ˈklæniʃ/ *adj* showing family feeling; in the habit of supporting one another against outsiders.

clap¹ /klæp/ *vt*, *vi* (-pp-) **1** show approval, by striking the palms of the hands together; do this as a signal (eg to summon a waiter, etc): *When the violinist finished the audience ~ped for five minutes.* **2** strike or slap lightly with the open hand, usually in a friendly way: *~ somebody on the back.* **3** put quickly or energetically: *~ed in prison.* **clap eyes on sb**, (informal) catch sight of: *I haven't ~ped eyes on him since 1960.* □ *it* **1** loud explosive noise (of thunder). **2** sound of the palms of the hands brought together.

clap-ping /ˈklæpiŋ/ *n* [U] applause.

claret /ˈklærət/ *n* [U] **1** (kind of) red table wine from Bordeaux. **2** its colour. □ *adj* dark red.

clar-ify /ˈklærɪfaɪ/ *vt*, *vi* (pt, pp -ied) **1** make or become clear or intelligible. **2** make (a liquid, etc) free from impurities.

clari-fi-ca-tion /ˌklærɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/ *n* [U] being clarified.

clari-net /ˌklærɪˈnet/ *n* [C] musical woodwind instrument, with finger holes and keys.

clari-net-tist, person who plays the clarinet.

clar-ion /ˈklærɪən/ *n* [C] loud, shrill call to wake a person or excite activity.

clar-ity /ˈklærəti/ *n* [U] clearness: *~ of thought.*

clash /klæʃ/ *vi*, *vt* **1** make a loud, broken, confused noise (as when metal objects strike together): *The cymbals ~ed.* **2** come suddenly together; meet in conflict: *The two armies ~ed outside the town.* **3** (of events) interfere with each other because they are (to be) at the same time on the same date: *It's a pity the two concerts ~, I want to go to both.* **4** be in disagreement or at variance: *~ed with him/We ~ed at the last meeting of the Council.* *The (colours of the) curtains ~ with (the colours of) the carpet.* □ *n* [C] **1** clashing noise. **2** disagreement; conflict: *a ~ of views/colours.*

clasp /klɑːsp *US*: klæsp/ *n* [C] **1** device with two parts that fasten, used to keep together two things or two parts of one thing (eg the ends of a necklace or belt). **2** firm hold (with the fingers or arms). □ *vt*, *vi* **1** hold tightly or closely: *~ed in each other's arms; with his hands ~ed behind him.* **2** fasten with a

clasp(1).

class /kla:s/ *US*: klæs/ *n* 1 [C] group having qualities of the same kind; kind, sort or division: *As an actor A is not in the same ~ as/with B, is not so good as B.* 2 [U] structure in society of large groups of people, differing in their place in the system of social production. 3 [C] (all persons in) one of these groups: *working and peasant ~s.* 4 [C] group of persons taught together; their course of teaching. 5 [C] (*US*) group of pupils or students who enter school or college in the same year and leave together: *the ~ of 1973.* 6 [C] grade or merit after examination: *take a first/second-~ degree.* 7 [U] (*informal*) distinction; excellence; style: *He's a top ~ tennis player. There's not much ~ about her.* □ *vt* place in a class(1): *a ship ~ed A1.*

'class-mate, friend in the same class(4).

'class-room, room where a class(4) is taught.

class-less *adj* without distinctions of class (2): *Communism is a classless society.*

class-ic /'klæsik/ *adj* 1 of the highest quality; having a recognized high value or position. 2 of the standard of ancient Greek and Latin literature, art and culture. 3 famous because of a long history: *The Derby (horse-race) is a ~ event.* 4 (of fashion) traditional: *a ~ suit.* □ *n* [C] 1 writer, artist, book, etc of the highest class: *Milton is a ~. 'Robinson Crusoe' is a ~.* 2 ancient Greek or Latin writer. 3 (*pl*) **the ~s**, (literature of) the ancient languages of Greece and Rome. 4 (*pl*) university course in the classics(3): *He read ~s at Oxford.* 5 classic(3) event.

class-ic-al /'klæsikl/ *adj* 1 in, of, the best (esp ancient Greek and Roman) art and literature: *a ~ education.* 2 of proved value because of having passed the test of time: *~ music*, usually taking traditional form as a symphony, etc, eg of Mozart. □ *light*(2)(6).

class-ic-ally /-kli/ *adv*

class-ic-ist /'klæsist/ *n* [C] 1 follower of classic style. 2 classical scholar: *Milton was a ~.*

class-ic-ifi-ca-tion /,klæsifi'keɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] classifying or being classified. 2 [C] group into which something is put.

class-ify /'klæsifaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) 1 arrange in classes or groups. 2 put into a class(1): *In a library books are usually classified by subjects.*

class-ified *adj* (a) arranged in classes(1): *classified advertisements.* (b) officially secret: *classified information.*

clat-ter /'klætə(r)/ *n* [U] 1 long, continuous, resounding noise (as of hard things falling or knocking together): *the ~ of cutlery.* 2 noisy talk: *The boys stopped their ~ when the teacher came into the classroom.* □ *vi, vt* make a clatter(1): *Pots and pans were ~ing in the kitchen.*

clause /klaʊz/ *n* [C] 1 (*gram*) part of a sentence, with its own subject and predicate, esp one doing the work of a noun, adjective or ad-

verb. 2 (*legal*) complete paragraph in an agreement, legal document, etc.

claus-tro-pho-bia /,klaʊstrə'fəʊbiə/ *n* [U] abnormal fear of confined places (eg a lift).

clavi-chord /'klævɪkɔ:d/ *n* [C] early stringed instrument with a keyboard, like the piano.

clav-icle /'klævɪkl/ *n* [C] (*anat*) collar-bone.

claw /klaʊ/ *n* [C] 1 one of the pointed nails on the feet of some animals and birds; foot with such nails. 2 pincers of a shellfish (eg a lobster). 3 instrument or device like a claw (eg a steel hook on a machine for lifting things). □ *vt* get hold of, pull, scratch, with claws or hands.

clay /kleɪ/ *n* [U] 1 stiff, sticky earth that becomes hard when baked. 2 material from which bricks, pots, earthenware, etc are made.

clean /kli:n/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 free from dirt: *~ hands. Wash it ~.* 2 not yet used; fresh: *Give me a ~ sheet of paper.* 3 pure; innocent; free from indecency: *a ~ joke. He has a ~ record, is not known to have done wrong.* 4 even; regular; with a smooth edge or surface: *A sharp knife makes a ~ cut.* 5 having clean habits: *a ~ waitress.* 6 fit for food: *~ / ~ un- ~ animals*, those that are/are not considered fit for food (by religious custom). 7 thorough, complete. □ **sweep**(1)(1). □ *adv* completely; entirely: *I ~ forgot about it.* **come clean**, make a full confession. □ *n* [U] (with *a*) cleaning: *give it a good ~.*

'clean-cut *adj* sharply outlined.

'clean-shaven *adj* with the hair of the face shaved off.

clean /kli:n/ *vt, vi* 1 make clean (of dirt, etc): *I must have this suit ~ed, sent to the dry-cleaner's.* □ **dry-clean**. 2 (uses with *adverbial particles and prepositions*):

clean down, clean by brushing or wiping: *~ down the walls.*

clean sb out, win or take all the money of.

clean sth out, clean the inside of: *It's time you ~ed out your bedroom.*

clean up, make clean or tidy; put in order: *You should always clean up after a picnic, collect litter, empty bottles, etc.* **clean sth up**, (a) get rid of criminal and immoral elements, etc: *The mayor has decided to ~ up the city, end corruption, etc.* (b) (*informal*) win or take all the money.

cleaner /'kli:nə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 person or thing that cleans. 2 tool, machine, substance, etc for cleaning: *send/take a suit to the (dry-)~s; a 'vacuum-~.*

clean-ly /'klenli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) having clean habits; usually clean.

clean-li-ness *n* [U]

clean-ly /'klenli/ *adv* exactly, sharply; neatly: *He cut the cake ~.*

cleanse /klenz/ *vt* make thoroughly clean or pure: *~ the heart off from sin.*

clear /kliə(r)/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 easy to see (through): *the ~ water of a mountain lake; a ~ sky/light.* 2 free from guilt or blame: *a ~ conscience.* 3 (of sounds, etc) easily heard; dis-

tinct; pure: *the ~ note of a bell*. **4** (of and to the mind) free from doubt or difficulty: *It was ~ (to everyone) that the war would not end quickly*. **make oneself/one's meaning clear**, make oneself understood. **5** free from obstacles, dangers, etc: *Is the road ~?* **6** confident; certain: *I am not ~ as to what you expect me to do*. **7** free: *I wish I were ~ of debt*. **8** complete: *for three ~ days; a ~ profit of £5*. □ *n* [U] **in the clear**, free from suspicion, danger, etc.

clear-headed, having good understanding.

clear-sighted, able to see, think, well.

clear-way, (in GB) section of a main road on which vehicles must not stop or park.

clear² /kliə(r)/ *adv* **1** easily heard, etc: *speak loud and ~*. **2** quite; completely: *The prisoner got ~ away*. **3** apart; without touching; at or to a distance: *He jumped ten centimetres ~ of the bar*. ⇨ also **steer**².

clear-ness *n* [U] state of being clear: *the ~ness of vision*.

clear³ /kliə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** remove, get rid of, what is unwanted or unwelcome: *~ the streets of snow; ~ oneself (of a charge)*, prove one's innocence. **clear the air**, ⇨ **air**¹(1). **clear one's throat**, eg by coughing. **2** get past or over without touching: *Our car only just ~ed the gatepost*. **3** make as a net gain or profit: *~ £50*. **4** get (a ship or its cargo) free by doing what is necessary (signing papers, paying dues, etc) on entering or leaving a port: *~ goods through customs*.

5 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

clear away, (a) take away, get rid of: *~ away the plates*. (b) pass away: *The clouds have ~ed away*.

clear off, (a) get rid of, make an end of: *~ off a debt*. (b) (of unwanted persons) go away: *This is 'my garden, so ~ off!*

clear out, (a) empty; make clear by taking out the contents of: *~ out a drain/a cupboard*. (b) (informal) go away; leave: *The police are after you, you'd better ~ out!*

clear up, become clear: *The weather/The sky is ~ing up*. **clear sth up**, (a) put in order; make tidy: *Who's going to ~ up the mess?* (b) make clear; solve (a mystery, etc): *~ up a misunderstanding*.

clear-ance /'kliərəns/ *n* [C] **1** clearing up, removing, making tidy. **2** [C, U] free space; space between, for moving past: *There is not much/ not enough ~ for large lorries passing under this bridge*.

clear-cut /kliə 'kʌt/ *adj* (esp) easily understood and certain: *a ~cut decision*.

clear-ing /'kliəriŋ/ *n* [C] open space from which trees have been cleared in a forest.

'clearing-house, office at which banks exchange cheques, etc and settle accounts, the balance being paid in cash.

clear-ly /'kliəli/ *adv* **1** distinctly: *speak/see ~*.

2 (in answers) undoubtedly: *'Was he mistaken?' 'C~'*.

cleav-age /'kli:vɪdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** (direction of a) split or division. **2** (informal) the cleft between a woman's breasts.

cleave /kli:v/ *vt, vi* (pt *clove* /kləʊv/, cleft /kleft/ or *cleaved* /kli:vɪd/, pp *cleft* or *cloven* /'kləʊvn/) **1** cut into two (with a blow from a heavy axe, etc); come apart: *~ a block of wood in two*. **2** make by cutting: *cleaving one's way through the crowd/the jungle*. **in a cleft stick**, (fig) in a dilemma.

'cleft palate, division in the roof of the mouth from birth.

clef /klef/ *n* [C] musical symbol placed at the beginning of a stave to show the pitch of the notes.

cleft /kleft/ ⇨ **cleave**.

clema-tis /'klemætɪs/ *n* [U] (kinds of) climbing plant with clusters of white, yellow or purple flowers.

clem-ency /'klemənsɪ/ *n* [U] **1** mercy. **2** mildness (of temper or weather).

clem-ent /'klemənt/ *adj* **1** showing mercy. **2** (of the weather, a person's temper) mild.

clench /klentʃ/ *vi* **1** press or clasp firmly together: *~ one's teeth; a ~ed fist*.

clergy /'kleriːdʒ/ *n* *pl* persons ordained as priests or ministers of the Christian Church.

'clergy-man, (not a bishop) ordained minister, esp of the Church of England.

cleric /'klerɪk/ *n* [C] = **clergyman**.

cleri-cal /'klerɪkl/ *adj* **1** of the clergy: *~ dress; a ~ collar*. **2** of, for, made by, a clerk or clerks(1): *a ~ error*, one made in typing or writing.

clerk /kla:k *US*: klɜ:k/ *n* [C] **1** person employed in a bank, office, shop, etc to keep records and accounts, copy letters, etc: *a 'bank ~*. **2** officer in charge of records, etc: *the C~ to the Council*. **3** lay officer of the church with various duties: *the parish ~*.

clever /'klevə(r)/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** quick in learning and understanding things; skilful: *He's ~ at arithmetic/at making excuses*. **2** (of things done) showing ability and skill: *a ~ speech/book*.

clever-ly *adv*

clever-ness *n* [U]

cliché /'kli:ʃeɪ *US*: kli:'ʃeɪ/ *n* [C] expression that is or has been used too much (and is now out-dated).

click¹ /kɪk/ *vi, n* [C] (make a) short, light sound (like that of a key turning in a lock): *The door ~ed shut*.

click² /kɪk/ *vi* (sl) (of two persons) become friends easily.

cli-ent /'klaɪənt/ *n* [C] **1** person who gets help or advice from a lawyer or any professional man: *a successful lawyer with hundreds of ~s*. **2** customer (at a shop).

cli-en-tele /kli:ən'tel/ *n* (no *pl*) customers: *a large ~*. *His ~ is usually rich*.

cliff /klɪf/ *n* [C] steep face of rock, esp at the

edge of the sea.

'cliff-hanger, episode in a story or contest with an uncertain end, leaving the reader or spectator in suspense.

cli-mac-tic /klaɪ'mæktɪk/ *adj* forming a climax.

cli-mate /'klaɪmɪt/ *n* [C] **1** weather conditions of a place or area; conditions of temperature, rainfall, wind, etc. **2** [C] area or region with certain weather conditions: *A drier ~ would be good for her health.* **3** current condition: *the political ~.*

cli-matic /klaɪ'mætɪk/ *adj* of climate.

cli-mati-cally /-kli/ *adv*

cli-max /'klaɪmæks/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) event, point, of greatest interest or intensity (eg in a story or drama): *bring matters to a ~.* □ *vt, vi* bring or come to a climax.

climb /klaɪm/ *vt, vi* **1** go or get up or down (a tree, wall, rope, mountain, etc). **2** (of aircraft) go higher. **3** rise by effort in social rank, position, etc. **climb down**, (*fig*) admit that one has been mistaken, unreasonable, etc. Hence, **'climb-down** *n* [C]. **4** (of plants) grow upwards. □ *n* [C] instance of climbing.

climber, (*a*) person who climbs. (*b*) climbing plant.

clinch /kɪntʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** settle (a bargain, an argument) conclusively: *That ~es the argument.* **2** make (a nail or rivet) fast by hammering (it) sideways. **3** put one or both arms round a person's body: *The boxers/lovers ~ed.* □ *n* [C] instance of clinching.

cling /kɪŋ/ *vi* (*pt, pp* clung /kɪŋ/) hold tight; resist separation: *~ to a hope of being rescued.* *They clung together when the time came to part.* *She's the ~ing sort*, depends on others.

clinic /'kɪnɪk/ *n* [C] **1** (part of a) hospital or institution where medical advice and treatment are given and where students are taught through observation of cases; teaching so given; class of students taught in this way. **2** medical establishment for a specified purpose: *an ante-natal ~.*

clini-cal /'kɪnɪkəl/ *adj*

click¹ /kɪŋk/ *vi, vt, n* [C] (make the) sound of small bits of metal, glass, etc knocking together: *the ~ of keys/glasses.*

click² /kɪŋk/ *n* [C] (*sf*) prison: *be in ~.*

clip¹ /kɪp/ *n* [C] (*esp*) wire or metal device for holding things (eg papers) together. □ *vt* (-*pp*-) put or keep together with a clip: *~ papers together.*

'clip-board, small, stiff board with a clip at the top for holding sheets of paper.

clip² /kɪp/ *vt* (-*pp*-) **1** cut with scissors or shears; make short or neat: *~ a hedge.* **2** (*sf*) hit or punch sharply: *~ him on the jaw.* □ *n* [C] **1** instance of clipping. **2** smart blow: *a ~ on the jaw.*

clip-ping, (*esp*) article, picture, cut from a newspaper, etc.

clip-pers /'kɪpəz/ *n pl* (also *a pair of* ~s) instrument for clipping: *'hair-~s*

clique /kli:k/ *n* [C] group of persons united by common interests.

cliqu-ish /'kli:kɪʃ/ *adj*

cloak /kləʊk/ *n* [C] **1** loose outer article of clothing, without sleeves. **2** (*fig*) something used to hide or keep secret: *under the ~ of darkness.* □ *vt* hide (thoughts, purposes, etc).

'cloak-room, place where coats, etc may be left (eg in a school, theatre).

clob-ber /'klɒbə(r)/ *vt* (*informal*) hurt or affect badly; thoroughly defeat.

clock /klok/ *n* [C] instrument (not carried or worn like a watch) for measuring and showing the time. **round the clock**, all day and night. □ *vt, vi* **1** do something (eg run a race) in a measured period of time: *He ~ed 9.6 seconds for the 100 metres.* **2 clock in/out; clock on/off**, record the time of (eg the arrival and departure of workers).

'clock-face, surface of a clock showing figures marking the hours, etc.

'clock-tower, tall structure (forming part of a building, eg a church) with a clock high up on an outside wall.

'clock-wise/anti-'clock-wise *adv* in the same direction/in the direction opposite to the movements of the hands of a clock.

'clock-work, (used as an adjective) operated by wheels and springs like a clock: *a ~work toy.* **like clockwork**, without trouble: *The meeting went like ~work.*

clod /kɒd/ *n* [C] lump (of earth, etc).

clog¹ /kɒg/ *n* [C] shoe with a wooden sole; shoe carved out of a block of wood.

clog² /kɒg/ *vt, vi* (-*gg*-) **1** (cause to) be or become blocked with dirt, grease, etc so that movement, flow of liquid, etc is difficult or prevented. **2** (*fig*): *Don't ~ your memory with useless facts.*

clois-ter /'kloɪstə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** covered walk, usually on the sides of an open courtyard, with a wall on the outer side and columns or arches on the inner side. **2** (life in a) convent or monastery. □ *vt* put in, live in, a cloister (2).

close¹ /kləʊs/ *adj* (-*r*, -*st*) **1** near (in space or time): *fire a gun at ~ range.* **close at hand;**

close 'to/by, near. **2** with little or no space in between: *The soldiers advanced in ~ order*, with little space between them. **3** strict; severe: *be (kept) under ~ arrest.* **keep a close**

watch on, watch carefully. **4** thorough: *On ~r examination I found she had told the truth.*

5 intimate: *a ~ friend/friendship.* **6** (of competitions, games, their results) in which the competitors are almost equal: *a ~ contest/*

election. **7** (of the weather or air) uncomfortably heavy; (of a room, etc) having little fresh air. **8** hidden; secret; not in the habit of talking about one's affairs: *keep/lie ~ for a while*, hide. □ *adv* in a close manner; near together; tightly: *stand/sit ~ against the wall; come ~r together.* ⇨ closely below.

'close-'fitting *adj* fitting close (to the body, etc).

close-grained *adj* (of wood) having a grain in which the lines in the pattern made by growth are close together.

close-question *vt* interrogate thoroughly.

close-set *adj* set, placed, close together: *~set* 'eyes.

close-up, (a) photograph taken near to an object, etc and showing it in large scale. (b) close view.

close-ly *adv* in a close manner: *listen ~ly*. *She ~ly resembles her mother*.

close-ness *n* [U]

close² /kləʊz/ *n* [C] 1 grounds of a cathedral, abbey or school, usually with its buildings round it. 2 = cul-de-sac.

close³ /kləʊz/ *vt, vi* 1 = shut: *If you ~ your eyes, you can't see. This box/ The lid of this box doesn't ~ properly. close one's eyes/ears to*, ⇨ shut. 2 (not usually replaceable by shut) be, declare, be declared, not open: *This road is ~d to heavy traffic*. 3 bring or come to an end: *~ a discussion; the closing (= last) day for applications*. 4 bring or come together by making less space or fewer spaces between.

5 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

close down, (a) (of a factory, business, etc) stop production, shut completely. (b) (of a broadcasting station) stop transmitting: *The time is just after midnight and we are now closing down*. Hence, **'close-down** *n*

close in, *The days are closing in*, getting shorter. **close in on/upon**, (a) cover on all sides: *Darkness ~d in on us*. (b) come near(er) and attack: *The enemy ~d in on us*.

closed 'shop, factory, profession or trade in which employment is open only to members of an approved trade union.

close⁴ /kləʊz/ *n* [U] 1 end (of a period of time): *towards the ~ of the century*. 2 conclusion (of an activity, etc): (at) ~ of play, (cricket) (at the) end of play for the day.

closet /'kləʊzɪt/ *n* [C] 1 (now chiefly US) small room for storing things. ⇨ cupboard, store-room. 2 (old use) lavatory.

clo-sure /'kləʊʒə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 act of closing (down): *pit ~s*. 2 (in Parliament) device to end debate by taking a vote on a question: *apply the ~ to a debate*.

clot /klɒt/ *n* [C] 1 semi-solid lump formed from liquid, esp blood. 2 (sf) idiot, fool. ⇨ vt, vi (-tt-) form into clots: *~ed cream*.

cloth /klɒθ US: klɒθ/ *n* (pl ~s /klɒθs US: klɒðs/) 1 [U] material made by weaving (cotton, wool, etc): *three metres of ~*. 2 [C] piece of this material for special purpose: *a 'dish~*.

clothe /kləʊð/ *vt* wear clothes; put clothes on, supply clothes for: *He has to work hard in order to ~ his family*.

clothes /kləʊðz US: kləʊz/ *n* pl coverings for a person's body: *'baby~*; *a ~-brush*. **in plain clothes**, ⇨ plain¹(1).

'bed-clothes, sheets, blankets, etc for or on a bed.

'clothes-line, = washing-line.

'clothes-peg, one used for fastening clothes to a washing-line.

clothing /'kləʊðɪŋ/ *n* [U] clothes: *articles of ~*.

cloud /klaʊd/ *n* 1 [C, U] (mass of) visible water vapour floating in the sky: *The top of the mountain was hidden under ~*. 2 [C] similar mass of smoke, etc in the air: *a ~ of insects*. 3 [C] vague patch on or in a liquid or a transparent object. 4 [C] something that causes unhappiness or fear: *the ~s of war*. **under a cloud**, under suspicion, in disgrace. ⇨ vi, vt become, make, indistinct (as) through cloud: *The sky ~ed over*, became cloudy. *Her eyes were ~ed with tears*.

cloudy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) covered with clouds: *a ~y sky*. (b) (esp of liquids) not clear.

clove¹ /kləʊv/ ⇨ cleave¹

clove² /kləʊv/ *n* [C] dried, unopened flower-bud of a tropical tree, used as a spice.

clove³ /kləʊv/ *n* [C] one of the small, separate sections of some bulbs: *a ~ of garlic*.

clo-ver /'kləʊvə(r)/ *n* [U] low-growing plant with (usually) three leaves on each stalk. **in clover**, very happy.

'clover-leaf, highway intersection with flyovers, etc in the form of a leaf of clover.

clown /klaʊn/ *n* [C] 1 person (esp in a circus or pantomime) who makes a living by dressing up and doing foolish or funny things. 2 person acting like a clown. 3 rude, clumsy man. ⇨ vi behave like a clown: *Stop all this ~ing!*

clay /kleɪ/ *vt, vi* make or become distasteful or weary by too much of something, sweetness, richness (of food, pleasure, etc): *~ed with pleasure*.

club¹ /klʌb/ *n* [C] 1 heavy stick with one thick end, used as a weapon. 2 stick with a curved head for playing golf and hockey. ⇨ vt (-bb-) hit with a club: *He had been ~bed to death*.

'club-foot, foot that is (from birth) thick and badly formed. Hence, **'club-footed** *adj*

club² /klʌb/ *n* 1 [C] one of the thirteen playing-cards with black leaf-like designs printed on it. 2 (pl) set of these cards.

club³ /klʌb/ *n* [C] 1 society of persons who pay money to provide themselves with sport, social entertainment, etc. 2 the rooms or building(s) used by such a society. ⇨ vi (-bb-) **club together**, join or act (together, with others) for a common purpose: *The staff ~bed together to buy a present for the Manager*.

cluck /klʌk/ *vi, n* [C] (make the) noise made by a hen, eg when calling her chickens.

clue /klu:/ *n* [C] fact, idea, etc that suggests a possible answer to a problem: *He hasn't a ~, (informal) is completely ignorant of, unable to understand or explain (what is in question)*.

clump¹ /klʌmp/ *n* [C] group (of trees, shrubs or plants): *growing in ~s*. ⇨ vi plant in groups.

clump² /klʌmp/ *vi* tread heavily and noisily: *~ about*, eg walk in heavy boots.

clumsy /'klʌmzi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) 1 ungrace-

ful in movement or construction; not well designed for its purpose: *The ~ workman put his elbow through the window and broke it.* **2** tactless; unskilful: *a ~ apology/remark.*

clum-sily /-əli/ *adv*

clum-si-ness *n* [U]

clung /klaŋ/ *pt, pp* of cling.

clunk /klaŋk/ *vi, n* [C] (make the) sound of heavy metals striking together.

clust-er /'klastə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** number of things of the same kind growing closely together: *a ~ of flowers/curly.* **2** number of persons, animals, objects, etc in a small, close group: *a ~ of spectators/islands; consonant ~s,* (in phonetics, eg *str* in *strong*). □ *vi* be in, form, a close group round.

clutch ¹ /klatʃ/ *vt, vi* seize; (try to) take hold of tightly with the hand(s): *He ~ed (at) the rope we threw to him.* □ *n* [C] **1** act of clutching. **2** (esp in *pl*) control; power: *He's in his mother-in-law's ~es.* **3** device, eg a pedal, in a machine or engine for connecting and disconnecting working parts: *let the ~ in/out.*

clutch ² /klatʃ/ *n* [C] **1** set of eggs placed under a hen to hatch at one time. **2** number of chicks hatched from these.

clut-ter /'klatə(r)/ *vt* make untidy or confused: *a desk ~ed up with papers.* □ *n*: in *a ~*, in disorder or confusion.

co- /kəʊ/ *prefix* together, jointly, equally: *co-author; co-education.*

coach ¹ /kəʊtʃ/ *n* [C] **1** (also 'motor-~) long-distance, single-decked bus: *travel by ~; a ~-tour of Europe.* **2** (US = car) railway carriage, often divided into compartments. **3** four-wheeled carriage pulled by four or more horses, used to carry passengers and mail before railways were built.

coach ² /kəʊtʃ/ *n* [C] **1** teacher, esp one who gives private lessons to prepare students for a public examination. **2** person who trains athletes for contests: *a ~/football ~.* □ *vt, vi* teach or train.

co-agu-late /kəʊ'ægjələt/ *vt, vi* (of liquids) change to a thick and solid state, as blood does in air.

co-agu-lation /kəʊ'ægjə'leɪʃn/ *n* [U]

coal /kəʊl/ *n* **1** [U] black mineral that burns and supplies heat. **2** [C] piece of this material.

'coal-face, part of a coal-seam from which coal is being cut.

'coal-gas, the mixture of gases made from coal, used for lighting and heating.

'coal-mine, mine from which coal is dug.

'coal-scuttle, container for coal near a fire-side.

'coal-seam, underground layer of coal.

'coal-tar, thick, black, sticky substance produced when coal-gas is made.

co-alesce /kəʊə'sles/ *vi* come together and unite into one substance, group, etc.

co-ales-cence /kəʊə'slesns/ *n* [U]

co-ali-tion /kəʊə'liʃn/ *n* **1** [U] uniting. **2** [C] union of political parties for a special purpose:

a ~ government; form a ~.

coarse /kɔ:s/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** (of substances) not fine and small; rough, lumpy: *~ sand/sugar; ~ cloth; a ~ skin/complexion.* **2** (of behaviour, language, etc) vulgar; not delicate or refined. **3** (of food) inferior: *~ fish.*

coarse-ly *adv*

coarse-ness *n* [U]

coarsen /'kɔ:sn/ *vt, vi* make or become coarse.

coast ¹ /kəʊst/ *n* [C] seashore; land near it: *There are many islands off the ~.* **the coast is/was clear**, there is/was no one watching.

'coast-guard, officer on police duty on the coast (to prevent or detect smuggling, report passing ships, etc).

'coast-line, edge of the land esp when referring to its shape: *a rugged ~line.*

coast ² /kəʊst/ *vi, vt* **1** go in, sail, a ship along the coast. **2** ride or slide down a hill or slope without using power (eg without pedalling a bicycle).

coastal /'kəʊstl/ *adj* of the coast: *~ waters/fishing.*

coat /kəʊt/ *n* [C] **1** outer article of clothing with sleeves, buttoned in the front. **2** covering like a coat, eg an animal's hair or wool. **3** layer of paint or other substance put on a surface: *The woodwork has had its final ~ of paint.* □ *vt* cover with a layer: *furniture ~ed with dust/red paint.*

'coat of arms, design used by a noble family, town, university, etc, eg on a shield.

'coat-hanger, device on which clothes are hung in wardrobes, etc.

coat-ing /'kəʊtɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] thin layer or covering: *two ~s of paint.* **2** [U] cloth for coats (1, 2).

coax /kəʊks/ *vt, vi* **1** persuade a person or thing to act by kindness or patience: *~ a child to take its medicine; ~ a fire to burn.* **2** get by coaxing: *~ a smile from the baby.*

cob /kɒb/ *n* [C] **1** male swan. **2** strong short-legged horse for riding. **3** (also 'nut) large kind of hazel-nut. **4** (also 'corn-~) inner part of an ear of maize on which the grain grows: *corn on the ~.*

cobble ¹ /'kɒbl/ *n* [C] (also 'stone) stone worn round and smooth by the water and used for paving. □ *vt* pave with these stones: *~d streets.*

cobble ² /'kɒbl/ *vt* (dated) mend (shoes).

cob-ble-r /'kɒblə(r)/ *n* [C] (dated) = shoe-repairer.

co-bra /'kəʊbrə/ *n* [C] poisonous snake of Asia and Africa.

cob-web /'kɒbweb/ *n* [C] fine network or single thread made by a spider.

co-caine /kəʊ'keɪn/ *n* [U] product (from a shrub) used as a local anaesthetic, and also used by drug addicts.

cochi-neal /kɒtʃɪ'ni:l/ *n* [U] bright red colouring-matter used in cooking.

coch-lea /'kɒkliə/ *n* [C] (anat) spiral-shaped

part of the inner ear.

cock¹ /kɒk/ *n* [C] **1** adult male chicken. **2** (in compounds) male of other kinds of bird: *a 'pea~; a ~-robin*.

'cock-crow, (a) cock's cry. (b) early dawn.

'cock-fight, fight (form of gambling) between specially bred and trained cocks.

cock² /kɒk/ *n* [C] **1** tap and spout for controlling the flow of a liquid or a gas, eg from a pipe. **2** lever in a gun; position of this lever when it is raised and ready to be released by the trigger. **go off at half cock**, (fig) (of an event, etc) be organized, happen, without success because not fully prepared.

cock³ /kɒk/ *vt* **1** turn upwards, cause to be erect (showing attention, inquiry, defiance, etc): *The horse ~ed its ears*. **2** raise the cock of (a gun) ready for firing. ⇨ **cock**² (2). **3** (sl) make a mess of: *They completely ~ed up the arrangements for our holiday*. Hence, **'cock-up** *n* [C] (informal).

cock-a-doodle-doo /kɒk ə, du:dl 'du:/ *n* [C] (informal) imitation of a cock's crow.

cock-a-too /kɒkə'tu:/ *n* [C] crested parrot.

cocker /'kɒkə(r)/ *n* [C] (usually ~-spaniel) breed of spaniel.

cock-erel /'kɒkrəl/ *n* [C] young cock¹ (1).

cock-eyed /'kɒk aɪd/ *adj* (sl) **1** squinting; crooked; turned or twisted to one side. **2** (fig) badly organised, ill-judged: *a ~ scheme*.

cockle /'kɒkl/ *n* [C] edible shellfish; (also ~-shell) its shell.

cock-ney /'kɒkni/ *adj*, *n* [C] (characteristic of a) native, esp working-class, of London: *a ~ accent; ~ humour*.

cock-pit /'kɒkpit/ *n* [C] **1** compartment in a small aircraft for the pilot. **2** enclosed space for cock-fighting. **3** (fig) area where battles have often been fought: *Belgium, the ~ of Europe*.

cock-roach /'kɒkrəʊtʃ/ *n* [C] large, dark-brown insect that comes out at night in kitchens and places where food is kept.

cocks-comb /'kɒkskəʊm/ *n* [C] (esp) red crest of a cock¹ (1).

cock-sure /'kɒk'sʊə(r)/ *adj* too sure or confident.

cock-tail /'kɒkteɪl/ *n* [C] **1** mixed alcoholic drink, esp one taken before a meal. **2** mixture of fruit, fruit juices, small quantities of shellfish, etc served as an appetizer.

'cocktail party, party held early in the evening where cocktails are served.

'cocktail stick, short, pointed one for holding small pieces of fruit, meat etc.

cocky /'kɒki/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (informal) = cocksure.

co-coa /'kəʊkəʊ/ *n* [U] powder of crushed cacao seeds; hot drink made from this with water or milk.

coco-nut /'kəʊkənət/ *n* [C,U] large seed (of the ~-palm) filled with milky juice and with a solid white lining and a hard shell.

co-coon /kə'ku:n/ *n* [C] silky covering made

by a caterpillar to protect itself while it is a chrysalis, esp that of the silkworm. ⇨ *vt* protect (an aircraft, engine, car, etc) by covering completely with a plastic material.

cod /kɒd/ *n* **1** [C] (pl unchanged) (also ~fish) large sea-fish. **2** [U] its flesh as food.

'cod-liver oil, used as a medicine.

coddle /'kɒdl/ *vt* **1** treat with great care and tenderness: *coddling a child because it is in poor health*. **2** cook, eg eggs, in water just below boiling-point.

code /kəʊd/ *n* [C] **1** set of laws arranged in a system. **2** system of rules and principles that has been accepted by society or a class or group of people: *a high moral ~*. **3** system of numbers used for telephoning: *What is the ~ for London?* **4** system of signs, writing, etc used to write secret messages, eg in war: *the Morse ~*. **break a code**, discover how to interpret a code (4). **5** system of signs used to send cables or for a computer. ⇨ *vt* (also **en-code** /en'kəʊd/) put in a code (4).

co-deine /'kəʊdi:n/ *n* [U] drug from opium used as a medicine.

code-ify /'kəʊdɪfaɪ/ (*vt, pp -ied*) put into the form of a code (1): ~ the laws.

co-ed /kəʊ'ed/ *n* [C] (informal) (student at a) co-educational school.

co-edu-ca-tion /kəʊ, 'edʒʊ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U] education of boys and girls together.

co-edu-ca-tional /-ʃən/ *adj*

co-erce /'kəʊ'ɜ:s/ *vt* use force to make (a person) obedient, do something, etc.

co-ercion /kəʊ'ɜ:ʃən/ *US*: -ʒən/ *[U]* coercing or being coerced; government by force.

co-ercive /kəʊ'ɜ:sɪv/ *adj* of, using, coercion: *coercive methods/measures*.

co-exist /kəʊɪg'zɪst/ *vi* exist at the same time.

co-existence /-təns/ *n* [U] (esp) peaceful existence of states with opposed political systems.

cof-fee /'kɒfi/ *US*: 'kɒ:fi/ *n* [C] kind of shrub with berries containing seeds (called *beans*) used for making a dark, bitter drink; [U] the powder (from the beans); [C,U] the drink.

'coffee bar, small café serving drinks and light refreshments.

'coffee-pot, vessel for making or serving coffee.

cof-fer /'kɒfə(r)/ *n* [C] (esp) large, strong box for holding money or valuables.

cof-fin /'kɒfɪn/ *n* [C] box for a dead person.

cog /kɒg/ *n* [C] one of a series of teeth on the rim of a wheel which transfers motion by locking into the teeth of a similar wheel.

co-gency /'kəʊdʒənsɪ/ *n* [U] force or strength (of arguments).

co-gent /'kəʊdʒənt/ *adj* (of arguments) strong and convincing.

cogi-tate /'kɒdʒɪteɪt/ *vi, vt* meditate (the usual word).

cognac /'kɒnjæk/ *n* [U] French brandy.

cog-nate /'kɒgneɪt/ *adj* **1** having the same

source of origin: *Dutch is ~ with German*. **2** related: *Physics and astronomy are ~ sciences*. □ *n* [C] word with the same origin as another.

co-habit /kəʊ'hæbɪt/ *vi* (of an unmarried couple) live together and behave as, like, husband and wife.

co-habi-ta-tion /kəʊ'hæbɪ'teɪʃn/ *n* [U]

co-her-e /kəʊ'hɪə(r)/ *vi* **1** stick together; be or remain united. **2** (of arguments, etc) be consistent.

co-her-ence, co-her-en-cy /-rəns(ɪ)/ *n* [U]

co-her-ent /-rənt/ *adj*

co-her-ent-ly *adv*

coil /kɔɪl/ *vt, vi* wind or twist into a continuous circular or spiral shape; curl round and round: *The snake ~ed (itself) round the branch*. □ *n* [C] **1** something coiled; a single turn of something coiled: *the thick ~s of a python*. **2** length of wire wound in a spiral to conduct electric current. **3** (informal) intra-uterine contraceptive device in the shape of a coil.

coin /kɔɪn/ *n* [C, U] (piece of) metal money: *a small heap of ~s*. ⇨ **toss** (1). □ *vt* **1** make (metal) into coins. **be 'coining money**, be earning money quickly or easily. **2** invent (esp a new word).

coin-age /'kɔɪnɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [U] making coins; the coins made. **2** [C] system of coins in use: *a decimal ~*. **3** [U] inventing (of a new word); [C] newly invented word.

co-incide /,kəʊnɪ'saɪd/ *vi* **1** (of events) happen at the same time; occupy the same period of time: *His free time never ~d with hers*. **2** (of ideas, etc) be in harmony or agreement: *His tastes and habits ~ with those of his wife*. **3** (of two or more objects) correspond in area and outline.

co-incidence /,kəʊnɪ'sɪdəns/ *n* [U] the condition of coinciding; [C] instance of this, happening by chance: *by a curious ~*.

co-incident /-dənt/ *adj* coinciding.

co-inciden-tal /kəʊ,ɪn'sɪdəntl/ *adj* of the nature of a, suggesting, coincidence.

coke /kəʊk/ *n* [U] substance that remains when gas has been taken out of coal, used as a fuel. □ *vt* turn (coal) into coke.

col /kɒl/ *n* [C] depression or pass in a mountain range.

col-an-der, cul-len-der /'kʌləndə(r)/ *n* [C] vessel with many small holes, used to drain off water from vegetables, etc in cooking.

cold /kəʊld/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** of low temperature, esp when compared with the human body: *~ weather; a ~ wind; feel ~*. **have cold feet**, be afraid or reluctant. **throw cold water on sth**, be discouraging about it. (*kill sb*) *in cold blood*; **make one's 'blood run cold**, ⇨ blood. **2** (fig) unkind; unfriendly: *a ~ greeting/welcome*. **3** (of colours) suggesting cold, eg grey and blue.

'cold-'blooded adj (a) having blood that varies with the temperature (eg fish, reptiles). (b) (fig) of persons, their actions) without emotion.

cold comfort, poor consolation.

'cold cream, ointment for cleansing and softening the skin.

'cold 'front, ⇨ front (5).

'cold-'hearted adj without sympathy; indifferent.

'cold 'meat, meat that has been cooked and cooled.

cold snap, short period of cold weather.

'cold-'shoulder, n give sb the cold-shoulder, ignore him. □ *vt* refuse (rudely) to pay attention; ignore.

'cold 'sweat, perspiration because of fear: *come out in a ~ sweat*.

'cold 'war, struggle for superiority using propaganda, economic measures, etc without actual fighting.

cold-ness *n* [U]

cold² /kəʊld/ *n* **1** [U] relative absence of heat; low temperature (esp in the atmosphere): *He was shivering with ~*. *He disliked both the heat of summer and the ~ of winter*. *Don't stay outside in the ~, come indoors by the fire*. (Note: often used with *the*.) (**be left**) *out in the cold*, (fig) (be) ignored or neglected. **2** [C, U] illness (catarrh) of the nose or throat: *have a ~; catch (a) ~*.

col-lab-or-ate /kə'læbəreɪt/ *vi* **1** work in partnership: *~ on writing biography*. **2 col-laborate with**, act treasonably, esp with enemy forces occupying one's country.

col-lab-or-ation /kə'læbə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U] collaborating: *working in collaboration with others*.

col-lab-or-ator /kə'læbə'reɪtə(r)/, person who collaborates.

col-lage /'kɒləʒ/ *US: kə'lɑ:ʒ* *n* [C] picture made by an unusual combination of bits of paper, cloth, photographs, etc.

col-lapse /kə'læps/ *vi, vt* **1** fall down or in; come or break to pieces suddenly: *The roof ~d under the weight of the snow*. **2** lose physical strength, courage, mental powers, etc: *If you work too hard you may ~*. *Our plans will ~ unless we get more help*. **3** (of apparatus, eg a chair) close or fold up. □ *n* [C] **1** collapsing: *the ~ of a table/tent/tower*. **2** (fig): *the ~ of their plans/hopes*; *suffer a nervous ~*.

col-laps-ible, -able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be collapsed (3) (for packing, etc): *a collapsible chair*.

col-lar /'kɒlə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** part of clothing that fits round the neck; turned-over neckband of a shirt, dress, etc. **hot under the collar**, embarrassed. ⇨ blue-collar; white-collar. **2** band of leather, etc put round the neck of a dog, horse or other animal. **3** piece of meat from the neck of an animal, eaten as food. □ *vt* **1** seize (roughly) by the collar: *The policeman ~ed the thief*. **2** (informal) stop (a person): *She ~ed me in the street and asked me my name*.

'col-lar-bone, bone joining the shoulder and the breast bone.

'collar stud, small button-like device for fastening a collar to a shirt.

col-late /kə'leɪt/ *vt* make a careful comparison between (manuscripts, books, etc) to note the differences: ~ a new edition with an earlier edition.

col-lat-eral /kə'lætə(r)əl/ *adj* **1** secondary or subordinate but from the same source: ~ evidence. **2** coming from a common ancestor but in a different line, ie through different sons or daughters.

col-league /'kɒliːg/ *n* [C] person working with another or others: *When he left the company, his ~s bought him a present.*

col-lect¹ /'kɒlekt/ *n* [C] short prayer of the Church of Rome or the Church of England, to be read on certain days.

col-lect² /kə'lekt/ *vt, vi* **1** bring or gather together; get from a number of persons or places: *Please ~ all the empty bottles and put them over here.* **2** obtain specimens of (books, stamps, etc), eg as a hobby or in order to learn things: ~ foreign stamps. **3** come together: *A crowd soon ~s when there's an accident.* **4** go and bring back: ~ a child from school. **5** gather together, recover control of (one's thoughts, energies, oneself): *Before you speak, you should ~ your thoughts and ideas.*

col-lected *adj* (esp of a person) calm; not distracted.

col-lection /kə'leɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] collecting; [C] instance of this: *How many ~s of letters are there every day?* **2** [C] group of objects that have been collected and that belong together: *a fine ~ of paintings.* **3** heap of materials or objects that have come together: *a ~ of dust/rubbish.* **4** [C] money collected (at a meeting, a Church service, etc).

col-lec-tive /kə'lektɪv/ *adj* of a group or society (of persons, nations, etc) as a whole: ~ leadership, (emphasis on) government by a group rather than an individual.

collective noun, (gram) one that is singular in form but stands for many individuals, as *cattle, crowd, audience*: *In 'a ~ to catch fish', fish is a ~ noun.*

col-lec-tor /kə'lektə(r)/ *n* [C] person who collects: *a ~ tax-~; a ~ ticket-~,* eg at a railway station.

col-lege /'kɒlɪdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** place for higher or professional education; group of teachers and students forming part of a university; their building(s): *go to ~; be at ~; ~ training ~s.* **2** union of persons with common purposes and privileges: *the C~ of Surgeons; the C~ of Cardinals*, who elect and advise the Pope.

col-le-giate /kə'liːdʒiət/ *adj* of or like a college (student): ~ life.

col-lide /kə'laɪd/ *vi* **1** come together violently; meet and strike: *As the bus came round the corner, it ~d with a van. The ships ~d in the fog.* **2** be opposed; be in conflict: *If the aims of two countries ~, there may be war.*

col-li-er /'kɒliə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** coalminer. **2** ship that carries coal as cargo.

col-li-ery /'kɒljəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) coalmine

(and the buildings, etc connected with it).

col-li-sion /kə'liːʒn/ *n* [U] colliding; [C] instance of this: *a railway ~.*

col-lo-cate /'kɒləkeɪt/ *vi* (of words) combine in a way characteristic of language: *'Weak' ~s with 'tea' (ie weak tea is acceptable) but 'feeble' does not (ie feeble tea is not good English).*

col-lo-ca-tion /'kɒlə'keɪʃn/ *n* [C,U] coming together; collocating of words: *'Strong tea' and 'heavy drinker' are English collocations.*

col-lo-quial /kə'ləʊkwɪəl/ *adj* (of words, phrases, style) belonging to, suitable for, ordinary conversation; not formal or literary.

col-lo-quial-ly /-əlɪ/ *adv*

col-lo-quial-ism /-ɪzəm/ *n* [C] colloquial word or phrase.

col-lu-sion /kə'luːʒn/ *n* [U] secret agreement or understanding for a deceitful or fraudulent purpose: *act in ~ with a thief.*

col-lon¹ /'kɒlən/ *n* [C] lower and greater part of the large intestine.

col-lon² /'kɒlən/ *n* [C] punctuation mark (:) used in writing and printing.

col-lonel /'kɒːnəl/ *n* [C] army officer above a major (and in US) commanding a regiment.

col-lo-nial /kə'ləʊniəl/ *adj* **1** of a colony or colonies (1,2). **2** (esp US) in the style of architecture in the British colonies in N America before and during the American Revolution. □ *n* [C] inhabitant of a colony (1), esp one who helps or helped to found and develop it.

col-lo-nial-ism /-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] policy of having colonies (1) and keeping them dependent.

col-lo-nial-ist, supporter of colonialism.

col-on-ist /'kɒlənɪst/ *n* [C] pioneer settler in a colony (1).

col-on-ize (also -ise) /'kɒlənaɪz/ *vt* establish a colony; establish in a colony: *The ancient Greeks ~d many parts of the Mediterranean.*

col-on-iz-a-tion (also -isation) /'kɒlə-naɪzeɪʃn/ *US: -nɪ'z-/* *n* [U]

col-on-nade /'kɒlə'neɪd/ *n* [C] row of columns (1).

col-ony /'kɒləni/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** country or territory extensively settled by migrants from a mother country, and, for a time, controlled by it, eg (formerly) Australia. **2** country or territory ruled by and politically and economically dependent on a foreign power. **3** group of people from another country, or of people with the same trade, profession or occupation, living together: *a ~ of artists.* **4** number of animals or plants, living or growing together: *a ~ of ants.*

color (US) = colour.

co-los-sal /kə'lɒsl/ *adj* very large.

co-los-sus /kə'lɒsəs/ *n* [C] (pl -si /-saɪ/ or ~es) **1** large statue (esp of a man). **2** large person or personification.

col-our¹ (US = color) /'kʌlə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] sensation produced in the eye by rays of decomposed light: *There isn't enough ~ in the picture;* [C] effect produced by a ray of light of a particular wavelength, or by a mixture of

these: *Red, blue and yellow are ~s.* **2** [U] redness of the face: *She has very little ~, has a pale face.* **be/feel/look off colour**, (informal) be/feel/look unwell. **3** (pl) materials used by artists; paint: *'water-~s.* **4** (usually pl) appearance: *seen in her true ~s*, as she really is. **5** [U] (details of an event, description) giving evidence of truth or reality: *The bruises lent ~ to his story of being attacked.* ⇨ local colour. **6** (pl) ribbon, dress, cap, etc worn as a symbol of a party, a club, a school, etc: *The jockey wears the owners ~s.* **7** (pl) flag (of a ship); ensign or standard of a regiment: *salute the ~s.* **come off with flying colours**, make a great success of something. **show one's true colours**, show what one is really like. **8** race or race-mixture other than European.

'colour-bar, social distinction between white and coloured races.

'colour-blind *adj* unable to distinguish between or to see certain colours.

'colour scheme, scheme for combination of colours in a design (eg decorating a room).

col-our-ful *adj* full of colour; bright; gay; exciting: *a ~ful scene; lead a ~ful life.*

col-our-less *adj* pale; dull: *a ~less style; a ~less existence.*

col-our² (US = color) /'kʌlə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** give colour to; put colour on: *~ a wall green.* **2** take on colour: *The leaves have begun to ~, to turn yellow, brown, etc.* **3** blush: *The girl is so shy that she ~s whenever a man speaks to her.* **4** change or misrepresent in some way: *News is often ~ed.*

coloured *adj* (a) having the colour specified: *'cream-~ed; 'flesh-~ed.* (b) **C~d**, (of persons) not wholly of white or European descent.

col-our-ing, (esp) (a) style (often giving a false impression) in which something is described. (b) style in which an artist uses colour.

colt¹ /kəʊlt/ *n* [C] young male horse up to the age of 4 or 5. ⇨ filly.

'colt-ish *adj* like a colt; frisky.

colt² /kəʊlt/ *n* (US) (P) early type of revolver or pistol.

col-umn /'kɒləm/ *n* [C] **1** tall, upright structure, usually of stone, either supporting or decorating part of a building, or standing alone as a monument. **2** something shaped like or suggesting a column: *a ~ of smoke; the spinal ~, the backbone.* **3** vertical division of a printed page, (eg of this page or of a newspaper). **4** series of numbers arranged under one another: *add up a long ~ of figures.* **5** line of soldiers, ships etc one behind the other.

coma /'kəʊmə/ *n* [C] **in a coma**, in an unnatural deep sleep usually from injury or illness.

comb /kəʊm/ *n* [C] **1** piece of metal, plastic, etc with teeth for making the hair tidy, keeping it in place, etc or as an ornament. **2** part of a machine with a look or purpose like a comb, esp for tidying and straightening wool, cotton,

etc for manufacture. ⇨ also honeycomb, cockscomb. □ *vt, vi* **1** use a comb on (the hair). **2** prepare (wool, etc) for manufacture using combs. **3** search thoroughly: *The police ~ed the whole town in their efforts to find the murderer.* **4 comb out**, (fig) take out (unwanted things, persons) from a group: *~ out a government department*, get rid of officials who are not really needed.

com-bat /'kɒmbæt/ *n* [C] fight; struggle. □ *vt, vi* fight; struggle: *~ the enemy; a ship ~ing with the wind and waves.*

com-bat-ant /'kɒmbətənt/ *adj* fighting. □ *n* [C] person who fights: *In modern wars both ~s and non-~s are killed in nuclear attacks.*

com-bi-na-tion /kəm'bi:neɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] joining or putting together; state of being joined: *in ~ with.* **2** [C] number of persons or things that are joined: *The college is supported by a ~ of income from the government and fees from students.* **3** (also ~-lock) formula, code, complicated arrangement, for the lock of a safe, etc: *How did the thieves learn the ~?*

com-bine¹ /kəm'baɪn/ *vt, vi* (cause to) join together; possess at the same time: *We can't always ~ work with pleasure.* *Hydrogen and oxygen ~/Hydrogen ~s with oxygen to form water.*

com-bine² /kəm'baɪn/ *n* [C] group of persons, trading companies, etc joined for a purpose (such as controlling prices).

'combine-harvester, machine that both reaps and threshes (grain).

com-bust-ible /kəm'bʌstəbl/ *adj* catching fire and burning easily.

com-bus-tion /kəm'bʌstʃən/ *n* [U] process of burning; destruction by fire.

come /kam/ *vi* (pt came /keɪm/, pp ~) (For uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 13 below). **1** move towards or nearer to, the speaker; arrive where the speaker is, was or will be: *Are you coming to my party this evening? They came to a river. She'll ~ to the party with John. He's ~ to get/~ for his book. The children came running to meet us.* **2** move into, etc the place where the speaker is: *C~ in out of the rain. Can you ~ out with me for a walk? The sunshine came streaming through the windows.* **3** reach; rise or fall to (a particular level, figure, point): *Your bill ~s to £20. When it ~s to helping his wife with the housework, John never grumbles. come to an agreement*, agree. *come into flower*, begin to have flowers. *come to a decision*, decide. *come to light*, be revealed or discovered. *come to one's notice*, ⇨ notice(3). *come into view*, appear. (Note: in phrases of this kind come indicates that the state or condition of the noun has been reached. For similar phrases, ⇨ the noun entries.) **4 come to sb (from sb)**, be left or willed: *The farm came to him on his father's death.* **5 come to sb**, occur to, happen to: *The idea came (= occurred) to him in his bath.* **6** reach a point

where one sees, understands, etc: *He came to realize that he was mistaken.* **7** (used when asking for an explanation or reason): *How did you ~ to find out where she's living? Now that I ~ (= happen) to think of it...* **8** occur; be found; have as its place: *May ~s between April and June.* **9** be; become; prove to be: *The handle has ~ loose.* **come true**, (of wishes, dreams) be realized. **10** (with adjectives prefixed with *un-*, showing undesirable conditions, etc) be; become: *My shoelaces have ~ undone.* **11** play the part of; behave, talk, etc as if one were (often with the suggestion of overdoing something): *Don't ~ the bully over me, Don't (try to) bully me.* **12** (used of the future): *in years to ~; the life to ~, life in the next world; for some time to ~, for a period of time in the future.*

13 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

come about, happen: *It came about in this way...*

come across (sb/sth), find or meet by chance: *I came across this old brooch in an antique shop.*

come along, (a) (imperative) try harder; make more effort: *C ~ along, someone must know the answer!* (b) (imperative) hurry up; make haste: *C ~ along, we'll be late!* (c) make progress; develop: *The garden is coming along nicely.* (d) appear; arrive: *When the right opportunity ~s along, he'll take it.*

come apart, fall to pieces: *It just came apart in my hands.*

come away (from), become detached: *The light switch came away from the wall.*

come back, return; (of fashions) become popular again: *Will pointed shoes ~ back?*

come back at, give in reply: *He came back at me with some useful advice.* **come back (to one)**, return to the memory: *Their names are all coming back to me now. Hence, 'come-back' n* (a) (eg of actors, politicians, athletes, etc) successful return to a former position: *Can he stage a ~-back?* (b) recompense (for a loss, etc): *If you're not insured and you're burgled, you'll have no ~-back.*

come before sb/sth, (a) be dealt with by: *The complaint will come before the United Nations Assembly next week.* (b) have precedence over: *Baronets ~ before knights.*

come between, (a) interfere with a relationship: *It is not advisable to ~ between a man and his wife.* (b) prevent a person from having, doing, something: *He never lets anything ~ between him and his evening paper.*

come by sth, obtain by effort; become possessed of: *Jobs were hard to ~ by.*

come down, (a) collapse: *The ceiling came down on our heads.* (b) (of rain, snow, hail) fall: *The rain came down heavily.* (c) (of prices, temperature, etc) fall. **come down in the world**, lose social position; become poor. Hence, **'come-down' n** fall in social position: *He has had to sell his house and furniture. What*

a ~-down for him! **come down in favour of/on the side of sb/sth**, decide to support: *He came down on the side of the government.* **come down to**, (a) reach to: *Her hair ~s down to her waist.* (b) can be reduced to: *Your choices in the matter ~ down to these.* (c) (of traditions, etc) be handed down: *legends that have ~ down to us, ie from our ancestors.* **come down to earth**, return to reality: *Now that his money has all been spent, he's had to ~ down to earth.*

come forward, offer or present oneself: *Will no one ~ forward as a candidate?*

come from, have as a birthplace, place of origin, etc: *He ~s from Kent.*

come in, (a) (of the tide) rise: *The tide is coming in.* (b) become fashionable: *When did miniskirts first ~ in?* (c) be received as income, etc: *There's not much money coming in at present.* **come in handy/useful**, happen to be useful, serve a purpose: *Don't throw it away; it may ~ in handy one day.* **come in on**, join; take part in: *If you want to ~ in on the scheme, you must decide now.*

come of, (a) be descended from: *She ~s of a good family.* (b) be the result of: *He promised his help, but I don't think anything will ~ of it.*

come of age, ⇨ age¹(1).

come off (sth), (a) become detached or separated (from): *A button has ~ off my coat.* (b) fall (from): *~ off a horse/bicycle.* (c) get down (from): *C ~ off that wall before you fall off (it).* **come off it**, (informal) (imperative) stop pretending, or talking nonsense. **come off**, (a) take place: *Did your holiday in Italy ever ~ off?* (b) (of plans, attempts) succeed: *The experiment did not ~ off.*

come on, (a) follow: *You go first, I'll ~ on later.* (b) (used as a challenge): *C ~ on! Let's race to the bottom of the hill.* (c) make progress; develop: *How's your garden coming on?* (d) (of rain, the seasons, night, illness, etc) start; arrive: *He said he felt a cold coming on, beginning.* (e) (of an actor) appear on the stage; (of a play) be performed: *'Macbeth' is coming on again next month.*

come out, (a) appear; become visible: *The sun/stars come out.* (b) become known: *If the truth ever ~s out...* (c) be published: *When will his new book ~ out?* (d) (of workmen) strike: *The car workers have all ~ out again.* (e) (of details, etc in a photograph, of qualities) appear: *You have ~ out well in that photograph. It is a good likeness.* (f) (of stains, etc) be removed: *These ink stains won't ~ out.* (g) (of dyes, etc) fade; disappear: *Will the colour ~ out if the material is washed?* **come out at**, (of totals, averages, etc) amount to: *The total ~s out at 756.* **come out in**, be (partly) covered in (pimples, a rash, etc): *She's ~ out in spots!* **come out with**, say: *He came out with a most extraordinary excuse.*

come over, (a) come from a distance: *Won't you ~ over to England for a holiday?* (b)

change sides or opinions: *He will never ~ over to our side.*

come over sb. (of feelings, influences) take possession of: *What has ~ over you?*

come round, (a) come by an indirect route: *The road was blocked so we had to ~ round by the fields.* (b) pay an informal visit to: *Won't you ~ round and see me some time?* (c) occur again: *Spring will soon ~ round, be here again.* (d) change views, etc: *He has ~ round, has accepted, agreed.* (e) regain consciousness: *Pour a jug of water on his face. He'll soon ~ round.*

come through, (a) recover from a serious illness or injury: *With such a weak heart, he was lucky to ~ through.* ⇨ pull²(6). (b) arrive (by telephone, radio, etc): *Listen; a message is just coming through.* (c) pass through official channels: *Your posting has just ~ through: it's Hong Kong!*

come 'to, = come round (e).

come under sth, (a) be in (a certain category, etc): *What heading does this ~ under?* (b) be subjected to: *~ under her notice/influence.* ⇨ review n(1).

come up, (a) (of seed, etc) show above the ground: *The seeds/snowdrops haven't ~ up yet.* (b) arise; be put forward: *The question hasn't ~ up yet.* (c) occur; arise: *We shall write to you if a vacancy ~s up.* **come up against,** meet (difficulties, opposition). **come up (to),** (a) reach: *The water came up to my waist.* (b) equal: *Your work has not ~ up to my expectations.* **come up with,** (a) draw level with: *We came up with a party of hikers.* (b) produce; find: *~ up with a solution.*

come upon, (a) attack by surprise; strike: *the disaster that came upon them.* *Fear came upon us.* (b) arrive at suddenly or by surprise: *came upon a thief in the garden.*

com-edian /kə'mi:diən/ n [C] 1 actor who plays comic parts in plays, etc. 2 person who behaves in a comic way and who cannot be taken seriously.

com-edienne /kə'mi:di:en/ US: kə'mi:di:en/ n [C] female comedian.

com-edy /'kɒmədi/ n (pl -ies) 1 [U] branch of drama that deals with everyday life and humorous events: *He prefers ~ to tragedy.* 2 [C] play for the theatre, of a light, amusing kind. 3 [C,U] amusing activity or incident in real life: *There's no ~ in modern war.*

come-ly /'kɒmli/ adj (-ier, -iest) (of a person) pleasant to look at.

com-et /'kɒmit/ n [C] heavenly body (looking like a star with a bright centre and a less bright tail) that moves round the sun.

com-fort /'kʌmfət/ n 1 [U] state of being free from suffering, anxiety, pain, etc: *living in great ~.* 2 [U] help or kindness to a person who is suffering: *a few words of ~.* 3 [C] person or thing that brings relief or help: *Your letters! You have been a great ~ to me.* ⇨ vt give comfort to: *~ those who are in trouble.*

com-fort-able /'kʌmftəbl/ adj 1 giving comfort to the body: *a ~ chair/bed.* 2 having or providing comfort: *a ~ life/income.* 3 at ease; free from (too much) pain, anxiety, etc: *to be/feel ~.*

com-fort-ably /-əbli/ adv in a comfortable manner: *a car that can hold five people and their luggage comfortably.*

comic /'kɒmik/ adj 1 causing people to laugh: *a ~ song;* intended to amuse. 2 of comedy: *~ opera.* ⇨ n [C] 1 periodical with comic strips. 2 comedian.

comic strip, series of drawings telling an amusing story.

comi-cal /'kɒmɪkl/ adj amusing; odd: *a ~ old hat.*

com-ing /'kʌmɪŋ/ n [C] arrival. ⇨ adj which is to come or which will come: *in the ~ years.*

,comings and 'goings, arrivals and departures.

comma /'kɒmə/ n [C] punctuation mark (,) used to indicate a slight pause or break between parts of a sentence. ⇨ also inverted commas.

com-mand' /kə'mɑ:nd/ US: -'mænd/ n 1 [C] order: *His ~s were quickly obeyed.* 2 [U] authority; power (to control): *General X is in ~ of the army.* **have/take command (of),** have/take authority: *When the major was killed, the senior captain took ~ (of the company).* 3 [C] part of an army, air force, etc under separate command: *Bomber C~.* 4 [U] possession and skill: *He has a good ~ of the English language, is able to use it well.*

com-mand' /kə'mɑ:nd/ US: -'mænd/ vt, vi 1 order (usually with the right to be obeyed): *Do as I ~ (you).* *The officer ~ed his men to fire.* 2 have authority over; be in control of: *The captain of a ship ~s all the officers and men.* 3 be in a position to use; have at one's service: *He ~s great sums of money, is able to use them if he so wishes.* 4 deserve and get: *Great men ~ our respect.* 5 (of a place) be in a position that overlooks (and may control): *The fort ~s the road to the valley.*

com-mand-ing adj: *the ~ing officer; in a ~ing tone/position.*

com-man-dant /,kɒmən'dænt/ n [C] officer in command of a fortress or other military establishment.

com-man-deer /,kɒmən'diə(r)/ vt seize (provisions, etc) for military purposes under martial law.

com-man-der /kə'mɑ:ndə(r)/ US: -'mæn-/ n [C] person in command: *the ~ of the expedition;* ~-in-'chief, commander of all the military forces of a State.

com-mand-ment /kə'mɑ:ndmənt/ US: -'mænd-/ n [C] divine command, esp one of the ten laws given by God to Moses.

com-mando /kə'mɑ:ndəʊ/ US: -'mæn-/ n [C] (pl ~s or ~es) (member of a) body of men specially trained for carrying out raids and making assaults.

com-mem-or-ate /kə'memə'reɪt/ *vt* keep or honour the memory of (a person or event); (of things) be in memory of: *A monument was built to ~ the victory.*

com-mem-or-ation /kə'memə'reɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] act of commemorating: *in ~ of the victory.* **2** [C] (part of a) service in memory of a person or event.

com-mem-or-ative /kə'memərətɪv *US*: -'memə'reɪt/ *adj* serving to commemorate: *~ stamps/medals.*

com-mence /kə'mens/ *vt, vi* (formal) begin; start (the more usual words).

com-mence-ment, beginning.

com-mend /kə'mend/ *vt* (formal) praise; speak favourably of: *His work was highly ~ed.*

com-mend-able /-əbl/ *adj* worthy of praise.

com-men-sur-ate /kə'men'sjərət/ *adj* in the right proportion: *Was the pay you received ~ with the work you did?*

com-ment /'kɒment/ *n* [C,U] opinion given briefly in speech or writing about an event, or in explanation or criticism: *Have you any ~s to make on my story?* □ *vi* give opinions: *~ on an essay.*

com-men-tary /'kɒməntəri *US*: -teri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** collection of comments, eg on a book: *a Bible ~.* **2** series of continuous comments (on an event): *a radio ~ on a football match.*

com-men-tate /'kɒmənteɪt/ *vi* **com-men-tate (on)**, give a commentary.

com-men-ta-tor /'kɒməntetə(r)/, person who gives a radio or TV commentary or writes on an event, eg a horse-race.

com-merce /'kɒmə:s/ *n* [U] **1** trade (esp between countries). **2** the exchange and distribution of goods: *a Chamber of C~.*

com-mer-cial /kə'mɜ:ʃl/ *adj* of commerce: *~ banks.* □ *n* [C] advertisement inserted in a TV or radio programme.

com-mercial 'radio/'television, financed by charges made for commercial advertising in programmes.

commercial 'traveller, travelling salesman.

commercial vehicle, van, lorry, etc for the transport of goods.

com-mer-cially /-əli/ *adv*

com-miser-ate /kə'mɪzə'reɪt/ *vt, vi* feel, say that one feels, pity for: *~ (with) a friend on his misfortunes.*

com-miser-ation /kə'mɪzə'reɪʃn/ *n* [C,U] (expression of) pity or sympathy.

com-mis-sion /kə'mɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] the giving of authority to a person to act for another. **2** [C] instance of this; action or piece of business that is done: *He has got two ~s to design buildings for a local authority.* **3** [U] payment for selling goods, etc rising in proportion to the amount sold: *He receives a ~ of 10 per cent on sales, as well as a salary.* **4** [C] official paper signed by the Sovereign appointing an officer in the armed services: *get/resign one's ~.* **5** [C]

body of persons given the duty of making an inquiry and writing a report: *A Royal C~ was set up to report on betting and gambling.* **out of commission**, (fig) not working; not available. □ *vt* give a commission to: *~ an artist to paint a portrait.*

com-mis-sion-aire /kə'mɪʃə'neə(r)/ *n* [C] uniformed porter at the entrance to a cinema, hotel, large shop, etc.

com-mis-sion-er /kə'mɪʃənə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** member of a commission(5), esp one with particular duties: *the Civil Service C~s*, who conduct the Civil Service examinations. **2** person who has been given a commission: *a C~ for Oaths*, solicitor (given commission by the Lord Chancellor) before whom documents are sworn on oath. **3** government representative of high rank (as in a Commonwealth country): *the British High C~ in Accra.*

com-mit /kə'mɪt/ *vt* (-tt-) **1** perform (a crime, etc): *~ murder/suicide/an offence.* **2** give up, hand over to, for guarding or treatment: *~ a man to prison; ~ a patient to a mental hospital.* **commit to memory**, learn by heart. **3** **commit oneself (to...)**, make oneself responsible; undertake: *He has ~ed himself to support his brother's children.* **4** pledge; bind (oneself): *I won't ~ myself to anyone who is dishonest.* □ *uncommitted.*

com-mit-ment *n* [C] (esp) something to which one is committed(3,4): *If you have to pay your daughter's expenses and give your son £100 a year for clothes, you have quite a lot of ~ments.*

com-mit-tee /kə'mɪti/ *n* [C] group of persons appointed (usually by a larger group) to attend to special business: *to attend a ~ meeting; to be on/sit on/chair the ~.*

com-mod-ity /kə'mɒdətɪ/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) useful thing, esp an article of trade: *household commodities*, eg pots and pans.

com-mo-dore /'kɒmədɔ:(r)/ *n* [C] **1** naval officer having rank above a captain and below a rear-admiral. **2** senior captain of a shipping line.

com-mon¹ /'kɒmən/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** belonging to, used by, coming from, done by, affecting, all or nearly all members of a group or society: *His wife is German but they have English as a ~ language.* **2** happening or found often and in many places; usual: *a ~ experience.* *Is this word in ~ use?* **3** ordinary or average, not of noble birth. **4** (of persons, their behaviour and possessions) of inferior quality or taste: *speak with a ~ accent.* **5** (maths) belonging to two or more quantities: *~ factor/multiple.*

common 'ground, (fig) agreed basis for argument in a dispute, etc.

common 'knowledge, what is generally known: *It is ~ knowledge that you are dating Mary.*

common 'law, (in England) unwritten law from customs and earlier legal decisions.

the 'Common 'Market, (officially the

European Economic Community) economic, social and political union of some European countries with associate membership (for economic preferences) by other countries.

'common-room, sitting-room for teachers or for students in a college, school, etc.

'common-sense, practical good sense from general experience of life, not by special study.

com-mon-ly *adv* (a) usually: *That very ~ly happens. Thomas, ~ly called Tom.* (b) in a common(4) way: *~ly dressed.*

com-mon² /'kɒmən/ *n* 1 [C] area of unfenced grassland for all to use: *Saturday afternoon cricket on the village ~.* 2 **in common**, for or by all (of a group). **have in common (with)**, share (with): *They have nothing in ~ with one another, have no similar interests, etc.*

com-moner /'kɒmənr/ *n* [C] one of the common people, not one of the nobility.

com-mon-place /'kɒmənpleɪs/ *adj* ordinary or usual.

Com-mons /'kɒmɒnz/ *n pl* **the ~**, (usually *the House of ~*) assembly of the British Parliament elected by the people.

com-mon-wealth /'kɒmənwelθ/ *n* [C] 1 body of people of a nation or state. 2 group of States (eg *the C~ of Australia*) associating politically. 3 **the C~**, free association of independent states (formerly colonies and dominions of GB).

com-mo-tion /kə'məʊʃn/ *n* 1 [U] noisy confusion; excitement. 2 [C] instance of this; uprising or disturbance: *You're making a great ~ about nothing.*

com-mu-nal /'kɒmjʊnəl/ *adj* 1 of or for a community: *~ facilities.* 2 for common use: *~ land/kitchens.*

com-mune¹ /'kɒmjʊn/ *n* [C] 1 (in France, Belgium, Italy, Spain) smallest territorial district for purposes of administration, with a mayor and council. 2 organized group of people promoting local interests. 3 group of people living together and sharing property and responsibilities.

com-mune² /kə'mju:n/ *vi* feel at one with; feel, be, in close touch with; talk with in an intimate way: *communing with nature; friends communing together.*

com-muni-cable /kə'mju:nɪkəbl/ *adj* (of ideas, illness, etc) that can be communicated or passed on.

com-muni-cant /kə'mju:nɪkənt/ *n* [C] 1 person who (regularly) receives Holy Communion. 2 (formal) informer.

com-muni-cate /kə'mju:nɪkeɪt/ *vt, vi* 1 pass on (news, information, feelings, an illness, etc). 2 share or exchange (news, etc): *We can ~ with people in most parts of the world by telephone.* 3 (of rooms, gardens, roads, etc) be connected (which is more usual): *My garden ~s with the garden next door by a gate.*

com-muni-ca-tion /kə'mju:nɪkeɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] the act of communicating: *Among the deaf and dumb ~ is by means of the finger alphabet.*

2 [C] that which is communicated (eg news): *This ~ is confidential.* 3 [C,U] means of communicating; roads, railways, telephone or telegraph lines, radio and TV: *All ~ with the north has been stopped by snowstorms.*

com-muni-cat-ive /kə'mju:nɪkətɪv/ *US: -keɪtɪv/ adj* ready and willing to talk and give information.

com-mu-nion /kə'mju:mən/ *n* 1 [U] sharing in common; participation (with). 2 [U] exchange of thought and feelings. 3 [C] group of persons with the same religious beliefs: *We belong to the same ~.*

Holy Com'munion, (in the Christian Church) celebration of the Eucharist.

com-muni-qué /kə'mju:nɪkeɪ/ *n* [C] official announcement, eg as issued to the press.

com-mu-nism /'kɒmjʊnɪzəm/ *n* [U] 1 social and economic system in which the means of production are owned by the whole of a classless society. 2 theory revealing the historical necessity for the revolutionary replacement of capitalism by communism and the creation of a communist society. 3 **C~**, political movement for the building of a communist society. **communist** /-ɪst/ *n* [C] **C~**, member of a Communist party. □ *adj* of communism.

com-mun-ity /kə'mju:nəti/ *n* [C] (*pl -ies*) 1 [C] **the ~**, the people living in one place, district or country, considered as a whole: *work for the good of the ~.* 2 [C] group of persons having the same religion, race, occupation, etc or with common interests: *a ~ of monks; the Greek ~ in London.* 3 [U] condition of sharing, having things in common, being alike in some way: *~ of religion/interests.*

com'munity home, institution for young offenders.

com-mute /kə'mju:t/ *vt, vi* 1 exchange one thing (esp one kind of payment) for another: *~ a weekly pension for a single payment.* 2 reduce the severity of a punishment: *~ a death sentence (to one of life imprisonment).* 3 travel regularly, eg by train or car, between one's work in a town and one's home in the country or suburbs.

com-muter, person who commutes(3).

com'muter belt, residential area outside a town or city to and from which commuters travel.

com-pact¹ /'kɒmpækt/ *n* [C] agreement between parties; contract; covenant.

com-pact² /kəm'pækt/ *adj* closely packed together; neatly fitted. □ *vt* join firmly together.

com-pact-ly *adv*

com-pact-ness *n* [U]

com-pact³ /'kɒmpækt/ *n* [C] small, flat container for face-powder.

com-pan-ion /kəm'pæniən/ *n* [C] 1 person who goes with, or is often or always with, another: *my ~s on the trip.* 2 person who shares in or has a similar interest in the work, pleasures, misfortunes, etc of another: *He's an*

excellent ~. **3** one of two things that go together; thing that matches another or is one of a pair: *the ~ volume*. **4** woman paid to keep another person company. **5** handbook or reference book: *the Gardener's C~*.

com-pan-ion-ship, state of being companions: *a ~ship of many years*.

com-pan-ion-way /kəm'pæniənwei/ *n* [C] staircase from the deck of a ship to the saloon or cabins.

com-pa-ny /'kɑmpəni/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] being together with another or others: *I shall be glad of your ~* (= to have you with me) *on the journey*. *He came in ~ with* (= together with) *a group of boys*. **part company (with)**, (a) separate (and go in a different direction). (b) disagree: *I must part ~ with you on that point*. **2** [U] group of persons; number of guests: *We're expecting ~* (= guests, visitors) *next week*. **3** [U] persons with whom one spends one's time: *You may know a man by the ~ he keeps*, judge his character by his friends. **4** [C] number of persons united for business or commerce: *a publishing ~*. **5** [C] number of persons working together: *a theatrical ~*. **6** [C] subdivision of an infantry battalion, commanded by a captain or major.

com-par-able /'kɑmpərəbl/ *adj* that can be compared: *His achievements are ~ with the best/to yours*.

com-para-tive /kəm'pærətiv/ *adj* **1** having to do with comparison or comparing: *~ religion*. **2** measured or judged by comparing: *living in ~ comfort*, eg comfortably compared with others, or with one's own life at an earlier period. **3** (*gram*) form of adjectives and adverbs expressing 'more', as in *longer*, *worse*, *more likely*, *more prettily*. □ *n* [C] comparative form: *'Better' is the ~ of 'good'*.

com-para-tive-ly *adv*

com-pare /kəm'peə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** examine, judge to what extent persons or things are similar or not similar: *~ two translations*. **2** point out the likeness or relation between: *Poets have ~d sleep to death*. **3** **compare with**, be able to be compared: *He cannot ~ with Shakespeare*. **4** (*gram*) make the comparative and superlative form (of adjectives and adverbs).

com-pari-son /kəm'pærɪsn/ *n* **1** [U] **by/in comparison (with)**, when compared (with): *The tallest buildings in London are small in ~ with those of New York*. **2** [C] act of comparing; instance of this: *It is often useful to make a ~ between two things*. **3** be able to be compared favourably with: *That's a good dictionary, but it won't/can't stand ~ with this*. **4** (*gram*) comparative and superlative position (of adjectives and adverbs), eg *good*, *better*, *best*.

com-part-ment /kəm'pɑ:tmənt/ *n* [C] one of several separate divisions of a structure, esp of a railway carriage or coach: *The first-class ~s are in front*.

com-pass /'kɑmpəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) **1** device with a needle that points to the magnetic north: *the points of the ~* (N, NE, E, SE, S, etc). **2** similar device, eg a radio ~, for determining direction. **3** (*pl*) (also a pair of ~es) V-shaped instrument with two arms joined by a hinge, used for drawing circles, measuring distances on a map or chart, etc. **4** extent; range: *outside the ~* (= range) *of her voice*.

com-pas-sion /kəm'pæʃn/ *n* [U] pity; feeling for the sufferings of others, prompting one to give help: *be filled with ~ for the refugees*.

com-pas-sion-ate /kəm'pæʃənət/ *adj* showing or feeling compassion: *The soldier was granted ~ leave*, allowed to go home, eg because of personal problems.

com-pat-ible /kəm'pætəbl/ *adj* (of ideas, arguments, principles, etc) suited to, in accord with, able to exist together with: *driving a car at a speed ~ with safety*.

com-pat-ibly /-əblɪ/ *adv*

com-pa-triot /kəm'pætriət/ *US*: /-peɪt-/ *n* [C] person born in or citizen of the same country as another.

com-pel /kəm'pel/ *vt* (-ll-) force (a person or thing to do something); get, bring about, by force: *His conscience ~led him to confess*.

com-pen-sate /kəm'penset/ *vt, vi* make a suitable payment, give something, to make up (for loss, injury, etc): *Nothing can ~ for the loss of one's health*.

com-pen-sa-tion /kəm'pensetʃn/ *n* [U, C] compensating; something given to compensate: *He received £5000 in ~ by way of ~ as ~ for the loss of his right hand*.

com-pen-sa-tory /kəm'pensətəri/ *US*. -tɔ:ri/ *adj* compensating.

com-père /'kɒmpə(r)/ *n* [C] (*Fr*) organizer of a cabaret or broadcast entertainment who introduces the performers, speakers, etc. □ *vt* act as compère for.

com-pete /kəm'pi:t/ *vi* take part in a race, contest, examination, etc: *to ~ against/with other countries in trade*.

com-pet-ence /'kɒmpɪtəns/ *n* **1** [U] being competent; ability: *his ~ in handling money/to handle money*. **2** (of a court, etc) legal capacity: *business that is within/beyond the ~ of the court*.

com-pet-ent /'kɒmpɪtənt/ *adj* **1** (of persons) having ability, power, authority, skill, knowledge, etc (to do what is needed): *Is Miss X ~ in her work/~ as a teacher/~ to teach French?* **2** (of qualities) sufficient, adequate: *Has she a ~ knowledge of French?*

com-pet-ent-ly *adv*

com-pet-i-tion /kəm'petɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] competing; activity in which persons compete: *At the Olympic Games our teams were in ~* (= were competing) *with the best swimmers from all parts of the world*. **2** [C] instance of competing; contest; meeting(s) at which skill, strength, knowledge, etc is tested: *chess ~s*.

com-pet-i-tive /kəm'petətɪv/ *adj* in or for

which there is competition: *We offer ~ prices, prices that are as good as those of other firms.*

com-peti-tor /kəm'petitə(r)/ *n* [C] person, firm, product, etc that competes.

com-pil-a-tion /kəm'plɪ'eɪʃn/ *n* [U] compiling: [C] thing that is compiled.

com-pile /kəm'paɪl/ *vt* collect (information) and arrange (in a book, list, report, etc): ~ a dictionary.

com-piler, person who compiles (a list, a dictionary, etc).

com-plea-cence /kəm'pleɪsəns/ *n* [U] self-satisfaction; feeling of personal contentment.

com-plea-cency /-sənsi/ *n* [U]

com-pla-cent /kəm'pleɪsənt/ *adj* pleased with oneself or one's ability (usually in an annoying way): *with a ~ smile/air.*

com-pla-cent-ly *adv*

com-plain /kəm'pleɪn/ *vi* say that one is not satisfied, that something is wrong, that one is suffering: *We have nothing to ~ off/about.*

com-plain-ant /kəm'pleɪnənt/ *n* [C] (legal) person who makes a complaint in a law court.

com-plaint /kəm'pleɪnt/ *n* 1 [U] complaining: *Do you have good cause for ~?* 2 [C] statement of; grounds for, dissatisfaction: *Some children are full of ~s about their food.* 3 [C] illness; disease: *a 'heart/liver ~.*

com-plais-ance /kəm'pleɪzəns/ *n* [U] easy-going habit of mind; readiness and willingness to do what pleases others.

com-plais-ant /-zənt/ *adj* obliging; ready to please: *a complaisant wife.*

com-ple-ment /'kɒmplɪmənt/ *n* [C] 1 that which makes something complete; the full number or quality needed. 2 (gram) word(s) esp adjectives and nouns, used after verbs such as *be* and *become* and qualifying the subject. □ *vt* complete; be the complement to.

com-ple-ment-ary /'kɒmplɪ'mentri/ *adj* serving to complete: ~ volumes.

com-plete¹ /kəm'pli:t/ *adj* 1 having all its parts; whole: *a ~ edition of Shakespeare's plays.* 2 finished; ended: *When will the work be ~?* 3 thorough; in every way: *It was a ~ surprise to me, I wasn't expecting it and hadn't even thought of it.*

com-plete-ly *adv* wholly; in every way: ~ly successful.

com-plete-ness *n* [U]

com-plete² /kəm'pli:t/ *vt* finish; bring to an end; make perfect: *I need one more volume to ~ my set of Dickens.*

com-ple-tion /kəm'pli:ʃn/ *n* [U] act of completing; state of being complete: *You may occupy the house on ~ of contract, when the contract of sale has been completed.*

com-plex¹ /'kɒmpleks/ *US*; /kəm'pleks/ *adj* made up of closely connected parts; difficult to understand or explain: *a ~ argument/proposal/situation.*

com-plex-ity /kəm'pleksəti/ *n* [C,U]

com-plex² /'kɒmpleks/ *n* [C] 1 number of different parts intricately related. 2 mental

state of obsessive concern or fear. ⇨ inferiority, superiority.

com-plex-ion /kəm'plekʃn/ *n* [C] 1 natural colour, appearance, etc of the skin, esp of the face: *a good/dark/fair ~.* 2 general character or aspect (of conduct, affairs, etc): *This victory changed the ~ of the war.*

com-pli-ance /kəm'plaɪəns/ *n* [U] action of complying: *in ~ with your wishes, as you wished us (to do).*

com-pli-ant /kəm'plaɪənt/ *adj* ready to comply.

com-pli-cate /'kɒmplikeɪt/ *vt* make complex; make difficult to do or understand: *This ~s matters.*

com-pli-cated *adj* made up of many (sometimes confusing) parts: *a ~d machine/business deal/explanation/personality.*

com-pli-ca-tion /kəm'plɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [C] state of being complex, confused, difficult; something that adds new difficulties (eg of a person who is ill): *Here are further ~s to worry us. She'll survive if no further ~s set in.*

com-plic-ity /kəm'plɪsəti/ *n* [U] taking part with another person (in doing wrong).

com-pli-ment /'kɒmplɪmənt/ *n* [C] 1 expression of admiration, approval, etc, either in words or by action, eg by asking a person for his advice or opinions, or by imitating him. 2 (pl) greetings: *My ~s to your wife.* □ *vi* /'kɒmplɪment/ express admiration, etc: *I ~ed him on his skill.*

com-pli-men-tary /'kɒmplɪ'mentri/ *US*; -teri/ *adj* 1 expressing admiration, praise, etc. 2 given free, out of courtesy or kindness: *a ~ ticket.*

com-ply /kəm'plaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) act in accordance (with a request, command, a wish, etc): *He refused to ~.*

com-po-nent /kəm'pəʊnənt/ *adj* helping to form (a complete thing): ~ parts: *car ~s.* □ *n* [C] part of a larger or more complex object: *the ~s of a camera.*

com-port /kəm'pɔ:t/ *vt, vi* (formal) 1 behave; conduct: ~ oneself with dignity. 2 suit, be in harmony with: *His conduct did not ~ with his high position.*

com-pose /kəm'pəʊz/ *vt, vi* 1 (of parts) make up: *Our party was ~d of teachers, pupils and their parents.* 2 put together (words, musical notes, etc) in literary, musical, etc form: ~ a poem/a song/a speech. 3 (printing) set up (type) to form pages, etc. 4 get under control; calm: ~ one's thoughts/feelings.

com-posed *adj* with feelings under control.

com-posed-ly *adv*

com-po-ser /kəm'pəʊzə(r)/ *n* [C] (esp) person who composes music.

com-pos-ite /'kɒmpəzɪt/ *adj* made up of different parts or materials: *a ~ illustration, made by putting together two or more drawings, etc.*

com-po-si-tion /'kɒmpəzɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] act or art of composing, eg a piece of writing or

music. **2** [C] that which is composed, eg a piece of music, an arrangement of objects to be painted or photographed. **3** [C] (esp) exercise in writing (eg by a person who is learning a language). **4** [U] the parts of which something is made up: *Scientists study the ~ of the soil.* **5** [C] substance composed of more than one material, esp an artificial substance: ~ floors.

com-pos men-tis /kəmpəʊs 'mentis/ *adj* (Latin) sane: *He's not quite ~.*

com-post /'kɒmpəʊst/ *n* [U] prepared mixture, esp of rotted food, leaves, manure, etc for use as a fertiliser. □ *vt* make into, treat with, compost.

com-po-sure /kəmpəʊʒə(r)/ *n* [U] condition of feeling calm: *behave with ~.*

com-pound¹ /'kɒmpaʊnd/ *n, adj* **1** [C] (thing) made up of two or more combined parts: *Common salt is a ~ of sodium and chlorine.* **2** (gram) (of a word) made up of two or more parts, themselves usually words, eg *safety-pin.*

compound 'fracture, breaking of a bone with an open wound in the skin.

compound 'interest, interest on capital and on accumulated interest.

com-pound² /kəmp'aʊnd/ *vt, vi* (formal) **1** mix together: ~ a medicine. **2** settle (a quarrel, a debt) by mutual agreement. **3** agree terms: *He ~ed with his creditors for a remission of what he owed.* **4** add to, increase the seriousness of (an offence or injury): *That simply ~s the offence.*

com-pound³ /'kɒmpaʊnd/ *n* [C] enclosed area with buildings, etc, eg a number of houses.

com-pre-hend /kəmpri'hend/ *vt* (formal) **1** understand fully. **2** include; consist of.

com-pre-hen-sible /kəmpri'hensəbl/ *adj* that can be understood fully: *a book that is ~ only to specialists.*

com-pre-hen-si-bil-ity /kəmpri'hensə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

com-pre-hen-sion /kəmpri'hensjən/ *n* **1** [U] the mind's act or power of understanding: *The problem is above/beyond my ~.* **2** [C, U] exercise aimed at improving or testing one's understanding. **3** (formal) power of including: *a term of wide ~, that has many meanings, uses, etc.*

com-pre-hen-sive /kəmpri'hensɪv/ *adj* that comprehends (2): *a ~ description.* □ *n* [C] comprehensive school.

comprehensive school, that provides all types of secondary education.

comprehensive-ly *adv*

com-pre-hen-sive-ness *n* [U]

com-press¹ /kəmpres/ *vt* **1** press, get into a small(er) space: ~ed air. **2** put (ideas, etc) into fewer words.

com-press² /'kɒmpres/ *n* [C] pad or cloth pressed on to part of the body (to stop bleeding, reduce fever, etc): *a cold/hot ~.*

com-pres-sion /kəmp'reʃn/ *n* [U] com-

pressing; being compressed.

com-prise /kəmp'praɪz/ *vt* be composed of; have as parts or members: *The committee ~s men of widely different views.*

com-pro-mise /'kɒmprəmaɪz/ *n* [U] settlement of a dispute by which each side gives up something it has asked for; [C] instance of this; settlement reached in this way: *A ~ was at last arrived at.* □ *vt, vi* **1** settle a dispute, etc, by making a compromise: *if they agree to ~.* **2** bring under suspicion by unwise action, etc: *You will ~ yourself/your reputation if you stay in that hotel.* **3** risk the safety of: *The battalion's safety was ~d by the general's poor judgement.*

com-pul-sion /kəmp'pʌlʃən/ *n* [U] compelling or being compelled.

com-pul-sive /kəmp'pʌlsɪv/ *adj* having a tendency or the power to compel; caused by an obsession: *a ~ eater/liar.*

com-pul-sive-ly *adv*

com-pul-sory /kəmp'pʌlsəri/ *adj* that must be done; required: *Is English a ~ subject?*

com-pul-sor-ily /kəmp'pʌlsərəli/ *adv*

com-punc-tion /kəmp'pʌŋkʃən/ *n* [U] uneasiness of conscience; feeling of regret for one's action: *She kept me waiting without the slightest ~.*

com-pu-ter /kəmp'ju:tə(r)/ *n* [C] electronic device which stores information (data) on discs or magnetic tape, analyses it and produces further information as required.

com-pu-ter-ize (also **-ise**) /-raɪz/ *vt* store (information) with or in a computer; supply with a computer (system).

com-rade /'kɒmreɪd/ *US: -ræd/ n* [C] **1** trusted companion; loyal friend: ~s in arms, fellow soldiers. **2** fellow member of a trade union, a (left-wing) political party, etc.

com-rade-ship /'kɒmreɪdʃɪp/ *n*

con- /kɒn-, kən-/ *prefix* with, together: *con-gregate.*

con-cave /'kɒŋkəv/ *adj* (of an outline or surface) curved inwards like the inner surface of a bowl.

con-cav-ity /'kɒn'kævəti/ *n* [U] concave condition; [C] (pl/-ies) concave surface.

con-ceal /kən'si:əl/ *vt* hide; keep secret: *He tried to ~ the truth from me.*

con-ceal-ment *n* [U] (state) of being concealed.

con-cede /kən'si:d/ *vt* admit; grant; allow: *conceding a point in an argument.* *We won't ~ any territory,* allow another country to have it.

con-ceit /kən'si:t/ *n* [U] too high opinion of, too much pride in, oneself or one's abilities, etc: *He's full of ~.*

con-ceited *adj*

con-ceited-ly *adv*

con-ceiv-able /kən'si:vəbl/ *adj* that can be thought of or believed: *It is hardly ~ (to me) that...*

con-ceiv-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

con-ceive /kən'si:v/ *vt, vi* **1** form (an idea,

plan, etc) in the mind: *Who first ~d the idea of the wheel?* **2** (of a woman) become pregnant: *~ a child.*

con-cen-trate /'kɒnsəntreɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** bring or come together in one place: *to ~ soldiers in a town.* **2** keep one's attention on: *You'll solve the problem if you ~ on it.* **3** increase the strength of (a solution) by reducing its volume (eg by boiling it). **n** [C] product made by concentrating (3).

con-cen-trated *adj* (a) intense: *~d hate.* (b) increased in strength or value by evaporation of liquid: *~d orange-juice.*

con-cen-tra-tion /'kɒnsən'treɪʃn/ *n* **1** [C] that which is concentrated: *~s of enemy troops.* **2** [U] concentrating or being concentrated: *a book that requires great ~, great attention.*

con-cen-tration camp, place where civilian political prisoners are brought together.

con-cen-tric /kən'sentrik/ *adj* (of circles) having a common centre.

con-cept /'kɒnsept/ *n* [C] idea; invention: *the ~ of evolution.*

con-cep-tion /kən'sepʃn/ *n* **1** [U] conceiving of an idea or plan; [C] idea or plan that takes shape in the mind: *A good novelist needs great powers of ~.* **2** conceiving (2).

con-cern /kən'sɜːn/ *n* **1** [C] relation or connection; something in which one is interested or which is important: *It's no ~ of mine/It's of no ~ to me.,* I have nothing to do with it. **2** [C] business or undertaking: *The shop has now become a paying ~, is making profits.* **3** [C] share: *He has a ~ in the business, is a part-owner.* **4** [U] anxiety: *There is some cause for ~.*

con-cerned *adj* anxious: *with a ~ed look.*

con-cern² /kən'sɜːn/ *vt* **1** have relation to; affect; be of importance to: *Does this ~ me? So/As far as I'm ~ed...,* So far as the matter is important to me or affects me... **2** be busy with, interest oneself in: *I'm ~d about/with child-psychology.* **3** make unhappy or troubled: *We are all ~ed for/about her safety.*

con-cern-ing *prep* = about³ (4).

con-cert /'kɒnsət/ *n* **1** [C] musical entertainment, esp one given to an audience by players or singers. **2** [U] combination of voices or sounds: *voices raised in ~.*

con-certed /kən'sɜːtɪd/ *adj* planned, performed, designed (by two or more together): *to make a ~ effort.*

con-cer-tina /'kɒnsə'tɪnə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) musical wind instrument held in the hands and played by pressing keys at each end.

con-certo /kən'tʃɛrtəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) musical composition for one or more solo instruments supported by an orchestra: *a piano ~.*

con-ces-sion /kən'sɛʃn/ *n* **1** [U] conceding; [C] that which is conceded, esp after discussion, an argument, etc: *As a ~ to public opinion, the Government reduced the tax on petrol.*

2 [C] (esp) right given by owner(s) of land, or by a Government, to do something (eg take minerals from land): *American oil ~s in the Middle East.*

con-cili-ate /kən'sɪliət/ *vt* win the support, goodwill or friendly feelings of; calm the anger of; soothe.

con-cili-ation /kən'sɪli'eɪʃn/ *n* [U] conciliating or being conciliated: *The dispute is being dealt with by a ~ board, a group of persons who arbitrate, etc.*

con-cili-atory /kən'sɪliətəri/ *US: -tɔːri/ adj* tending or likely to conciliate: *a ~ act.*

con-cise /kən'saɪs/ *adj* (of a person, his speech or style, of writings, etc) giving much information in few words.

con-cise-ly *adv*

con-cise-ness *n* [U]

con-clave /'kɒŋkleɪv/ *n* [C] private or secret meeting (eg of cardinals to elect a Pope).

con-clude /kən'kluːd/ *vt, vi* **1** come or bring to an end: *He ~d by saying that... 2* arrange; bring about: *to ~ a treaty with... 3* arrive at a belief or opinion: *The jury ~d, from the evidence, that I was not guilty.*

con-clu-sion /kən'kluːʒn/ *n* [C] **1** end: *at the ~ of his speech.* **in conclusion**, lastly. **2** arrangement; decision; settlement: *the ~ of a peace treaty.* **3** belief or opinion which is the result of reasoning: *to come to/reach the ~ that she is innocent.*

con-clus-ive /kən'kluːsɪv/ *adj* (of facts, evidence, etc) convincing; ending doubt: *~ evidence/proof of his guilt.*

con-clus-ive-ly *adv*

con-coct /kən'kɒkt/ *vt* **1** prepare by mixing together: *to ~ a new kind of soup.* **2** invent (a story, an excuse, a plot for a novel, etc).

con-coc-tion /kən'kɒkʃn/ *n* [U] mixing; [C] mixture.

con-cord /'kɒŋkɔːd/ *n* [U] agreement or harmony (between persons or things): *live in ~ (with...).* **2** [C] instance of this.

con-cord-ance /kən'kɔːdəns/ *n* **1** [U] agreement. **2** [C] arrangement in ABC order of the important words used by an author or in a book: *a Shakespeare ~.*

con-course /'kɒŋkɔːs/ *n* [C] **1** coming or moving together of things, persons, etc: *an unforeseen ~ of circumstances.* **2** place where crowds come together.

con-crete /'kɒŋkriːt/ *adj* **1** of material things; existing in material form; that can be touched, felt, etc: *A lamp is ~ but light is abstract.* **2** definite; positive: *~ proposals/evidence/proof.* **n** [U] building material made by mixing cement with sand, gravel, etc. **vi** cover with concrete: *~ a road.*

'concrete mixer, machine that makes concrete.

con-cu-bine /'kɒŋkjubaɪn/ *n* [C] (in some countries, where polygamy is legal) lesser wife.

con-cur /kən'kʌː(r)/ *vi* (-rr-) (formal) **1** agree in opinion: *I ~ with the speaker in condemning*

what has been done. **2** (of circumstances, etc) happen together: *Everything ~ed to produce a successful result.*

con-cur-rence /kən'kærəns/ *US*: -'kærəns/ *n* [U] agreement; coming together.

con-cur-rent /kən'kærənt/ *US*: -'kærənt/ *adj* concurring; happening together; co-operating.

con-cur-rent-ly *adv*

con-cuss /kən'kas/ *vt* injure (the brain) by concussion.

con-cus-sion /kən'kʌʃn/ *n* [C,U] (an) injury or (a) violent shaking or shock (to the brain) (as caused by a blow, knock or fall).

con-demn /kən'dem/ *vt* **1** say that a person is, or has done, wrong or that something is wrong or unfit for use: *We all ~ cruelty to children.* **2** (legal) give judgement against: *~ a murderer to life imprisonment.* **3** force, send, appoint (to do something unwelcome or painful): *an unhappy housewife, ~ed to spend hours at the kitchen sink.* **4** declare (smuggled goods, property, etc) to be forfeited: *Merchant ships captured in war were often ~ed.*

con-dem-na-tion /kəndəm'neiʃn/ *n* [U]

con-den-sa-tion /kəndən'seiʃn/ *n* **1** [U] condensing or being condensed: *the ~ of steam to water.* **2** [C,U] (mass of) drops of liquid formed when vapour condenses: *A cloud is a ~ of vapour.*

con-dense /kən'dens/ *vt, vi* **1** (of a liquid) (cause to) increase in density or strength, to become thicker: *~ed milk;* (of a gas or vapour) (cause to) change to a liquid; (of light) focus; concentrate (by passing through a lens). **2** put into fewer words: *a ~d report.*

con-den-ser /kən'densə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** apparatus for cooling vapour and condensing it to liquid. **2** apparatus for receiving and accumulating static electricity.

con-de-scend /kəndi'send/ *vi* **1** (agree to) do something, accept a position, etc that one's rank, merits, abilities, etc do not require one to do: *The Duke has graciously ~ed to open the new playing field.* **2** lower oneself: *He ~ed to trickery/to take bribes.* **3** behave graciously, but in a way that shows one's feeling of superiority: *Mrs Hope doesn't like being ~ed to.*

con-de-scend-ing *adj*

con-di-ment /kəndimənt/ *n* [C,U] (formal) = seasoning.

con-di-tion¹ /kən'diʃn/ *n* **1** [C] something on which another thing depends: *Ability is one of the ~s of success in life.* **on condition that**, only if; provided that: *You can go on ~ that you come home early.* **2** [U] the present state of things; quality, character of: *The ~ of my health prevents me from working.* *He's in no ~ to travel, is not well or strong enough.* ⇨ **must**²(2). **3** (pl) circumstances: *under present/favourable ~s.*

con-di-tion² /kən'diʃn/ *vt* **1** determine; govern; regulate: *My expenditure is ~ed by my*

income. **2** bring into a desired state: *We'll never ~ the workers to a willing acceptance of a wage freeze.*

con-di-tioned *adj* (a) subject to certain provisions or conditions; having a specified condition: *air-~ed cinemas.* (b) in a desired mental state through persuasion, force, etc: *~ed to feeling inferior.*

con-di-tional /kən'diʃnəl/ *adj* depending on, containing, a condition.

conditional clause, (gram) one beginning with 'if' or 'unless'.

con-di-tion-ally /-əli/ *adv*

con-dol-ence /kən'dəʊləns/ *n* [C] (usually pl) expression of sympathy: *Please accept my ~s.*

con-done /kən'dəʊn/ *vt* **1** (of a person) overlook or forgive (an offence): *~ a child's behaviour.* **2** (of an act) make up for: *generosity that ~s his anger.*

con-duc-ive /kən'dju:siv/ *US*: -'dus-/ *adj* helping to produce: *Good health is ~ to happiness.*

con-duct¹ /'kɒndʌkt/ *n* [U] **1** moral behaviour: *good/bad ~.* **2** manner of directing or managing affairs: *People were not satisfied with the ~ of the war,* the way in which the leaders were directing it.

con-duct² /kən'dʌkt/ *vt, vi* **1** lead or guide: *Mr Y ~ed the visitors round the museum.* **2** control; direct; manage: *to ~ a meeting/negotiations.* **3** direct (an orchestra). **4** behave: *He ~s himself well.* **5** (of substances) allow (heat, electric current) to pass along or through: *Copper ~s electricity.*

con-duc-tion /kən'dʌkʃn/ *n* [U] transmission, eg of electric current along wires, of liquids through pipes, of heat by contact.

con-duc-tive /kən'dʌktiv/ *adj* able to transmit (heat, electric current, etc).

con-duc-tor /kən'dʌktə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who conducts esp a group of singers, a band, an orchestra. **2** person who collects fares on a bus or tram. **3** substance that conducts heat or electric current.

con-duc-tress /kən'dʌktrɪs/ *n* [C] woman conductor(2).

cone /kəʊn/ *n* [C] **1** solid body which narrows to a point from a round, flat base. **2** something of this shape whether solid or hollow: *an ice-cream ~.* ⇨ comic. **3** fruit of certain evergreen trees (fir, pine, cedar). ⇨ conifer.

con-fec-tion /kən'fekʃn/ *n* (formal) **1** [C] mixture of sweet things; sweet cake. **2** [U] mixing; compounding.

con-fec-tion-er, person who makes and sells pastry, pies, cakes, etc.

con-fec-tion-ery /kən'fekʃənri/ *US*: -neri/ *n* (a) [U] sweets, chocolates, cakes, pies, pastry, etc. (b) [C] (pl -ies) place, business, of a confectioner.

con-fed-er-acy /kən'fedərəsi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) union of states, parties or persons: *the Southern C~, the eleven States that separated from*

the Union (US, 1860—61) and brought about the American Civil War.

con-fed-er-ate¹ /kən'fedərat/ *adj* joined together by an agreement or treaty: *the C~ States of America*. ⇨ *confederacy* above. □ *n* [C] **1** person or State joined with another or others. **2** accomplice (in a plot, etc).

con-fed-er-ate² /kən'fedəreit/ *vt, vi* bring into or come into alliance.

con-fed-er-ation /kən'fedə'reiʃn/ *n* (a) [U] confederating or being confederated. (b) [C] alliance; league.

con-fer /kən'fɜ:(r)/ *vt, vi* (-rr-) **1** *confer sth on/upon*, give or grant (a degree, title, favour): *The University ~ed an honorary degree on the President*. **2** consult or discuss: *~ with one's lawyer*.

con-fer-ment *n* [C, U]

con-fer-ence /'kɒnfərəns/ *n* [C, U] (meeting for) discussion; exchange of views: *The Director is in ~/is holding a ~*.

con-fess /kən'fes/ *vt, vi* **1** say or admit (that one has done wrong): *He ~ed that he had stolen the money*. **1 ~ to** having a fear of spiders. **2** (esp in the RC Church) make known one's sins to a priest; (of a priest) listen to a person doing this: *~ one's sins*.

con-fess-ed-ly *adv* as confessed; by one's own confession.

con-fes-sion /kən'feʃn/ *n* **1** [U] confessing; [C] instance of this: *The accused man made a full ~*. *She is a good Catholic and goes to ~ regularly*. **2** [C] declaration (of religious beliefs, or of principles of conduct, etc): *a ~ of faith*.

con-fes-sional /kən'feʃənl/ *n* [C] private place in a church where a priest sits to hear confessions.

con-fes-sor /kən'fesə(r)/ *n* [C] priest who has authority to hear confessions.

con-fetti /kən'feti/ *n pl* (used with a *sing verb*) small bits of coloured paper showered on people at weddings, etc.

con-fi-dant /'kɒnfɪdənt/ *n* [C] person who is trusted with private affairs or secrets (esp about love affairs).

con-fide /kən'faɪd/ *vt, vi* **1** tell a secret; give to be looked after; give (a task or duty to a person): *He ~d his troubles to a friend*. **2** *confide in*, have trust or faith in: *Can I ~ in his honesty?*

con-fid-ing *adj* truthful; trusting: *She has a confiding nature*.

con-fi-dence /'kɒnfɪdəns/ *n* **1** [U] (act of) confiding in or to. *in strict confidence*, expecting something to be kept secret. **2** [C] secret, confidential information, which is confided to a person: *The two girls sat in a corner exchanging ~s about the young men they knew*. **3** [U] belief in oneself or others or in what is said, reported, etc; belief that one is right or that one is able to perform: *to have/lose ~ in oneself/her*. *He answered the questions with ~*. *a vote of confidence*, an expression of

support.

'confidence trick, theft by persuading a person to let one keep valuables as a sign of confidence.

'confidence trickster/man, person who steals in this way.

con-fi-dent /'kɒnfɪdənt/ *adj* feeling or showing confidence; certain: *He feels fairly ~ of passing/that he will pass the examination*.

con-fi-dent-ly *adv*

con-fi-den-tial /'kɒnfɪ'denʃl/ *adj* **1** (to be kept) secret: *~ information*. **2** having the confidence of another or others.

con-fi-den-ti-ally /-ʃəli/ *adv*

con-fine /kən'faɪn/ *vt* **1** keep or hold, restrict, within limits: *Please ~ your remarks to the subject we are debating*. **2** keep shut up: *Is it cruel to ~ a bird in a cage?*

con-fined *adj* (of space) limited; narrow; restricted.

con-fine-ment *n* (a) [U] being confined; imprisonment: *He was placed in ~ment*. (b) [U] giving birth to a child; [C] instance of this.

con-fines /'kɒnfənz/ *n pl* limits; borders; boundaries: *beyond the ~ of human knowledge/this valley*.

con-firm /kən'fɜ:m/ *vt* **1** make (power, ownership, opinions, rights, feelings, etc) firmer or stronger; provide proof: *The report of an earthquake in Greece has now been ~ed*. We now know that the report was true. **2** agree definitely to (a treaty, an appointment, etc). **3** admit to full membership of the Christian Church: *She was baptized when she was a month old and ~ed when she was thirteen*.

con-firmed *adj* (esp) unlikely to change or be changed: *a ~ed invalid*.

con-fir-ma-tion /'kɒnfə'meɪʃn/ *n* [C, U] confirming or being confirmed (all senses): *We are waiting for ~ of the news*.

con-fis-cate /'kɒnfɪskeɪt/ *vt* (as punishment or in enforcing authority) take possession of (private property) without compensation or payment: *If you try to smuggle goods into the country, they could be ~d by the Customs authorities*.

con-fis-ca-tion /'kɒnfɪ'skeɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

con-flict¹ /'kɒnflɪkt/ *n* [C] **1** fight; struggle; quarrel: *a bitter ~ between employers and workers*. **2** (of opinions, desires, etc) opposition; difference: *the ~ between duty and desire*.

con-flict² /kən'flɪkt/ *vi* be in opposition or disagreement: *His account of the war ~s with mine*. *They ~ (with each other)*.

con-flict-ing *adj*: *~ing evidence/reports*.

con-form /kən'fɔ:m/ *vi, vt* **1** be in agreement with, comply with (generally accepted rules, standards, etc): *You should ~ to the rules/to the wishes of others*. **2** make similar to; adapt oneself to: *~ one's life to certain principles*.

con-form-ist /kən'fɔ:mɪst/ *n* [C] person who conforms, eg to the customs of the Church of England.

con-form-ity /kən'fɔ:məti/ *n* [U] **1** action,

behaviour, in agreement with what is usual, accepted or required by custom, etc: *C~ to fashion* (= Having things of the latest fashions) is not essential to the happiness of all women. **2** agreement: *Was his action in ~ with the law?*

con-found /kən'faʊnd/ *vt* **1** fill with, throw into, confusion: *His behaviour amazed and ~ed her.* **2** mix up, confuse (ideas, etc): *Don't ~ excuses with reasons.*

con-front /kən'frʌnt/ *vt* **1** bring, come, be face to face: *When ~ed with the evidence of his guilt, he confessed at once. A soldier has to ~ danger.*

con-fron-ta-tion /'kɒnfrən'teɪʃn/ *n* [C,U] (instance of) defiant opposition, of being face to face: *the noisy ~ between the police and the demonstrators.*

con-fuse /kən'fju:z/ *vt* **1** put into disorder; mix up in the mind: *They asked so many questions that they ~d me!* *I got ~d.* **2** mistake one thing for another: *Don't ~ a cheap racing bike with a well-made one.*

con-fus-ed-ly *adv* in a confused manner.

con-fu-sion /kən'fju:ʒn/ *n* [U] being confused; disorder: *His unexpected arrival threw everything into ~. There has been some ~; it was Mr Smythe who came, not Mr Smith.*

con-fute /kən'fju:t/ *vt* (formal) **1** prove (a person) to be wrong. **2** show (an argument) to be false.

con-geal /kən'dʒi:l/ *vt,vi* make or become stiff or solid (esp as the effect of cold, or of the air on blood).

con-gen-ial /kən'dʒi:niəl/ *adj* **1** (of persons) having the same or a similar nature, common interests, etc: *In this small village he found few persons ~ to him.* **2** (of things, occupations, etc) in agreement with one's tastes, nature: *a ~ climate; ~ work.*

con-gen-i-ally /-iəli/ *adv*

con-gen-i-tal /kən'dʒenɪtl/ *adj* (of diseases, etc) present, belonging to a person, from or before birth.

con-ger eel /'kɒŋgə(r) i:l/ *n* [C] ocean eel of large size.

con-gested /kən'dʒestɪd/ *adj* **1** too full; overcrowded: *streets ~ with traffic.* **2** (of parts of the body, eg the brain, the lungs) having an abnormal accumulation of blood.

con-ges-tion /kən'dʒestʃən/ *n* [U] being congested: *~ of the lungs/of traffic in town.*

con-glom-er-ate¹ /kən'glɒməreɪt/ *adj, n* [C] (made up of a) number of things or parts stuck together in a mass or ball (eg rock made up of small stones held together).

con-glom-er-ate² /kən'glɒməreɪt/ *vt,vi* collect into a mass.

con-glom-er-ation /kən'glɒmə'reɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] conglomerating or being conglomerated. **2** [C] mass of conglomerated things.

con-gratu-late /kən'grætʃuleɪt/ *vt* **1** tell somebody that one is pleased about something happy or fortunate that has happened to

(him): *~ him on his marriage.* **2** consider (oneself) fortunate: *I ~d myself on my escape/ on having escaped unhurt.*

con-gratu-la-tory /kən'grætʃʊ'leɪtəri/ *US: -tɔ:ri/ adj* that congratulates: *a congratulatory telegram.*

con-gratu-la-tion /kən'grætʃʊ'leɪʃn/ *n* [C] (usually *pl*) words that congratulate: *C~s on passing the exam! Please give my heartiest ~s to her.*

con-gre-gate /'kɒŋgreɪt/ *vi,vt* come or bring together: *People were congregating round the speaker.*

con-gre-ga-tion /'kɒŋgri'geɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] congregating; [C] gathering of people. **2** (esp) body of people taking part in religious worship.

con-gre-ga-tional /-ʃənəl/ *adj* of a congregation (2).

con-gress /'kɒŋgres/ *US: -grɪs/ n* **1** [C] meeting, series of meetings, of representatives (of societies, etc) for discussion: *a medical ~.* **2** **C~**, law-making body of US and some other republics in America; political party in India. **'con-gress-man/woman**, member of Congress.

con-gres-sional /kən'gresʃənəl/ *adj*

con-gru-ent /'kɒŋgruənt/ *adj* **1** suitable; agreeing (with). **2** having the same size and shape: *~ triangles.*

con-gru-ous /'kɒŋgruəs/ *adj* fitting; proper; harmonious (with).

con-ic /'kɒnɪk/ *adj* of a cone: *~ sections.*

con-i-cal /'kɒnɪkl/ *adj* cone-shaped.

con-i-fer /'kɒnɪfə(r)/ *n* [C,U] tree of the kind (eg pine, fir) that bears cones.

co-nifer-ous /kə'nɪfərəs/ *adj*

con-jec-ture /kən'dʒektʃə(r)/ *vi,vt* (formal) guess; put forward an opinion formed without facts as proof: *It was just as I ~d.* **n** [C,U] (formal) guess; guessing: *I was right in my ~s.*

con-jec-tural /kən'dʒektʃərəl/ *adj* involving, inclined to, conjecture.

con-ju-gal /'kɒndʒʊɡl/ *adj* (formal) of marriage and wedded life; of husband and wife: *~ happiness/infidelity.*

conjugal rights, right of sexual relationship with a husband or wife.

con-ju-gally /-ɡli/ *adv*

con-ju-gate /'kɒndʒʊgeɪt/ *vt* (gram) **1** give the forms of a verb (for number, tense, etc). **2** (of a verb) have these forms.

con-ju-ga-tion /kɒndʒʊ'geɪʃn/ *n* (a) [C,U] scheme or system of verb forms: *Appendix 1 of this dictionary lists the ~s of irregular verbs.* (b) [C] class of verbs conjugated alike.

con-junc-tion /kən'dʒʌŋkʃn/ *n* **1** [C] (gram) word that joins other words, clauses, etc, eg *and*, *but*, *or*. **2 [U] joining; state of being joined: *the ~ of skill and imagination in planning a garden.* **in conjunction with**, together with. **3** [C] combination (of events, etc): *an unusual ~ of circumstances.***

con-junc-tive /kən'dʒʌŋktɪv/ *adj* serving to

join; connective. □ *n* [C] = **conjunction** (1).

con-junc-ture /kən'dʒʌŋktʃə(r)/ *n* [C] (formal) combination of events or circumstances.

con-jure /'kændʒə(r)/ *vt, vi* 1 do clever tricks which appear magical: ~ a rabbit out of a hat. 2 **conjure up**, (a) cause to appear as if from nothing, or as an image in the mind: *conjuring up visions of the past*. (b) make (a spirit) to appear by calling and encouraging: ~ up the spirits of the dead. (c) (informal) prepare (a meal): ~ up a stew.

con-jurer, con-juror /'kændʒərə(r)/, person who performs conjuring (1) tricks.

con-nect /kə'nekt/ *vt, vi* 1 join, be joined, (by things, by personal relationships, etc): *The two towns are ~ed by a railway. Mr Smith has been ~ed with this firm since 1950. If you ring the operator, he will ~ you (ie by telephone) with the airport*. 2 think of (different things or persons) as being related to each other: *to ~ Malaya with rubber and tin*.

con-nect-ion /kə'nektʃn/ *n* 1 [C, U] connecting or being connected; point where two things are connected; thing which connects: *How long will the ~ of the new telephone take? How long will it take to connect the house by telephone? What is the ~ between the two ideas?* 2 [C] train, boat, etc arranged to leave a station, port, etc soon after the arrival of another, so that passengers can change from one to the other: *The train was late and I missed my ~*. 3 [C] number of customers, clients, etc: *He started a business and soon had a good ~/good ~s*. 4 **in connection with**, concerning: *The principal would like to see you in ~ with your examination fees*.

con-nect-ive /kə'nektiv/ *adj* serving to connect. □ *n* [C] (esp) word that connects (eg a conjunction).

con-nex-ion /kə'nektʃn/ occasional GB spelling for connection.

con-nive /kə'naiv/ *vi* **connive at**, take no notice of (what is wrong, what ought to be opposed) (suggesting consent or approval): ~ at an escape from prison.

con-niv-ance /-əns/ *n* [U] conniving (at or in a crime): *done with the connivance of/done in connivance with...*

con-nois-seur /kən'nɔ:s(r)/ *n* [C] person with good judgement on matters in which (artistic) taste is needed: *a ~ off in painting/of wine*.

con-note /kə'nəut/ *vt* (of words) suggest something in addition to the basic meaning: *The word 'Tropics' is a geographical area; it also ~s heat*.

con-no-ta-tion /kən'notetʃn/ *n* [C] that which is suggested: *Be careful not to use slang words which have obscene ~s*.

con-quer /'kɒŋkə(r)/ *vt* 1 defeat or overcome enemies, bad habits, etc. 2 take possession of by force: ~ a country.

con-queror /-rə(r)/, person who conquers.

con-quest /'kɒŋkwɛst/ *n* 1 [U] conquering

(eg a country and its people). 2 [C] something got by conquering: *make a ~ (of)*, win the affections (of).

con-science /'kɒnsjəns/ *n* [C, U] the consciousness within oneself of the choice one ought to make between right and wrong: *have a clear/guilty ~. have no conscience (about)*, be as ready to do wrong as right. *(have sth/sb) on one's conscience*, (feel) troubled about something one has done, or failed to do. ⇨ prick¹.

'conscience money, money paid because one has a guilty conscience.

con-scien-tious /kən'sjenʃəs/ *adj* 1 (of persons) guided by one's sense of duty. 2 (of actions) done carefully and honestly: ~ work.

conscientious objector, person who objects to doing something (eg serving in the armed forces) because he thinks it is morally wrong.

con-scien-tious-ly *adv*

con-scien-tious-ness *n* [C]

con-scious /'kɒnʃəs/ *adj* awake; aware; knowing things because one is using the bodily senses and mental powers: *They were ~ of being/that they were being watched*.

con-scious-ly *adv*

con-scious-ness /'kɒnʃəsnəs/ *n* [U] 1 being conscious: *We have no ~ during sleep. He didn't recover/regain ~ until two hours after the accident*. 2 all the ideas, thoughts, feelings, wishes, intentions, recollections, of a person or persons: *the moral ~ of a political party*.

con-script /kən'skript/ *vt* compel by law, summon, to serve in the armed forces: ~ed into the army. ⇨ draft¹ (4). □ *n* /'kɒnskript/ [C] person who is conscripted.

con-scrip-tion /kən'skriptʃn/ *n* [U] conscripting; system, practice, taxation, confiscation, property (as a penalty or for war needs).

con-se-crate /'kɒnskreɪt/ *vt* set apart as sacred or for a special purpose; make sacred: *to ~ one's life to the service of God/to the relief of suffering. He was ~d Archbishop last year*.

con-se-cra-tion /kən'skreɪʃn/ *n* [C, U] (instance of) being consecrated.

con-secu-tive /kən'sekjʊtɪv/ *adj* coming one after the other in regular order: *I found a parking space on five ~ days*.

con-secu-tive-ly *adv*

con-sen-sus /kən'sensəs/ *n* [C] (pl ~es) general agreement: *a ~ of opinion*.

con-sent /kən'sent/ *vi* give agreement or permission: *Anne's father would not ~ to her marrying him*. □ *n* [U] agreement; permission: *He was chosen leader by general ~, everyone agreed*. ⇨ age of consent.

con-se-quence /'kɒnsikwəns/ *US*: -kwens/ *n* 1 [C] that which follows or is brought about as the result or effect: *If you behave so foolishly you must be ready to take the ~s, accept what happens as a result*. 2 [U] importance: *It's of no ~ to me*.

con-se-quent /'kɒnsikwənt/ *adj* (formal)

following as a consequence: *the rise in prices ~ on the failure of the crops.*

con-se-quent-ly *adv* therefore: *I crashed the car and ~ly I must pay for the repairs.*

con-se-quen-tial /kən'si'kwɛnʃl/ *adj* (formal) **1** = consequent. **2** (of a person) self-important.

con-ser-va-tion /kən'sə'veɪʃn/ *n* [U] preservation; prevention of loss, waste, damage, etc: *the ~ of forests/fuel. Energy ~ is a problem throughout the world.*

con-ser-va-tism /kən'sə:vətɪzəm/ *n* [U] tendency to maintain a state of affairs (esp in politics) without great or sudden change.

con-ser-va-tive /kən'sə:vətɪv/ *adj* **1** opposed to great or sudden change: *Old people are usually more ~ than young people.* **2** cautious; moderate: *a ~ estimate of one's future income.* □ *n* [C] **1** conservative(1) person. **2** C~, member, supporter, of the Conservative Party.

the Con'servative Party, (GB) one of the main political parties that serves bourgeois interests.

con-ser-va-tive-ly *adv*

con-ser-va-toire /kən'sə:vətwa:(r)/ *n* [C] (Fr) (in Europe) school of music or other arts.

con-ser-va-tory /kən'sə:vətɪrɪ/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** building, or part of a building, with glass walls and roof in which plants are protected from cold. **2** school of music or dramatic art.

con-serve /kən'sɜ:v/ *vt* keep from change, loss or destruction: *~ one's strength/energies/health.* □ *n* (usually pl) jam (the usual word).

con-sider /kən'sɪdə(r)/ *vt* **1** think about: *Please ~ my suggestion. We are ~ing going to Canada.* **2** take into account; make allowances for: *We must ~ the feelings of other people.* **all things considered**, taking everything into account: *We hoped to win the competition, but all things ~ed we did well to reach the final.* **3** be of the opinion; regard as: *They ~ed themselves very important. Do you ~ it wise to interfere?*

con-sider-able /kən'sɪdrəbl/ *adj* great; much; important: *bought at a ~ expense.*

con-sider-ate /kən'sɪdətɪ/ *adj* thoughtful (of the needs, etc of others): *It was ~ of you to bring me flowers.*

con-sider-ate-ly *adv*

con-sider-ation /kən'sɪdə'reɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] act of considering, thinking about: *Please give the matter your careful ~.* **take sth into consideration**, (esp) make allowances for: *When marking the examination, I took Tom's long illness into ~.* **under consideration**, being discussed, thought about: *Your request for permission to be absent on Friday is under ~.* **2** [U] quality of being considerate; thoughtful attention to the wishes, feelings, etc, of others: *in ~ of/out of ~ for his youth.* **3** [C] something which must be thought about; fact, thing, etc thought of as a reason: *Time is*

an important ~ in this case.

con-sider-ing /kən'sɪdəɪŋ/ *prep* in view of; having regard to: *She's very active, ~ her age.*

con-sign /kən'saɪn/ *vt* **1** send (goods, etc) for delivery: *The goods have been ~ed by rail.* **2** hand over, give up: *~ a child to its uncle's care.*

con-sign-ment *n* [U] consigning; [C] goods consigned.

con-sist /kən'sɪst/ *vi* **1** **consist of**, be made up of: *The committee ~s of ten members.* **2** **consist in**, have as the chief or only element: *The happiness of a country ~s in the freedom of its citizens.*

con-sist-ence /kən'sɪstəns/ *n* = consistency.

con-sist-ency /kən'sɪstənsɪ/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] the state of always being the same in thought, behaviour, etc; keeping to the same principles: *His actions show no ~.* **2** [C,U] degree of thickness, firmness or solidity (esp of a thick liquid, or of something mixed with a liquid): *mix flour and milk to the right ~.*

con-sist-ent /kən'sɪstənt/ *adj* (of a person, his behaviour, principles, etc) having a regular pattern or style; in agreement (with): *The ideas in his various speeches are not ~.* *What you say now is not ~ with what you said last week.*

con-sist-ent-ly *adv*: *You have ~ly refused to listen to my advice.*

con-so-la-tion /kən'sə'leɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] consoling or being consoled; something that consoles: *a few words of a letter of ~.* **2** [C] circumstances or person that consoles: *Your friendship has been a great ~ to me.*

con'solation prize, one given to a competitor who has just missed the main prize.

con-sola-tory /kən'sə'lətɪrɪ/ *US*: -tɔ:rɪ/ *adj* intended to give comfort: *a ~ letter.*

con-sole¹ /kən'səʊl/ *vt* give comfort or sympathy to: *~ him in his disappointment; consoling oneself with the thought that it might have been worse.*

con-sole² /'kɒnsəʊl/ *n* [C] **1** bracket to support a shelf. **2** frame containing the key-boards, stops, etc of an organ. **3** panel for the controls of electronic or mechanical equipment.

con-soli-date /kən'sɒlɪdeɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** make or become (more) solid or strong: *~ one's position/influence.* **2** unite or combine into one: *~ debts/business companies. The different States have been ~d into one federation.*

con-soli-da-tion /kən'sɒlɪ'deɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] consolidating or being consolidated. **2** [C] instance of this.

con-sommé /kən'sɒmeɪ/ *n* [U] (Fr) clear, meat soup.

con-son-ant /'kɒnsənənt/ *n* [C] speech sound produced by a complete or partial stoppage of the breath; letter of the alphabet or symbol (eg phonetic) for such a sound: *b, c, d, f, etc.*

con-sort¹ /'kɒnsɔ:t/ *n* [C] **1** husband or wife, esp of a ruler: *the prince ~, the reigning*

queen's husband. **2** ship sailing with another (esp for safety during a war).

con-sort² /kən'sɔ:t/ *vi* **consort with**, **1** pass time in the company of: ~ *with criminals*. **2** (formal) be in harmony, go well: *His rude behaviour does not ~ with his beliefs*.

con-sort-ium /kən'sɔ:tɪəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* -tia /-tɪə/) association of businesses, States, etc.

con-spicu-ous /kən'spɪkjʊəs/ *adj* easily seen; attracting attention: ~ *for his bravery*. *Traffic signs should be ~*. **make oneself conspicuous**, attract attention by unusual behaviour, wearing unusual clothes, etc: *He made himself ~ at the party by wearing silver boots*.

con-spicu-ous-ly *adv*

con-spir-acy /kən'spɪrəsi/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] act of conspiring. **2** [C] plan made by conspiring: *There were rumours of a ~ to overthrow the Government*.

con-spira-tor /kən'spɪrətə(r)/ *n* [C] person who conspires.

con-spira-tor-ial /kən'spɪrətəriəl/ *adj* of conspirators or a conspiracy: *a ~ial manner*.

con-spire /kən'spaɪə(r)/ *vi, vt* **1** make secret plans (with others, to steal to do wrong): *conspiring with a friend, to espal/against the teacher*. **2** (of events) act together; combine: *events that ~d to bring about his ruin*.

con-stable /'kənstəbl *US*: 'kɒn-/ *n* [C] (dated) policeman (the usual word).

chief constable, senior police officer.

con-stabu-lary /kən'stæbjʊləri *US*: -ləri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (dated) police force (the usual term).

con-stancy /'kɒnstənsɪ/ *n* [U] quality of being firm, faithful, unchanging: ~ *of purpose*.

con-stant /'kɒnstənt/ *adj* **1** going on all the time; frequently recurring: ~ *complaints*. **2** (formal) firm; faithful; unchanging: *a ~ friend*.

con-stant-ly *adv* continuously; frequently: *She complains ~ly about the cold weather*.

con-stel-la-tion /'kɒnstə'leɪʃn/ *n* [C] named group of fixed stars (eg *the Great Bear*).

con-ster-na-tion /'kɒnstə'neɪʃn/ *n* [U] surprise and fear; dismay: *News of the hijacking filled him with ~*.

con-sti-pate /'kɒnstɪpeɪt/ *vi* cause constipation.

con-sti-pated /'kɒnstɪpeɪtɪd/ *adj* having bowels that are emptied infrequently or only with difficulty.

con-sti-pa-tion /'kɒnstɪ'peɪʃn/ *n* [U] difficult or infrequent emptying of the bowels.

con-stitu-ency /kən'stɪtʃʊənsɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (body of voters living in a) town or district that sends a representative to Parliament: *a Liberal/marginal/safe ~*.

con-stitu-ent /kən'stɪtʃʊənt/ *adj* **1** having the power or right to make or alter a political constitution: *a ~ assembly*. **2** forming or helping to make a whole: *a ~ part*. □ *n* [C] **1** mem-

ber of a constituency. **2** part (of something else): *the ~s of happiness*.

con-sti-tute /'kɒnstɪtju:t *US*: -tu:t/ *vt* **1** establish; give legal authority to (a committee, etc). **2** make up (a whole); amount to; be the components of: *Twelve months ~ a year*. **3** (formal) give authority to hold (a position, etc): *They ~d him chief adviser to the planning committee*.

con-sti-tu-tion /'kɒnstɪ'tju:ʃn *US*: -tu:-/ *n* [C] **1** system of government; laws and principles according to which a state is governed: *Great Britain has an unwritten ~*. **2** general physical structure and condition of a person's body: *Only men with strong ~s should climb in the Himalayas*. **3** general structure of a thing; act or manner of constituting: *the ~ of the solar spectrum*.

con-sti-tu-tional /'kɒnstɪ'tju:ʃənl *US*: -tu:-/ *adj* **1** of a constitution(1): ~ *government/reform*. **2** of a person's constitution(2): *a ~ weakness*.

con-sti-tu-tion-al-ism /-ɪzəm/ *n* [C] (supporting of) constitutional government.

con-strain /kən'streɪn/ *vt* use force or strong persuasion; (of conscience, inner forces) compel: *I feel ~ed to write and ask for your forgiveness*.

con-straint /kən'streɪnt/ *n* [U] constraining or being constrained: *to act under ~*, because one is forced to do so.

con-strict /kən'strɪkt/ *vt* make tight or smaller; inhibit; cause (a vein or muscle) to become tight or narrow: *a ~ed outlook*, one that is limited.

con-stric-tion /kən'strɪkʃn/ *n* (a) [U] tightening. (b) [C] thing that constricts; feeling of being constricted: *a ~ion in the chest because of heavy smoking*.

con-stric-tor /kən'strɪktə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** muscle that tightens or narrows. **2** ⇨ *boa*.

con-struct /kən'strʌkt/ *vt* build: *to ~ a factory/a sentence/a theory*.

con-struct-or /-tə(r)/, person who builds things: *building ~ors*.

con-struc-tion /kən'strʌkʃn/ *n* **1** [U] act or manner of constructing; being constructed: *The new railway is still under ~*, being built. **2** [C] structure; building. **3** [C] meaning; sense in which words, statements, acts, etc are taken: *Please do not put a wrong ~ on his action*, misunderstand its purpose. **4** [C] arrangement and relationships of words in a sentence: *This dictionary gives the meanings of words and also gives examples to illustrate their ~s*.

con-struc-tional /-ʃənl/ *adj* of, involving, construction: ~al *toys*.

con-struc-tive /kən'strʌktɪv/ *adj* helping to construct; giving helpful suggestions: ~ *criticism/proposals*.

con-struc-tive-ly *adv*

con-strue /kən'stru:/ *vi, vt* (formal) **1** translate or explain the meaning of words, sentences, acts: *His remarks were wrongly ~d*,

were misunderstood. **2** analyse (a sentence); combine (words with words) grammatically: 'Consist' is ~d with 'in' or 'on'.

con-sul /'kɒnsəl/ *n* [C] **1** State's agent living in a foreign town to help and protect his countrymen there. **2** (in ancient Rome) either of the two Heads of the State before Rome became an Empire.

con-su-lar /'kɒnsjələ(r) *US*: -səl-/ *adj* of a consul or his work.

con-su-late /'kɒnsjələt *US*: -səl-/ *n* [C] consul's position or office.

con-sult /kən'sʌlt/ *vt, vi* **1** go to a person, a book, etc for information, advice, opinion, etc: to ~ one's lawyer/a map/the dictionary. **2** **consult with**, take advice, opinion, from: Have you ~ed with the other members of the team?

con'sulting room, one in which a doctor examines patients.

con-sul-tant /kən'sʌltənt/ *n* [C] person who gives expert advice (eg in medicine, business): a ~ surgeon; a firm of ~s.

con-sul-ta-tion /kən'sʌltə'tʃn/ *n* **1** [U] consulting or being consulted: in ~ with the director. **2** [C] meeting for consulting: The doctors held a ~ to decide whether an operation was necessary.

con-sult-ative /kən'sʌltətɪv/ *adj* of, for the purpose of, consulting: a ~ committee; a ~ document.

con-sume /kən'sju:m *US*: -su:m/ *vt, vi* (formal) **1** eat or drink. **2** use up; get to the end of; destroy by fire or wastefulness: ~ all one's energies. This is ~time-consuming work.

con-sumer /kən'sju:mə(r) *US*: -su:-/ *n* [C] person who uses, buys, (manufactured) goods: ~ research. ⇨ producer(1).

con-sum-ing *adj* possessing or dominating: a consuming ambition.

con-sum-mate /'kɒnsəmeɪt/ *vt* **1** (formal) accomplish; make perfect: Her happiness was ~d when her father took her to Paris. **2** make complete (esp marriage by sexual intercourse).

con-sum-ma-tion /kən'sʌmɪ'tʃn/ *n* [C, U] action, point of completing; perfecting or fulfilling: the ~ of one's ambitions/a marriage.

con-sump-tion /kən'sʌmpʃn/ *n* [U] **1** using up, consuming (of food, energy, materials, etc); the quantity consumed: The ~ of beer did not go down when the tax was raised. **2** (popular name for) tuberculosis of the lung.

con-sump-tive /kən'sʌmp-tɪv/ *n* [C], *adj* (person) suffering from, having a tendency to, consumption(2).

con-tact /'kɒntækt/ *n* **1** [U] (state of) touching or communication; (process of) coming together. **be in/out of, come/bring into, contact (with)**: Our troops are in ~ with the enemy. A steel cable came into ~ with an electric power line. **make contact (with)**, (esp after searching, etc): I finally made ~ with him in Paris. **2** [C] (meeting with a) person: He

made many business ~s while he was in Canada. **3** [C] connection (for electric current); device for effecting this. **4** [C] person recently exposed to a contagious disease. ⇨ *vi* get into touch with: Where can I ~ Mr Green?

'contact lens, one of thin plastic made to fit over the eyeball to improve vision.

con-ta-gion /kən'teɪdʒən/ *n* **1** [U] the spreading of disease by contact or close association. **2** [C] disease that can be spread by contact. **3** (fig) the spreading of ideas, false rumours, feelings, etc; influence, etc that spreads: A ~ of fear swept through the crowd.

con-ta-gi-ous /kən'teɪdʒəs/ *adj* **1** (of disease) spreading by contact: Scarlet fever is ~. **2** (of a person) in such a condition that he may spread disease. **3** (fig) spreading easily by example: ~ laughter/enthusiasm.

con-ta-gi-ous-ly *adj*

con-tain /kən'teɪn/ *vt* **1** have or hold within itself: The atlas ~s forty maps. **2** be equal to: A metre ~s 100 centimetres. **3** be capable of holding: How much does this bottle ~? **4** keep feelings, enemy forces, etc under control: Can't you ~ your enthusiasm?

con-tainer /kən'teɪnə(r) *n* [C] **1** bottle, box, etc designed to contain something. **2** large metal box, etc for transport of goods by road, rail, sea or air.

con-tami-nate /kən'tæmɪneɪt/ *vt* make dirty, impure or diseased (by touching, or adding something impure): Flies ~ food.

con-tami-na-tion /kən'tæmɪ'neɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] contaminating or being contaminated: the ~ of the water supply. **2** [C] that which contaminates.

con-tem-plate /'kɒntempleɪt/ *vt* **1** look at; think about: She stood contemplating herself in the mirror. **2** have in view as a purpose, intention or possibility: She was contemplating a visit to London.

con-tem-pla-tion /kɒntem'pleɪʃn/ *n* [U] contemplating; deep thought; intention; expectation.

con-tem-pla-tive /kən'templətɪv *US*: 'kɒntempleɪtɪv/ *adj* (formal) thoughtful.

con-tem-por-aneous /kən'tempə'reɪniəs/ *adj* (formal) originating, existing, happening, during the same period of time: ~ events.

con-tem-por-ary /kən'tempərəri *US*: -pərəri/ *adj* **1** of the time or period to which reference is being made; belonging to the same time: Dickens was ~ with Thackeray. **2** of the present time. **3** (informal) in the most modern style: ~ music. ⇨ *n* [C] (pl -ies) person of the same age, belonging to the same period, etc as another: Jack and I were contemporaries at college.

con-tempt /kən'tempt/ *n* [U] **1** condition of being looked down on or despised: A man who is cruel to his children should be held in ~. **2** mental attitude of despising: We feel ~ for cheats. **3** disregard or disrespect: in ~ of all rules and regulations.

contempt of 'court, disobedience to an order made by a court; disrespect shown to a judge.

con-tempt-ible /kən'temptəbl/ *adj* deserving, provoking, contempt.

con-temptu-ous /kən'temptʃuəs/ *adj* showing contempt: ~ of public opinion.

con-tend /kən'tend/ *vi, vt* 1 struggle, be in rivalry or competition: ~ing with difficulties/for a prize. 2 argue, assert (that...).

con-tender, competitor, rival, eg one who challenges the holder of a boxing title.

con-tent¹ /kən'tent/ *adj* 1 not wanting more; satisfied with what one has: *Are you ~ with your present salary?* 2 willing or ready (to do something): *I am ~ to remain where I am now.* □ *n* [U] the condition of being satisfied: *to one's heart's ~*, to the extent that brings as much satisfaction or happiness as one wants. □ *vt* satisfy: *As there's no milk we must ~ ourselves* (= be satisfied) *with black coffee.*

con-tented *adj* satisfied; showing or feeling satisfaction, happiness: *with a ~ed look/smile.*

con-tent-ed-ly *adv*

con-tent-ment *n* [U] state of being content.

con-tent² /'kɒntent/ *n* 1 (*pl*) that which is contained: *the ~s of a room/a book/a pocket.* 2 (*pl*) the amount which a vessel will hold: *the ~s of this bottle.* 3 [C] substance (of a book, speech, etc as opposed to its style).

con-ten-tion /kən'tenʃn/ *n* 1 [U] quarrelling or disputing: *This is not a time for ~.* 2 [C] argument used in contending: *My ~ is that...*

con-ten-tious /kən'tenʃəs/ *adj* quarrelsome; likely to cause argument: *a ~ clause in a treaty.*

con-test¹ /'kɒntest/ *n* [C] struggle; fight; competition: *a keen ~ for the prize; a ~ of skill; a heavyweight boxing ~.*

con-test-ant /kən'testənt/ *n*, person who competes, fights, etc.

con-test² /kən'test/ *vt, vi* 1 argue; debate; dispute: ~ a statement/point, try to show that it is wrong. 2 = contend(1). 3 try to win: ~ a seat in Parliament.

con-text /'kɒntekst/ *n* [C, U] 1 what comes before and after a word, phrase, etc helping to fix or illustrate the meaning: *Can't you guess the meaning of the word from the ~?* 2 circumstances in which an event occurs.

con-tex-tual /kən'tekstʃuəl/ *adj* according to the context.

con-ti-nent /'kɒntinənt/ *n* [C] 1 one of the main land masses (Europe, Asia, Africa, etc). 2 the C~, the mainland of Europe.

con-ti-nen-tal /kɒntɪnəntl/ *adj* 1 belonging to, typical of, a continent: *a ~ climate.* 2 of the mainland of Europe: ~ breakfast. □ *n* [C] inhabitant of the mainland of Europe.

continental quilt, = duvet.

con-tin-gency /kən'tɪndʒənsi/ *n* (*pl* -ies) 1 [U] uncertainty of occurrence. 2 [C] uncertain event; event that happens by chance: *be prepared for all contingencies; (used as an ad-*

jective) ~ plans.

con-tin-gent /kən'tɪndʒənt/ *adj* (formal) 1 uncertain; accidental. 2 **contingent on/upon**, dependent on (something that may or may not happen). □ *n* [C] 1 number of troops, number of ships, lent or supplied to form part of a larger force. 2 group of persons forming part of a larger group.

con-tin-u-al /kən'tɪnjuəl/ *adj* going on all the time without stopping, or with only short breaks: *Aren't you tired of this ~ rain?*

con-tin-u-ally /-juəli/ *adv* again and again; without stopping.

con-tin-u-ance /kən'tɪnjuəns/ *n* [U] 1 duration (the more usual word): *during the ~ of the war.* 2 remaining; staying: *a ~ of prosperity.*

con-tin-u-ation /kən'tɪnjuəʃən/ *n* 1 [U] continuing; starting again after a stop. 2 [C] part, etc by which something is continued: *The next issue will contain an exciting ~ of the story.*

con-tinue /kən'tɪnju:/ *vi, vt* 1 go farther; go on (being); go on (doing); stay at/in; remain at/in: *The desert ~d as far as the eye could reach. I hope this wet weather will not ~. How long will you ~ working?* 2 start again after stopping: *The story will be ~d in next month's issue.* 3 keep (in office, etc): *The Commonwealth Secretary was ~d in office.*

con-ti-nu-ity /kɒntɪnju:əti/ *US*: -'nu:-/ *n* [U] 1 the state of being continuous: *There is no ~ of subject in a dictionary.* 2 (in films, TV) arrangement of the parts of a story: *Films are often made out of ~, eg a scene near the end may be filmed before a scene near the beginning.* 3 comments, announcements, etc made between broadcast programmes.

con-tinu-ous /kən'tɪnjuəs/ *adj* going on without a pause: *a ~ performance, 1.00pm to 11.30pm*, eg at a cinema.

con-tinu-ous-ly *adv*

con-tort /kən'tɔ:t/ *vt* force or twist out of the usual shape or appearance: *a face ~ed with pain.*

con-tor-tion /kən'tɔ:ʃn/ *n* 1 [U] contorting or being contorted (esp of the face or body). 2 [C] instance of this; contorted condition: *the ~s of an acrobat.*

con-tour /'kɒntʊə(r)/ *n* 1 [C] outline (of a coast, a human figure, etc). 2 = contour line. □ *vt* 1 mark with contour lines. 2 make (a road) along the contour of a hill, etc.

'contour line, line (on a map) joining points at the same height above sea-level.

contra- /kɒntrə/ *prefix* against; opposite to: *contraception; contradict.*

contra-band /'kɒntrəbænd/ *n* [U] 1 bringing into, taking out of, a country goods contrary to the law. 2 (trade in) goods so brought in or taken out.

contra-cep-tion /kɒntrə'sepʃn/ *n* [U] practice, method, of preventing or planning conception(2).

contra-cep-tive /kɒntrə'septɪv/ *n* [C] device or drug intended to prevent concep-

tion (2). □ *adj* preventing conception: ~ *pills/devices*.

contract¹ /'kɒntrækt/ *n* [C,U] binding agreement (between persons, groups, states); agreement to supply goods, do work, etc at a fixed price: *enter into/make a ~ (with a person) (for the purchase of a house); work to be done by private ~; a breach of ~*. (Note: the *a*, *an* are not used in phrases like the last two examples.)

contract² /kən'trækt/ *vt,vi* **1** be bound, bind, by agreement: ~ *a marriage*; ~ *an alliance with another country*. **contract** *'out (of sth)*, reject, abandon, the terms of an agreement. **2** become liable (for debts). **3** catch (an illness): ~ *measles*.

contractor /-tə(r)/, person, business firm, that enters into contracts: *building ~ors*.

contractual /kən'træktʃuəl/ *adj* (of the nature of) a contract: ~ *ual payments*.

contract³ /kən'trækt/ *vt,vi* **1** make or become smaller or shorter: 'I will' can be ~ *ed to 'I'll'*. **2** make or become tighter or narrower: *to ~ a muscle*.

contractible /-əbl/ *adj* that can be contracted.

contraction /kən'trækʃn/ *n* **1** [U] contracting or being contracted: *the ~ of a muscle*. **2** [C] something contracted; shortened form, such as *can't* for *cannot*.

contradict /,kɒntrə'dɪkt/ *vt* **1** deny the truth of (something said or written); deny (the words of a person): *to ~ a statement*. *Don't ~ me*. **2** (of facts, statements, etc) be contrary to: *The reports ~ each other*.

contradiction /,kɒntrə'dɪkʃn/ *n* **1** [U] contradicting; [C] instance of this. **2** [U] absence of agreement; [C] instance of this: *Your statements today are in ~ with what you said yesterday*.

contradictory /,kɒntrə'dɪktəri/ *adj* contradicting: ~ *statements/reports*.

contralto /kən'træltəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) lowest female voice; woman with, musical part to be sung by, such a voice.

contraption /kən'træpʃn/ *n* [C] (*informal*) strange-looking apparatus or machine.

contrary¹ /'kɒntrəri/ *US*: -trəri/ *adj* **1** **contrary to**, opposite (in nature or tendency): *What you have done is ~ to the doctor's orders*.

2 (of the wind and weather) unfavourable (for sailing). **3** (*informal*) (usually /kən'treəri/) obstinate; self-willed. **4** **contrary to**, in opposition to; against: *to act ~ to the rules*; *events that went ~ to my interests*.

contrarily /kən'treəri/ *US*: -trəri/ *adv* in an obstinate manner.

contrariness /'kɒntrərɪnəs/ *US*: -rer-/ *n* [C] being obstinate; refusing advice.

contrary² /'kɒntrəri/ *US*: -trəri/ *n* (*pl* -ies) opposite: *The ~ of 'wet' is 'dry'*. **on the contrary**, (denying or contradicting what has been said, written): 'You've nothing to do now, I think.' — 'On the ~, I have a lot of work to do.'

to the contrary, to the opposite effect: *I will come on Monday unless you write me to the ~, telling me not to come*.

contrast¹ /'kɒntrəst/ *US*: -trəst/ *n* **1** [U] the act of contrasting: *C ~ may make something appear more beautiful than it is when seen alone*. **2** [C] difference which is clearly seen when unlike things are put together; something showing such a difference: *The ~ between the two brothers is remarkable*. *By ~ with Harry's poor marks, Tom's were excellent*.

contrast² /kən'trəst/ *US*: -trəst/ *vt,vi* **1** compare so that differences are made clear: *C ~ these imported goods (with)and the domestic product*. **2** show a difference when compared: *His poor abilities ~ badly with his brother's talent*.

contra-vene /,kɒntrə'vɪn/ *vt* **1** act in opposition to; go against (a law, a custom). **2** dispute, attack (a statement, a principle). **3** (of things) conflict with.

contra-vention /,kɒntrə'venʃn/ *n* [C,U] (act of) contravening (a law, etc): *in ~ of the rules*.

contribute /kən'trɪbjʊt/ *vt,vi* **1** join with others in giving help, money, etc; give ideas, suggestions, etc: ~ *money to a charity/new information on a scientific problem*. **2** have a share in; help to bring about: *Drink ~d to his ruin*. **3** write (articles, etc) and send in (to): *Mary Green has ~d (poems) to the magazine for several years*.

contributor /-tə(r)/, person who contributes.

contribution /,kɒntrɪ'bju:ʃn/ *n* [U] act of contributing; [C] something contributed: ~ *s to the relief fund*.

contributory /kən'trɪbjʊtəri/ *US*: -təri/ *adj* **1** helping to bring about: ~ *negligence*, eg that helped to cause an accident. **2** for which contributions are to be made: *a ~ pension scheme*.

contrite /'kɒntraɪt/ *adj* filled with, showing, deep sorrow for doing wrong.

contrition /kən'trɪʃn/ *n* [U] deep sorrow (for doing wrong, etc).

contrivance /kən'traɪvəns/ *n* **1** [U] act or manner of contriving. **2** [U] capacity to invent: *Some things are beyond human ~*. **3** [C] something contrived; invention.

contrive /kən'traɪv/ *vt,vi* invent; design; find a way of doing or causing (something): *to ~ a means of escape from prison*.

control /kən'trəʊl/ *n* **1** [U] power or authority to direct, order or restrain: *Some children are beyond parental ~*, are not kept in order by parents. **be in control (of)**, be in command, in charge. **be/get out of control**, in a state where authority, etc is lost: *The children have got/are out of ~*. **have/get/keep control (over/of)**, have, get, keep authority, power, etc: *That teacher has no ~ over his class*. **lose control (of)**, be unable to manage or con-

tain: lose ~ of one's temper. **take control (of)**, take authority: *We must find someone to take ~ of the situation.* **2** [U] management; guidance: ~ of traffic/traffic ~. **3** [C] means of regulating, restraining, keeping in order: *Government ~s on trade and industry.* ⇨ birth-control. **4** [C] standard of comparison for results of an experiment: *The tests were given to three groups, one being used as a ~.* **5** (usually *pl*) means by which a machine, etc is operated or regulated: *the ~s of an aircraft*, for direction, altitude, etc. □ *vt* (-ll-) **1** have control of: *to ~ expenditure/one's temper.* **2** regulate (prices, etc).

control tower, building in an airport where flights are managed.

control-lable /-əbl/ *adj* that can be controlled.

controller /kən'trəʊlə(r)/ *n* [C] person who controls expenditure and accounts or directs a department of a large organization: *the C~ of the BBC.*

contro-ver-sial /kən'trəvɜːʃl/ *adj* **1** likely to cause controversy: *a ~ speech.* **2** (of persons) fond of controversy.

contro-ver-sially /-ʃəl/ *adv*

con-tro-versy /kən'trɒvɜːsi/ *n* [C,U] (*pl* -ies) long argument, esp over social, moral or political matters: *engage in (a) ~ with/against him*; *a question that has given rise to much ~.*

con-va-lesce /kən'væləs/ *vi* regain health and strength after an illness: *She is convalescing by the sea.*

con-va-lesc-ence /kən'væləns/ *n* [U] gradual recovery of health and strength.

con-va-les-cent /kən'vælənt/ *n* [C], *adj* (person who is) recovering from illness.

con-vec-tion /kən'vekʃn/ *n* [U] the conveying of heat from one part of a liquid or gas to another by the movement of heated substances.

con-vene /kən'viːn/ *vi*, *vt* **1** call (persons) to come together (for a meeting, etc). **2** come together (for a meeting, council, etc).

con-vener, person who convenes meetings.

con-veni-ence /kən'viːniəns/ *n* **1** [U] the quality of being convenient or suitable; freedom from difficulty or worry: *I keep my reference books near my desk for ~.* *Please come at your earliest ~.* at the earliest time suitable to you. **2** [C] appliance, device, arrangement, etc that is useful, helpful or convenient: *The house has all modern ~s*, eg central heating, hot water supply, points for electric current.

con-veni-ent /kən'viːniənt/ *adj* suitable; handy; serving to avoid trouble or difficulty; easy to get to or at: *Will it be ~ for you to start work tomorrow?*

con-veni-ent-ly *adv*

con-vent /'kɒnvənt *US*: -vent/ *n* [C] **1** society of women (*nuns*) living apart from others in the service of God. ⇨ monastery. **2** building(s) in which they live and work: *enter a ~*, become a nun.

con-ven-tion /kən'venʃn/ *n* **1** [C] conference of members of a society, political party, etc or of persons in business, commerce, etc: *the Democratic Party C~.* **2** [C] agreement between States, rulers, etc (less formal than a treaty): *the Geneva C~s*, about the treatment of prisoners of war, etc. **3** [C] practice or custom based on general consent: *It is silly to be a slave to ~.*

con-ven-tional /kən'venʃənl/ *adj* **1** based on convention (3): ~ greetings. **2** following what has been customary; traditional: *a ~ design for a carpet.*

con-ven-tion-ally /-ənl/ *adv*

con-verge /kən'vɜːdʒ/ *vi*, *vt* (of lines, moving objects, opinions) come, cause to come, towards each other and meet at a point; tend to do this: *armies converging on the capital.*

con-ver-gence /-dʒəns/ *n* [U]

con-ver-gent /-dʒənt/ *adj*

con-ver-sant /kən'vɜːsənt/ *adj* (*formal*) having a knowledge of: ~ with all the rules.

con-ver-sa-tion /kən'vɜːseɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] talking: *I saw him in ~ with a friend.* **2** [C] talk: *I've had several ~s with him.*

con-ver-sa-tional /-ʃənl/ *adj* (of words, etc) used in, characteristic of, talk.

con-verse¹ /kən'vɜːs/ *vi* (*formal*) talk.

con-verse² /'kɒnvɜːs/ *n* [U with *the*], *adj* (idea, statement which is) opposite (to another): *The ~ is equally possible.*

con-verse-ly *adv*

con-ver-sion /kən'vɜːʃn *US*: -ʒn/ *n* **1** [U] converting or being converted: *the ~ of cream into butter* / *of pagans to Christianity.* **2** [C] instance of this: *building firms which specialize in house ~s*, eg of large houses into flats.

con-vert¹ /'kɒnvɜːt/ *n* [C] person converted, esp to a different religion (or from no religion), or to different principles: *a ~ to socialism.*

con-vert² /kən'vɜːt/ *vt* **1** change (from one form, use, etc into another): *to ~ pounds into francs.* **2** cause (a person) to change his beliefs, etc: *to ~ a man to Christianity.* **3** (Rugby) complete (a try) by kicking a goal.

con-verted *adj* that has been converted: *a ~ed house.*

con-vert-ible /kən'vɜːtəbl/ *adj* that can be converted: *Banknotes are not usually ~ into gold nowadays.*

con-vex /'kɒnveks/ *adj* with the surface curved like the outside of a ball: *a ~ lens.* ⇨ concave.

con-vey /kən'veɪ/ *vt* **1** take, carry: *Pipes ~ hot water from this boiler to every part of the building.* **2** make known ideas, views, feelings, etc to another person: *This picture will ~ to you some idea of the beauty of the scenery.* **3** **convey to**, (*legal*) give full legal rights (in land or property): *The land was ~ed to his brother.*

con-veyer, -or /-ˈveɪə(r)/, person who, that which, conveys.

con'veyer-belt, (eg in a factory) band or chain moving over wheels for carrying packages, etc.

con-vey-ance /kən'veɪəns/ *n* 1 [U] conveying. 2 [C] something which conveys.

con-vict¹ /'kɒnvɪkt/ *n* [C] person convicted of crime and being punished.

con-vict² /kən'vɪkt/ *vt* 1 (of a jury or a judge) declare in a law court that (a person) is guilty: *He was ~ed of murder.* 2 cause (a person) to be certain that he has done wrong, made a mistake: ~ *somebody of his errors.*

con-vic-tion /kən'vɪkʃn/ *n* 1 [U] the convicting of a person for a crime; [C] instance of this: *He has had six previous ~s.* 2 [U] the act of convincing, of bringing certainty to the mind. (not) *carry much conviction*, (not) be convincing. 3 [C,U] firm or assured belief: *He spoke with such ~.*

con-vince /kən'vɪns/ *vt* make (a person) feel certain; cause (a person) to realize: *I am ~ed of his honesty.* *We couldn't ~ him of his mistake.* *I'm willing to be ~d, prepared to listen to your arguments.*

con-vinc-ing *adj* that convinces: *a convincing speaker/argument.*

con-vin-cing-ly *adv*

con-vo-ca-tion /kən'və'keɪʃn/ *n* [C] (esp) legislative assembly of the Church or of graduates of some universities (eg Leeds, Durham, Oxford).

con-voke /kən'vəʊk/ *vt* call together, summon (a meeting): *to ~ Parliament.*

con-vol-uted /'kɒnvəlʊtɪd/ *adj* coiled; twisted (eg like a ram's horn).

con-vol-ution /kən'vɒlʊʃn/ *n* [C] coil; twist: *the ~s of a snake.*

con-voy¹ /'kɒnvɔɪ/ *n* 1 [U] conveying or being conveyed; protection: *The supply ships sailed under ~.* 2 [C] protecting force (of warships, troops, etc). 3 [C] ship(s), supplies under escort: *The ~ was attacked by submarines.*

con-voy² /'kɒnvɔɪ/ *vt* (esp of a warship) go with, escort (other ships) to protect (them): *The troopships were ~ed across the Atlantic.*

con-vulse /kən'vʌls/ *vt* cause violent movements or disturbances: ~ *d with laughter*; *a country ~d by civil war.*

con-vul-sion /kən'vʌlʃn/ *n* [C] 1 violent disturbance: *a ~ of nature*, eg an earthquake. 2 (usually *pl*) violent irregular movement of a limb or limbs, or of the body, caused by contraction of muscles: *The child's ~s filled us with fear.* 3 (*pl*) violent fit (of laughter): *The story was so funny that we were all in ~s.*

con-vuls-ive /kən'vʌlsɪv/ *adj* having or producing convulsions: ~ *movements.*

coo /ku:/ *vi, vt, n* [C] (make a) soft, murmuring sound (as of doves).

cook /kʊk/ *vt, vi* 1 prepare (food) by heating (eg boiling, baking, roasting, frying). 2 be cooked: *These apples ~ well.* 3 **cook up**, invent (a story, excuse, etc). 4 falsify: ~ *the books/the accounts.* □ *n* [C] person who cooks

food.

cook-ing *n* [U]

cooker /'kʊkə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 apparatus, stove, for cooking food: *a ~gas-~.* 2 kind of fruit, etc (esp apples, pears, plums) grown for cooking.

cook-ery /'kʊkəri/ *n* [U] art and practice of cooking.

'cookery book, one with recipes.

cookie /'kʊki/ *n* [C] (US) biscuit.

cool¹ /ku:l/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 between warm and cold: ~ *autumn weather.* *The coffee's not ~ enough to drink.* 2 calm; unexcited: *Keep ~!* *He was always ~ in the face of danger.* *He has a ~ head,* is not easily excited, etc. Hence, **cool-headed** *adj.* **play it cool**, deal calmly with a situation. 3 (*informal*) impudent in a calm way; without shame: *How ~ to take my lawn-mower without asking my permission!* 4 (of behaviour) not showing interest or enthusiasm: *They gave the prime minister a ~ reception.* □ *n* [U with *the*] cool air or place; coolness: *in the ~ of the evening.*

cool-ly *adv*

cool-ness *n* [U]

cool² /ku:l/ *vi, vt* make or become cool: *The rain has ~ed the air.* *Has his anger ~ed yet?* **cool down/off**, (fig) become calm, less excited or enthusiastic: *I told him to ~ down.*

'cooling tower, tall structure like a wide chimney for cooling hot water before reuse.

coop /ku:p/ *n* [C] cage, esp for hens with small chickens. □ *vt* **coop up**, (a) put in a coop. (b) keep (a person) in a place: *How long are we going to be ~ed up in here?*

co-op /'kəʊ ɒp/ *n* the ~, (*informal*) the co-operative society (shop, store).

co-op-er-ate /kəʊ'ɒpəreɪt/ *vi* work or act together in order to bring about a result: ~ *with friends in starting a social club.*

co-op-er-ator /-tə(r), person who co-operates.

co-op-er-ation /kəʊ'ɒpə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U] working or acting together for a common purpose: *The workers, in ~ with the management, have increased output by 10 per cent.*

co-op-er-ative /kəʊ'ɒprətɪv/ *adj* of co-operation; willing to co-operate: *a ~ society*, group of persons who co-operate, eg to buy machines and services for all to share, or to produce, buy and sell goods among themselves for mutual benefit, or to save and lend money. □ *n* [C] (shop of a) co-operative society or group: *agricultural ~s in India and China.*

co-opt /kəʊ'ɒpt/ *vt* (of a committee) add (a person) as a member by the votes of those who are already members: ~ *a new member on to the committee.*

co-or-di-nate¹ /kəʊ'ɔ:dənət/ *adj* equal in importance. □ *n* [C] co-ordinate thing or person.

co-or-di-nate² /kəʊ'ɔ:dənɪt/ *vt* make co-ordinate; bring or put into proper relation: *to ~ the movements of the arms and legs.*

co-or-di-na-tion /kəʊ'ɔ:də'neɪʃn/ *n* [C] act

of co-ordinating; state of being co-ordinate.

coot /kʊt/ *n* [C] name of several kinds of swimming and diving birds. **as bald as a coot**, very bald.

cop¹ /kɒp/ *n* [C] (sl) = policeman.

cop² /kɒp/ *vt* (-pp-) (sl) catch: *You'll ~ it*, be punished. □ *n* [C] (sl) capture.

co-part-ner /ˌkəʊ ˈpɑːtnə(r)/ *n* [C] partner, eg an employee, who has a share in the profits of a business, etc in addition to his salary or wages.

co-part-ner-ship /-ʃɪp/ *n* [C] such a system, practice, in business or industry.

cope /kəʊp/ *vi* manage successfully; be capable of managing: *coping with difficulties*.

cop-ing /ˈkɒpɪŋ/ *n* [C] line of (sometimes overhanging) stonework or brickwork on top of a wall.

'coping-stone, (fig) final act, finishing, of a piece of work.

copi-ous /ˈkəʊpiəs/ *adj* (formal) plentiful: *a ~ supply/meal*.

copi-ous-ly *adv*

cop-per¹ /ˈkɒpə(r)/ *n* 1 [U] common reddish-brown metal (symbol **Cu**): ~ *wire/cable/alloy*. 2 [C] coin made of copper (alloy). 3 [C] large vessel made of metal, esp one in which clothes are boiled. ⇨ *boiler*. 4 [U] reddish-brown colour. □ *adj* reddish-brown.

'copper beech, kind of beech with copper-coloured leaves.

'copper-bottomed *adj* (a) (of a ship) having the bottom plated with copper (and therefore seaworthy). (b) (fig) safe in every way: ~ *bottomed guarantees*.

'copper-plate *n* [U] polished copper plate on which designs, etc are engraved. □ *adj* ornate, round and clear.

'copper-smith, person who works in copper.

cop-per² /ˈkɒpə(r)/ *n* [C] (sl) policeman.

copra /ˈkɒprə/ *n* [U] dried kernels of coconuts, from which oil is extracted for making soap, etc.

copse /kɒps/ *n* [C] small area of shrubs and small trees.

copu-late /ˈkɒpjʊleɪt/ *vi* (esp of animals) unite in sexual intercourse.

copu-la-tion /ˌkɒpjʊˈleɪʃn/ *n* [C,U] act or process of copulating.

copy¹ /ˈkɒpi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) 1 thing made to be like another; reproduction of a letter, picture, etc: *Make three carbon copies of the letter*. 2 one example of a book, newspaper, etc of which many have been made: *If you can't buy a ~ of the book, perhaps you can borrow one from the library*. 3 [U] material to be sent to a printer: *The printers are waiting for more ~*.

'copy-cat, (informal) person who copies another person's actions, ideas, etc.

copy² /ˈkɒpi/ *vi, vi* (pt, pp -ied) 1 make a copy of: ~ *notes (out of a book)*; ~ *an address down (from a notice-board)*. 2 do, try to do, the same as; imitate: *You should ~ his good example*. 3

cheat (by looking at a neighbour's paper, etc): *He was punished for ~ing during the exam*.

copy-right /ˈkɒpraɪt/ *n* [U] sole legal right, held for a certain number of years, by the author or composer of a work, or by someone delegated by him, to print, publish, sell, broadcast, perform, film or record his work or any part of it. □ *vt* protect in this way.

coral /ˈkɒrəl/ *n* [U] 1 hard, red, pink or white substance built on the seabed by small creatures. 2 red or pink colour. □ *adj* red or pink: ~ *lips*.

'coral 'island, one formed by the growth of coral.

'coral-reef, one of coral.

cord /kɔːd/ *n* 1 [C,U] (length of) twisted strands, thicker than string, thinner than rope. 2 [C] part of the body like a cord: *the spinal ~*; *the vocal ~s*. □ *vt* put a cord round.

cor-dial /ˈkɒrdiəl/ *adj* 1 warm and sincere (in feeling, behaviour): *a ~ smile*. 2 strongly felt: ~ *dislike*. 3 (of food and drink, or medicine) making the heart beat faster.

cord-ially /-iəli/ *adv*

cor-don /ˈkɒdn/ *n* [C] 1 line, ring, persons, military posts, etc acting as guards: *a police ~*. 2 ornamental ribbon of an Order¹ (10) (usually worn across the shoulder). □ *vi* **cor-don off**, separate, keep at a distance, by means of a cordon (1).

cor-du-roy /ˈkɒdəroɪ/ *n* [U] thick, cotton cloth with raised lines on it.

core /kɔː(r)/ *n* [C] 1 (usually hard) centre, with seeds, of such fruits as the apple and pear. 2 central or most important part of anything: *the ~ of an electro-magnet*. **to the core**, thoroughly: *He is English to the ~*, completely English in manner, speech, dress, etc. **rotten to the core**, (fig) thoroughly bad. □ *vt* take out the core of: *to ~ an apple*.

cork /kɔːk/ *n* 1 [U] light, brown, tough substance, the thick outer bark of the tree called the *'cork-oak*. 2 [C] round piece of this material used as a stopper for a bottle. □ *vt* stop with, or as with, a cork.

'cork-tipped *adj* (of a cigarette) filter-tipped.

'cork-screw, tool for pulling corks from bottles.

corn¹ /kɔːn/ *n* 1 [U] (seed of) any of various grain plants, chiefly wheat, oats, rye and (esp US) maize; such plants while growing: *a field of ~*; *a ~-field*. 2 [C] single grain (of wheat, pepper, etc).

'corn-cob, part of an ear of maize, on which the grains grow.

'corn-flour (US **'corn-starch**), flour made from maize, rice or other grains.

corn² /kɔːn/ *n* [C] small area of hardened skin on the foot, esp on a toe, often with a painful centre and root. **tread on sb's corns**, (fig) hurt his feelings.

cor-ne-a /ˈkɔːniə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) tough transparent covering for the iris of the eyeball.

corner /'kɔ:nə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (position of the) angle where two lines, sides, edges or surfaces meet: *a shop on/at the ~; sitting in the ~ of the room*. **cut corners**, **(a)** (of the driver of a motor-vehicle) go across, not round them when travelling fast. **(b)** (fig) simplify proceedings, ignore regulations, etc to get work done quickly: *We've had to cut a few ~s to get your visa ready in time*. **turn the corner**, (fig) pass a critical point in an illness, a period of difficulty, etc. **just round the corner**, very near (in position, time, etc.). **be in a tight corner**, in an awkward or difficult situation. **2** hidden, secret, place: *money hidden in odd ~s*. **3** region; quarter: *to the four ~s of the earth*. **5** (in Association football) kick from the corner of the field, allowed when the ball has been kicked by an opponent over his own goal-line. □ *vt, vi* **1** force into a corner; put into a difficult position: *The escaped prisoner was ~ed at last*. **2** (of a vehicle, its driver) turn a corner (on a road, etc): *My new car ~s well*. **'corner-stone**, **(a)** stone forming a corner of a foundation for a building. **(b)** (fig) foundation: *Charm was the ~stone of his success*. **cor-net** /'kɔ:nɪt/ *n* [C] **1** small musical instrument of brass, like a trumpet. **2** piece of paper, biscuit, etc twisted into the shape of a cone, to hold ice-cream, etc.

cor-nice /'kɔ:nɪs/ *n* [C] **1** projecting part above the frieze in a column(1); ornamental moulding (eg in plaster) round the walls of a room, just below the ceiling; horizontal strip of carved wood or stone along an outside wall. **2** mass of snow above a precipice.

corny /'kɔ:nɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (*sf*) dull because often heard or repeated: *~ jokes/music*.

co-rol-lary /kə'rɒləri/ *US: 'kɔ:rələri/ n* [C] (*pl* -ies) natural sequence or obvious outcome.

co-rona /kə'rəʊnə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or ~e /-ni:/) ring of light seen round the sun or moon, eg during an eclipse.

cor-on-ary /'kɔ:rənəri/ *US: 'kɔ:rənəri/ adj* of arteries supplying blood to the heart: *~ thrombosis*, formation of a clot in a coronary artery. □ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (*informal*) coronary thrombosis.

cor-on-ation /kə'rəneɪʃn/ *US: ,kɔ:r-/ n* [C] ceremony of crowning a king, queen or other sovereign ruler.

cor-oner /'kɔ:rənə(r)/ *US: 'kɔ:r-/ n* [C] official who investigates the cause of any death thought to be from violent or unnatural causes: *a ~'s inquest*, such an inquiry (held with a jury).

cor-onet /'kɔ:rənət/ *US: 'kɔ:r-/ n* [C] small crown worn by a peer or peeress; band of precious materials worn as (part of) a woman's headdress.

cor-poral /'kɔ:pərəl/ *adj* of the human body. **corporal punishment**, physical punishment, eg whipping, beating.

cor-poral² /'kɔ:pərəl/ *n* [C] lowest non-commissioned officer (below a sergeant) in the

army.

cor-por-ate /'kɔ:pəreɪt/ *adj* **1** of or belonging to a corporation(2): *~ property*. **2** of, shared by, members of a group of persons: *~ responsibility/action*. **3** united in one group: *a ~ body*.

cor-por-ation /kɔ:pə'reɪʃn/ *n* [C] **1** group of persons elected to govern a town: *the municipal ~*. **2** group of persons authorized to act as an individual, eg for business purposes: *In Great Britain the Electricity Authority and the National Coal Board are public ~s*.

cor-por-eal /kɔ:pə'reɪəl/ *adj* (*formal*) **1** of or for the body. **2** physical (contrasted with *spiritual*).

corps /kɔ:(r)/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~ /kɔ:z/) **1** one of the technical branches of an army: *the Royal Army Medical C~*. **2** military force made up of two or more divisions.

'corps de ballet, (*Fr*) company of dancers in a ballet.

'Corps Diplomatique, (*Fr*) all the ambassadors, ministers and attachés of foreign states in a country.

corpse /kɔ:ps/ *n* [C] dead human body.

cor-pu-lent /'kɔ:pjələnt/ *adj* (*formal*) (of a person or his body) fat and heavy.

cor-pus /kɔ:pəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* corpora /'kɔ:pərə/) body, collection, esp of writings on a specified subject or of material for study (eg for linguists, a collection of examples of spoken and written usages).

cor-puscle /'kɔ:pəsl/ *n* [C] one of the red or white cells in the blood.

cor-ral /kə'reɪl/ *US: -ræl/ n* [C] enclosure for horses and cattle or the capture of wild animals. □ *vt* (-ll-) drive (cattle, etc) into, shut up in, a corral.

cor-rect¹ /kə'rekt/ *adj* **1** true; right: *the ~ time*. **2** (of conduct, manners, dress, etc) proper; in accord with good taste or convention: *the ~ dress for a ceremony*.

cor-rect-ly *adv*

cor-rect² /kə'rekt/ *vt* **1** make right; take out mistakes from: *Please ~ my pronunciation*. **2** point out the faults of; punish: *~ a child for disobedience*.

cor-rec-tion /kə'rekʃn/ *n* **1** [U] correcting: *the ~ of schoolchildren's work*. **2** [C] something put in place of what is wrong: *a written exercise with ~s in red ink*.

cor-rect-ive /kə'rektɪv/ *n* [C], *adj* (something) serving to correct: *~ training*, eg for young offenders.

cor-re-late /'kɔ:rəleɪt/ *US: 'kɔ:r-/ vt, vi* have a mutual relation, bring (one thing) into such a relation (with another): *Research workers found it hard to ~ the two sets of figures/to ~ one set with the other*.

cor-re-la-tion /kɔ:rɪ'leɪʃn/ *US: ,kɔ:r-/ n* [C] mutual relationship: *the ~ between climate and vegetation*.

cor-re-spond /kɔ:rɪ'spɒnd/ *US: ,kɔ:r-/ vi* be in harmony: *His actions do not ~ with his*

words. **2** *correspond to*, be equal (to); be similar (in position, etc) (to): *The American Congress ~s to the British Parliament.* **3** exchange letters: *We've been ~ing with each other for years.*

cor-re-spond-ing *adj* that correspond(s)(1): *Imports for July this year are larger by 10 per cent than for the ~ing period last year.*

cor-re-spond-ing-ly *adv*

cor-re-spon-dence /ˌkɒrɪˈspɒndəns/ *US*: 'kɔːr-/ *n* **1** [C,U] agreement; similarity: *There is not much ~ between their ideals and ours.* **2** [U] letter-writing; letters: *I have been in ~ with him about the problem.*

cor-re-spon-dent /ˌkɒrɪˈspɒndənt/ *US*: 'kɔːr-/ *n* **1** [C] **1** person with whom one exchanges letters: *He's a good/bad ~, writes regularly/seldom.* **2** person regularly contributing local news or special articles to a newspaper: *a 'war' ~.*

cor-ri-dor /ˈkɒrɪdɔː(r)/ *US*: 'kɔːr-/ *n* [C] long narrow passages from which doors open into rooms or compartments.

cor-rob-or-ate /kəˈrɒbəreɪt/ *vt* give support or certainty to (a statement, belief, theory, etc).

cor-rob-or-at-ive /kəˈrɒbəreɪtɪv/ *adj* tending to corroborate: ~ evidence.

cor-rode /kəˈrəʊd/ *vt,vi* wear away, destroy slowly by chemical action or disease; be destroyed in this way: *Rust ~s iron.*

cor-ro-sion /kəˈrəʊʒn/ *n* [U] corroding or being corroded.

cor-ro-sive /kəˈrəʊsɪv/ *n* [C], *adj* (substance) that corrodes: *Rust and acids are ~.*

cor-ru-gate /ˈkɒrʊgeɪt/ *US*: 'kɔːr-/ *vt,vi* make into folds, wrinkles or furrows: ~d cardboard, used for packing fragile goods.

cor-ru-ga-tion /kɒrʊˈgeɪʃn/ *US*: 'kɔːr-/ *n* [C,U] fold(s); wrinkle(s).

cor-rupt /kəˈrʌpt/ *adj* **1** (of persons, their actions) immoral; dishonest: ~ practices, (esp) the offering and accepting of bribes. **2** impure: ~ air/blood. **3** (of languages, texts, etc) debased by errors or alterations: *a ~ form of English.*

cor-rupt-ly *adv*

cor-rupt² /kəˈrʌpt/ *vt,vi* make or become corrupt: *young persons whose attitude have been ~ed by unemployment and boredom.*

cor-rupt-ible /-əbl/ *adj* that can be corrupted: ~ible government officials.

cor-rupt-ion /kəˈrʌpʃn/ [U] corrupting or being corrupt; decay: ~ in the police force; the ~ of the body after death.

cor-set /ˈkɔːsɪt/ *n* [C] close-fitting reinforced underwear shaping the waist and hips.

cor-tege, **cor-tège** /kɔːˈteɪʒ/ *n* [C] (Fr) procession, eg at the funeral of a king or president.

cor-tex /ˈkɔːteks/ *n* [C] (pl cortices /ˈkɔːtɪsɪz/) **1** outer layer of grey matter of the brain. **2** outer shell or covering (eg the bark of a tree).

cor-ti-cal /ˈkɔːtɪkl/ *adj* of the cortex.

cos /kɒs/ *n* [C] (kind of) long-leaved lettuce.

cosh /kɒʃ/ *vt, n* [C] (GB sl) (strike with a) length of lead pipe, flexible rubber tubing filled with metal, etc.

co-signa-tory /ˌkəʊˈsɪgnətəri/ *US*: -tɔːrɪ/ *adj, n* [C] (pl -ies) (person) signing jointly with others.

cos-metic /kɒzˈmetɪk/ *adj, n* [C] preparation, substance, esp one that adds colour, designed to make the skin or hair beautiful, eg face-cream, lipstick.

cos-mic /ˈkɒzmɪk/ *adj* of the whole universe or cosmos: ~ rays, radiations that reach the earth from outer space.

cos-mo-naut /ˈkɒzmənɔːt/ *n* [C] = astronaut (the usual word).

cos-mo-poli-tan /ˌkɒzməˈpɒlɪtən/ *adj* **1** of or from all, or many different parts of, the world: *London is a ~ city*, has people from many parts of the world. **2** free from national prejudices because of wide experience of the world: *a statesman with a ~ outlook.* □ *n* [C] cosmopolitan(2) person.

cos-mos /ˈkɒzmɒs/ *n* **the** ~, the universe, all space, seen as a well-ordered system.

cost¹ /kɒst/ *US*: kɔːst/ *n* **1** [C,U] price (to be) paid for a thing: *the ~ of living.* *He built his house without regard to ~, without considering how much money would be needed.* **2** that which is used, needed or given to obtain something: *The battle was won at a great ~ in human lives.* **at all costs**, whatever the cost(2) may be: **count the cost**, consider the risks, possible losses, etc. **to one's cost**, to one's loss or disadvantage: *Wasps' stings are painful, as I know to my ~, as I know from personal experience.* **3** (pl) (legal) expense of having an action settled in a law court: *He was asked to pay a £10 fine and £3 ~s.*

cost² /kɒst/ *US*: kɔːst/ *vi* (pt,pp ~) **1** be obtainable at the price of; require the payment of: *The house ~ him £28000.* **2** result in the loss of: *Careless driving may ~ you your life.* **3** bring injury or disadvantage: *The boy's bad behaviour ~ his mother many sleepless nights.* □ *vt* (pt,pp ~ed) estimate the price to be charged for an article based on the expense of producing it.

co-star /ˌkəʊˈstɑː(r)/ *vi,vi* (-rr-) present one film star as having equal status with another or others: *The film ~red John Wayne.*

cos-ter-monger /ˈkɒstəmɒŋɡə(r)/ *n* [C] person who sells fruit, vegetables, etc from a barrow in the street.

cost-ly /ˈkɒstli/ *US*: 'kɔːst-/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) of great value; costing much: *a ~ mistake*, one involving great loss or sacrifice.

cos-tume /ˈkɒstʃuːm/ *US*: -tuːm/ *n* **1** [U] style of dress: *actors wearing historical ~, clothes in the style of a period in the past.* **2** [C] woman's suit (short coat and skirt of the same material). ⇨ swimming costume.

cosy¹ /ˈkəʊzi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) warm and com-

fortable: *a ~ little room.*

cosily /-əli/ *adv*

cosiness *n* [U]

cosy² /'kəʊzi/ *n* [C] covering for a teapot, or an egg in an egg cup.

cot¹ /kɒt/ *n* [C] **1** bed for a young child (with sides to prevent the child from falling out). **2** (US) camp-bed; bed on board ship.

cot² /kɒt/ *n* [C] small building for sheltering animals: *a 'sheep-~.*

cote /kəʊt/ *n* [C] shed or shelter for domestic animals or birds: *a 'dove-~.*

cot-tage /'kɒtɪdʒ/ *n* [C] small house, esp in the country: *farm labourers' ~s.*

cottage industry, one that can be carried on at home, eg pottery, weaving.

cot-ton /'kɒtn/ *n* [U] **1** soft, white fibrous substance round the seeds of the 'cotton-plant, used for making thread, cloth, etc: *~ yarn/ cloth.* **2** thread spun from cotton: *sewing with a 'needle and ~.*

cotton-wool, cleaned raw cotton; absorbent cotton as used for padding, cleaning wounds, etc.

couch¹ /kəʊtʃ/ *n* [C] **1** long seat like a bed for sitting on or lying on during the day: *a 'studio-~.* **2** (literary) bed.

couch² /kəʊtʃ/ *vi, vi 1* (formal) put (a thought, etc in words): *The reply was ~ed in insolent terms.* **2** (of animals) lie flat (either in hiding, or ready to jump forward).

cou-gar /'ku:ɡə(r)/ *n* [C] large wild cat, also called a *puma*.

cough¹ /kɒf/ *US: kɔ:f* *n* [C] **1** act or sound of coughing: *He gave me a warning ~.* **2** condition, illness, that causes a person to cough often: *to have a bad ~.*

cough² /kɒf/ *US: kɔ:f* *vi, vi 1* send out air from the lungs violently and noisily. **2** **cough up**, get out of the throat by coughing. **3** (sl) confess a crime, esp to the police: *Jones refused to ~.*

could /kʊd/ *weak form: kəd/* (negative **couldn't** /'kʊdn't/) *auxiliary verb; pt of can*, used in indirect speech in place of *can* if the main verb is *pt*; used to express conditions, and to express occasional occurrence and inclination. ⇨ *can*².

coun-cil /'kaʊnsəl/ *n* [C] group of persons appointed, elected or chosen to give advice, make rules, carry out plans, manage affairs, etc, esp of government: *a city/county ~; the municipal ~.*

'council-chamber, in which a council meets.

'council estate, housing estate built by a city or county council. ⇨ *housing*.

'council-house, house on a council estate.

coun-cil-lor (US also **coun-cil-or**) /'kaʊnsə(r)/ *n* [C] member of a council.

coun-sel¹ /'kaʊnsəl/ *n* **1** [U] advice; consultation; opinions; suggestions. **2** *a ~/~s of perfection*, excellent advice that cannot be followed. **3** [C] (*pl* unchanged) barrister, or

group of barristers, giving advice in a law case: *when the jury had heard ~ on both sides*, the barristers for the prosecution and the defence.

coun-sel² /'kaʊnsəl/ *vt* (-lt, US also -l-) (formal) advise: *to ~ patience.*

coun-sel-lor (US also **coun-sel-or**) /'kaʊnsə(r)/ *n* [C] adviser.

count¹ /kaʊnt/ *n* [C] **1** act of counting; number got by counting: *Four ~s were necessary before we were certain of the total.* **keep/lose count (of)**, be able/unable to continue counting. **2** (legal) one of a number of things of which a person has been accused: *He was found guilty on all ~s.*

count² /kaʊnt/ *vi, vi 1* say or name (the numerals) in order: *to ~ from 1 to 10.* *He can't ~ yet.* **2** find the total of: *Don't forget to ~ your change.* **3** include, be included, in the calculation: *fifty people, not ~ing the children.* **4** consider to be: *I ~ myself fortunate in being here.* **5** **count (sth) against sb**, be considered, consider, to the disadvantage of: *He is young and inexperienced, but please do not ~ that against him.*

6 (uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*):

count down, count seconds backwards (eg 10, 9, 8, 7...) as when launching a rocket, etc into space. Hence, **'count-down** *n* [C]

count in, include: *If you're all going to the pub for a drink, you can ~ me in.*

count on/upon, expect with confidence; rely on: *We are ~ing on you to help.*

count out, (a) count things (slowly), one by one: *The old lady ~ed out fifteen pence and passed it to the salesgirl.* (b) count up to ten over a boxer who has been knocked out: *The referee ~ed him out in the first round.* (c) not include: *If it's going to be a drunken party, ~ me out.*

count up, find the total of: *Just you ~ up the number of times he has failed to keep a promise!*

count³ /kaʊnt/ *n* [C] title of nobility in France, Italy, etc (but not in GB).

count-able /'kaʊntəbl/ *adj* that can be counted.

countable noun, one that may be used with *a*, *an* or *many* and with numerals and the plural form (marked [C] in this dictionary).

count-ten-ance¹ /'kaʊntɪnəns/ *n* (formal) **1** [C] face, including its appearance and expression: *a woman with a fierce ~.* **2** [U] support; approval: *to give ~ to a person/a plan.*

count-ten-ance² /'kaʊntɪnəns/ *vt* (formal) give support or approval to: *to ~ a fraud.*

count-ter¹ /'kaʊntə(r)/ *n* [C] table or flat surface where goods are shown, customers served, in a shop or bank. **under the counter**, bought, sold or arranged dishonestly.

count-ter² /'kaʊntə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** small (round) flat piece of plastic, etc used for keeping count in games, etc. **2** (in compounds) device for keeping count (in machinery, etc): *a 'speed-~.*

count-ter³ /'kaʊntə(r)/ *adv* **counter to**, in

the opposite direction (to); in opposition (to):
to act ~ to a person's wishes.

count-er¹ /'kauntə(r)/ *vt, vi* oppose; meet an attack (with a return attack): *They ~ed our proposal with one of their own.*

count-er- /'kauntə(r)-/ *prefix* **1** opposite in direction: *'counter-productive*. **2** made in answer to: *'counter-attack*. **3** corresponding: *'counterpart*.

count-er-act /'kauntə'rækt/ *vt* act against and make (action, force) of less or no effect: ~ (the effects of) a poison.

count-er-at-tack /'kauntə'r ætæk/ *n* [C] attack made in reply to an attack by the enemy. □ *vt, vi* make such an attack.

count-er-balance /'kauntə'bæləns/ *n* [C] weight, force, equal to another and balancing it. □ *vt* /'kauntə'bæləns/ act as a counterbalance to.

count-er-espion-age /'kauntə'r 'espia:nə:z/ *n* [U] spying directed against the enemy's spying.

count-er-feit /'kauntə'feit/ *n* [C], *adj* (something) made or done in imitation of another thing in order to deceive: ~ money. □ *vt* copy (coins, handwriting, etc) in order to deceive.

count-er-foil /'kauntə'fɔil/ *n* [C] section of a cheque, receipt, etc kept by the sender as a record.

count-er-in-tel-li-gence /'kauntə'r m'telidʒəns/ *n* [U] = counter-espionage.

count-er-mand /'kauntə'mænd/ *US*: -mænd/ *vt* take back, cancel, a command already given.

count-er-offer /'kauntə'rɒfə(r)/ *n* [C] offer made in reply to an offer.

count-er-pane /'kauntə'peɪn/ *n* [C] (dated) = bedspread.

count-er-part /'kauntə'pɑ:t/ *n* [C] person or thing exactly like, or closely corresponding to, another.

count-er-plot /'kauntə'plɒt/ *n* [C] plot made to defeat another plot. □ *vt, vi* (-tt-) make such a plot.

count-er-rev-ol-ution /'kauntə'rɛvə'lu:ʃn/ *n* [C] political movement directed against a revolution.

counter-revolutionary *adj* characteristic of a counter-revolution. □ *n* [C] (pl -ies) supporter of counter-revolution(s).

count-er-sign /'kauntə'saɪn/ *n* [C] password; secret word(s) to be given, on demand, to a sentry: *'Advance and give the ~*. □ *vt* add another signature to (a document) to give it authority.

count-ess /'kauntɪs/ *n* [C] **1** wife or widow of a count or earl. **2** woman to whom an earldom has descended.

count-less /'kauntlɪs/ *adj* that cannot be counted (because too numerous).

coun-tri-fied /'kʌntrɪfaɪd/ *adj* rural; having the unsophisticated ways, habits, outlook, etc of those who live in the country(4), not of towns.

country /'kʌntri/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [C] land occupied by a nation: *European countries*. **2** [C] land of a person's birth or citizenship: *to return to one's own ~*. **3** **the ~**, the people of a country(1); the nation as a whole: *Does the ~ want war?* **4** **the ~**, land used for farming, land consisting of open spaces, etc; the contrary of town and suburb: *to live in the ~*. **5** area of land (esp considered with reference to its physical or geographical features): *We passed through miles of densely wooded ~*. (Note: used without a or the.) **6** (as an adjective) of or in the country(4): ~ life; ~ roads.

country-man /'kʌntrɪmən/, **country woman** /'kʌntriwʊmən/ *n* [C] (pl -men, -women) **1** person living in the country(4). **2** person of one's own (or a specified) country(1).

country-side /'kʌntrɪsaɪd/ *n* [U] rural area(s) (contrasted with urban areas): *Many people think that the English ~ looks its best in May and June*.

county /'kaunti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [C] division of Great Britain, the largest unit of local government: *the ~ of Kent*; *the home counties*, those round London. **2** (in US and other countries) subdivision of a State.

county council, body of persons elected to administer a county.

coup /ku:/ *n* [C] (pl ~s /ku:z/) (Fr) **1** sudden action taken to get power, obtain a desired result, etc: *He made/pulled off a great ~*, succeeded in what he attempted. **2** = coup d'état.

coup d'état /'ku: der'tɑ:/, *n* [C] violent or unconstitutional change in government.

coupé /'ku:peɪ/ *US*: ku:'peɪ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) roofed two-door car with a sloping back.

couple¹ /'kʌpl/ *n* [C] **1** two persons or things, seen together or associated: *Here is a ~ of pounds towards the expenses*. *I'll ring you in a ~ of days*, in two days time. **2** man and his wife: *married ~s*; partners in a dance, relationship, etc: *They make a handsome ~*.

couple² /'kʌpl/ *vt, vi* **1** fasten, join (two things) together: *We ~ the name of Oxford with the idea of learning*. **2** marry; (of animals) unite sexually; (of things) come together; unite.

coup-let /'kʌplɪt/ *n* [C] two successive lines of verse, equal in length and with rhyme.

coup-ling /'kʌplɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] act of joining. **2** [C] link, etc that joins two parts, esp two railway coaches or other vehicles.

cou-pon /'ku:pən/ *n* [C] **1** ticket, part of a document, paper, bond, etc, which gives the holder the right to receive or do something, eg a voucher given with a purchase to be exchanged for goods. **2** entry form for a competition; form(8) in a newspaper, etc for buying by post, obtaining brochures, etc: *Fill in the ~ below and send it to...*

cour-age /'kʌrɪdʒ/ *US*: 'kər-/ *n* [U] quality that makes a person able to control fear in the

face of danger, pain, etc. **take courage**, be brave. ⇨ also pluck(4).

cour-ageous /kə'reɪdʒəs/ *adj* brave; fearless: *It was ~ of him to chase the gunman.*

cour-ageous-ly *adv*

cour-gette /kʊə'ʒet/ *n* (US = zucchini) small green marrow(3) eaten as a vegetable.

cour-ier /'kʊəriə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 person who is paid to attend to details of travel (eg buying tickets, arranging for hotels, etc) and (sometimes) accompanying travellers. 2 messenger carrying news or important government papers.

course¹ /kɔ:s/ *n* 1 [U] forward movement in space or time: *a river in its ~ to the sea*; *the ~ of events*. **in due course**, in the natural order; at the normal time: *Sow the seed now and in due ~ you will have the flowers.* **in the course of**, during: *in the ~ of conversation*. 2 [C] direction taken by something; line along which something moves; line of action: *a map that shows the ~s of the chief rivers*; *The ship is on/off (her) right ~*, is going/not going in the right direction. *The ~ of the argument suddenly changed*, went in a different direction. *The disease must run its ~*. (**as**) **a matter of course**, that which one would expect to be or happen, for which no effort is needed: *You needn't ask him to come; he'll come as a matter of ~*. **of course**, naturally; certainly: *'Do you study hard?' 'Of ~ I do'.* 3 [C] ground for games, sport: *a 'golf-~*; *a 'race-~*. 4 [C] series of talks, treatments, etc: *a ~ of lectures*; *a ~ of X-ray treatment*. 5 [C] continuous layer of brick, stone, etc in a wall: *a 'damp-~*. 6 [C] one of the several parts of a meal, eg soup, fish, dessert: *a five-~ dinner*; *the main ~*.

course² /kɔ:s/ *vt, vi* 1 chase (esp hares) with greyhounds. 2 move quickly; (of liquids) run: *The blood ~d through his veins.*

cours-ing /'kɔ:sɪŋ/ *n* [U] sport of chasing hares with greyhounds (by sight, not scent).

court¹ /kɔ:t/ *n* 1 [C] place where legal cases are held; the judges, magistrates and other officers who administer justice: *a ~ of 'law/a 'law ~*; *a '~-room*. *The prisoner was brought to ~ for trial*. *Silence in ~*. 2 **the C~**, (residence of a) great ruler, king, queen, emperor, his family and officials, councillors, etc; state gathering or reception given by a ruler: *The C~ went into mourning when the Queen's uncle died*. 3 [C] space marked out for certain games: *a 'tennis-~*.

'court-card, playing-card with a king, queen or Jack.

'court-yard, unroofed space with walls or buildings round it.

court² /kɔ:t/ *vt, vi* 1 try to win the affections of, with a view to marriage: *He had been ~ing Jane for six months*. *There were several ~ing couples in the park*. 2 try to win or obtain: *to ~ a person's approval/support*. 3 act in such a way that one may meet or receive (something disagreeable): *That would be ~ing disaster*.

cour-teous /'kɔ:tɪəs/ *adj* having, showing,

good manners; polite and kind (to).

cour-teous-ly *adv*

cour-tesy /'kɔ:tɪsɪ/ *n* (pl -ies) 1 [U] courteous behaviour. 2 [C] courteous act. 3 **by cour-tesy of**, by favour or permission, usually free of charge: *a radio programme presented by ~ of...*

court-ier /'kɔ:tɪə(r)/ *n* [C] person in attendance at the court of a sovereign: *the King and his ~s*.

court-ly /'kɔ:tlɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (formal) polite and dignified.

court-mar-tial /'kɔ:t 'mɑ:ʃl/ *n* [C] (pl courts-martial) court for trying offences against military law; such a trial. *o vi* (-ll-) try (a person) in a court of this kind.

court-ship /'kɔ:tʃɪp/ *n* [U] courting(1); [C] period during which this lasts: *after a brief ~*.

cousin /'kʌzn/ *n* [C]: (first) ~, child of one's uncle or aunt; second ~, child of one's parent's first cousin. ⇨ removed.

cove /kəʊv/ *n* [C] small bay².

cov-en-ant /'kʌvəmənt/ *n* [C] 1 (legal) formal agreement that is legally binding. 2 undertaking to make regular payments to a charity, trust, etc. *o vi, vi* make a covenant.

Cov-en-try /'kʌvəntri/ *n* **send a person to Coventry**, refuse to associate with him.

cover¹ /'kʌvə(r)/ *n* 1 [C] thing that covers: *Some chairs are fitted with loose ~s*. 2 [C] binding of a book, magazine, etc; back or front half of this: *The book needs a new ~*.

from cover to cover, from beginning to end: *I read the book from ~ to ~*. 3 [C] wrapper or envelope. **under separate cover**, in a separate parcel or envelope. 4 [U] place or area giving shelter or protection: *There was nowhere where we could take ~*, eg from rain. **take cover**, place oneself where one is concealed or protected from enemy fire. 5 [U] woods or undergrowth protecting animals, etc. 6 [U] **under cover of**, with a pretence of: *under ~ of friendship/darkness*. 7 [U] force of aircraft protecting a land or sea operation. 8 insurance against loss, damage, etc: *Does your policy provide adequate ~ against fire?*

cover² /'kʌvə(r)/ *vi* 1 place (one substance or thing) over or in front of (another); hide or protect (something) in this way; lie or extend over; occupy the surface of: *C~ the table with a cloth*. *Snow ~ed the ground*. *He laughed to ~ (= hide) his nervousness*. **cover up**, (a) **wrap up**: *C~ yourself up well*. Put on warm clothes, etc. (b) **hide**: *How can we ~ up our tracks/our mistakes?* Hence, **'cover-up** *n* [C]. 2 **be covered with**, (a) have a great number or amount of: *trees ~ed with blossom/fruit*. (b) have as a natural coat: *Cats are ~ed with fur*. (c) be overcome by: *~ed with shame/confusion*. 3 sprinkle or strew with: *The table is ~ed with/in dust*. 4 bring on oneself: *~ oneself with glory/honour/disgrace*. 5 protect: *He ~ed his wife from the man's blows with his own body*. *Are you ~ed (= insured) against fire and*

theft? **6** travel (a certain distance): *By sunset we had ~ed thirty miles.* **7** keep a gun aimed at a person (so that he cannot shoot or escape): *Keep them ~ed!* **8** (of guns, fortresses, etc) command(**5**); dominate: *Our heavy artillery ~ed every possible approach to the town.* **9** (of money) be enough for: *We have only just ~ed our expenses,* made enough for our expenses, but no profit. **10** include; extend over; be adequate for: *His researches ~ed a wide field.* *This book does not fully ~ the subject,* does not deal with all aspects of it. **11** (in games such as cricket and baseball) stand behind (a player) to stop balls that he may miss. **12** (of a journalist) report (what is said and done at meetings, on public occasions, etc): *~ the Labour Party's conference.*

cover-age /'kʌvərɪdʒ/ *n* [U] covering of events, etc: *TV ~ of the election campaign,* eg by televising political meetings, interviews with candidates and voters. ⇨ **cover**² (**12**).

cover-ing /'kʌvərɪŋ/ *n* [C] thing that covers: *a thin ~ of snow.* □ *adj:* *a ~ing letter,* one sent with a document or with goods, etc.

cover-let /'kʌvərlɪt/ *n* [C] bedspread.

cov-ert¹ /'kʌvət/ *US* also /'kəʊvət/ *adj* (of glances, threats, etc) half-hidden; disguised.

cov-ert-ly *adv*

cov-ert² /'kʌvət/ *n* [C] area of thick undergrowth in which animals hide.

cov-et /'kʌvɪt/ *vt* desire eagerly (esp something belonging to somebody else).

cov-et-ous /'kʌvɪtəs/ *adj* (formal) **covetous of**, wanting eagerly (esp things belonging to somebody else).

cov-et-ous-ly *adv*

cow¹ /kaʊ/ *n* [C] **1** fully grown female of any animal of the ox family, esp the domestic kind kept by farmers for producing milk. **2** female elephant, rhinoceros, whale, etc.

'cow-boy, man (usually on horseback) who looks after cattle in the western parts of the US.

'cow-hand, **'cow-herd**, person who looks after grazing cattle.

'cow-hide, leather (or a strip of leather as a whip) made from a cow's hide.

'cow-man, man responsible for milking cows.

'cow-shed, building in which cows are kept or to which they are taken to be milked.

cow² /kaʊ/ *vt* frighten (a person) into submission: *The child had a ~ed look,* looked frightened because of threats of violence, etc.

cow-ard /'kaʊəd/ *n* [C] **1** person unable to control his fear. **2** person who runs away from responsibility, dangerous situations, etc.

cow-ard-ly *adj* (a) not brave. (b) of or like a coward: *~ly behaviour.*

cow-ard-ice /'kaʊədis/ *n* [U] feeling, way of behaviour, of a coward.

cower /'kaʊə(r)/ *vi* lower the body; shrink back from cold, misery, fear, shame: *The dog ~ed under the table when its master raised the*

whip.

cowl /kaʊl/ *n* [C] **1** long, loose gown (as worn by monks) with a hood that can be pulled over the head; the hood itself. **2** metal cap for a chimney, ventilating pipe, etc often made so as to revolve with the wind and improve the draught(**1**).

cow-pox /'kaʊpɒks/ *n* [C] contagious disease of cattle, caused by a virus which is the source of vaccine for smallpox.

cox /kɒks/ *n* [C] (informal) (abbr of) coxswain. □ *vt, vi* act as coxswain.

cox-swain /'kɒksn/ *n* [C] **1** person who steers a rowing-boat, esp in races. **2** person in charge of a ship's boat and crew.

coy /kɔɪ/ *adj* (-er, -est) (esp of a girl) (pretending to be) shy, modest.

coy-ly *adv*

coy-ote /'kɔɪəʊt/ *US:* /'kaɪəʊt/ *n* [C] prairie wolf of western N America.

crab /kræb/ *n* [C] ten-legged shellfish; [U] its meat as food.

crab-apple /'kræb æpl/ *n* [C] wild apple-tree; its hard, sour fruit: *~ jelly.*

crab-bed /'kræbɪd/ *adj* **1** bad-tempered; easily irritated. **2** (of handwriting) difficult to read. **3** (of writings, authors) difficult to understand.

crack¹ /kræk/ *n* [C] **1** line or division where something is broken, but not into separate parts: *a cup with bad ~s in it.* **2** sudden, sharp noise (as of a rifle or whip): *the ~ of thunder.* **3** sharp blow which can be heard: *give/get a ~ on the head.* **4** *have a crack at sth*, make an attempt at something which is difficult. **5** first-rate; very clever or expert: *He's a ~ shot,* expert at using a rifle.

crack² /kræk/ *vt, vi* **1** get or make a crack or cracks(**1**) in: *I can ~ it, but I can't break it.* **2** make, cause to make, a crack or cracks(**2**): *to ~ a whip/the joints of the fingers.* **3** *crack down on (sb/sth)*, take disciplinary action against: *~ down on gambling.* **crack up**, (a) lose strength (in old age). (b) suffer a mental collapse. **crack a joke**, make one. **get cracking**, get busy (with work waiting to be done).

cracker /'kræke(r)/ *n* [C] **1** thin, flaky, dry biscuit (as eaten with cheese). **2** firework that makes cracking noises when set off: *The Chinese use ~s to frighten away evil spirits.* ⇨ also Christmas cracker, nutcrackers.

crackers /'krækeɪz/ *adj* (sf) mad; crazy.

crackle /'krækl/ *vi* make a series of small cracking sounds, as when one treads on dry twigs, or when dry sticks burn: *A cheerful wood fire was crackling on the hearth.* □ *n* [U] small cracking sounds, as described above: *the distant ~ of machine-gun fire.*

crack-ling /'kræklɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** crackle. **2** crisp skin of roast pork.

crack-pot /'krækpɒt/ *adj, n* [C] eccentric (person with strange ideas): *~ ideas.*

-cracy /-krəsi/ *suffix* (used to form a noun)

government, rule, class, characterized by: *democracy; aristocracy.*

cradle /'kreɪdl/ *n* [C] **1** small bed, sometimes mounted on rockers, for a newborn baby. **from the cradle to the grave**, from birth to death. **2** (fig) place where something is born or begins: *Greece, the ~ of Western culture.* **3** framework resembling a cradle or which is used like a cradle, eg a structure on which a ship is supported while being built or repaired. **4** part of a telephone apparatus on which the receiver rests. □ *vt* place, hold, in or as in a cradle: *cradling a baby in one's arms.*

craft /kra:ft/ *US: kræft/ n* **1** [C] occupation, esp one in which skill in the use of the hands is needed; such a skill or technique: *the potter's ~, 'needle~, 'wood~, 'handi~.* **2** [C] those engaged in such an occupation, organized in a guild or union: *the ~ of masons.* **3** [C] (pl unchanged) boat(s), ship(s): *The harbour was full of all kinds of ~.* ⇨ also *aircraft, spacecraft.* **4** [U] cunning; trickery; skill in deceiving: *Be careful when you do business with him; he's full of ~.* ⇨ *crafty.*

craft-ily /-əli/ *adv*

crafti-ness *n* [U]

crafts-man /'kra:ftsmən/ *US: 'kræfts-/ n* [C] (pl -men) skilled workman who practises a craft.

crafty /'kra:fti/ *US: 'kræfti/ adj* (-ier, -iest) cunning; showing skill in trickery or deceit.

crag /kræg/ *n* [C] high, steep, sharp or rugged mass of rock.

craggy *adj* (-ier, -iest) having many crags.

cram /kræm/ *vt, vi* (-mm-) **1** *cram into/with*, make too full; put, push, very much or too much into: *to ~ food into one's mouth/ ~ one's mouth with food.* **2** fill the head with facts (for an examination): *to ~ pupils.*

cram-ful /-'fʊl/ *adj, adv* as full as cramming can make it.

cramp¹ /kræmp/ *n* [U] sudden and painful tightening of the muscles, usually caused by cold or overwork, making movement difficult: *The swimmer was seized with/ had ~ and had to be helped out of the water.*

cramp² /kræmp/ *vt* **1** keep in a narrow space; slow down or prevent the movement or growth of: *All these difficulties ~ed his progress. We are/ feel ~ed for space here.* **2** cause to have, affect with, *cramp*¹. **3** fasten with a *cramp*³.

cramp³ /kræmp/ *n* [C] **1** (also *'~iron*) metal bar with the ends bent, used for holding together masonry or timbers. **2** tool with a moveable part which can be screwed up to hold things.

cram-pon /'kræmpən/ *n* [C] (usually *pl*) iron plate with spikes, worn on shoes for walking or climbing on ice.

cran-berry /'krænbri/ *US: -beri/ n* [C] (pl -ies) small, red berry of a shrub, used for making jelly and sauce.

crane¹ /kreɪn/ *n* [C] **1** large wading bird with

long legs and neck. **2** machine with a long arm that can be swung round, used for lifting and moving heavy weights.

crane² /kreɪn/ *vt, vi* stretch (the neck): *to ~ forward; to ~ one's neck in order to see.*

crane-fly /'kreɪn flaɪ/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) kind of fly with very long legs.

cran-ial /'kreɪniəl/ *adj* (anat) of the skull.

cran-ium /'kreɪniəm/ *n* [C] (anat) bony part of the head enclosing the brain.

crank¹ /kræŋk/ *n* [C] L-shaped arm and handle for making something turn. □ *vt* move, cause to move, by turning a crank: *to ~ up an engine.*

'crank-shaft, shaft that turns or is turned by a crank.

crank² /kræŋk/ *n* [C] person with fixed (and often strange) ideas, esp on one subject: *Don't go to that doctor—he's a ~!*

cranky *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) (of people, ideas) odd; eccentric. (b) (of buildings, machines, etc) unsteady; shaky.

cranny /'kræni/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) small crack or opening, eg in a wall.

crap /kræp/ *n* [U] (sl) nonsense.

crash¹ /kræʃ/ *n* [C] **1** (noise made by a) violent fall, blow or breaking: *The tree fell with a great ~. He was killed in a 'plane ~.* **2** ruin; collapse (eg in trade, finance): *The great ~ on Wall Street in 1929 ruined international trade.* □ *adv* with a crash.

'crash-barrier, fence, railing, etc used to keep people, vehicles, etc apart (eg along the centre of a motorway).

'crash-course/-programme, one designed to achieve quick results.

'crash-helmet, hard helmet worn, eg by a motor-cyclist, to protect the head in a crash.

'crash-land *vi, vt* (of aircraft) land, be landed, wholly or partly out of control. Hence,

'crash-landing *n* [C, U]

crash² /kræʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** fall or strike suddenly, violently, and noisily (esp of things that break): *The bus ~ed into a tree. The aircraft ~ed.* **2** cause to crash: *to ~ an aircraft.* **3** force or break through violently: *elephants ~ing through the jungle.* **4** (of a business company, government, etc) come to ruin; meet disaster: *His great financial scheme ~ed.*

crass /kræs/ *adj* (of such qualities as ignorance, stupidity, etc) complete; very great.

-crat /-kræt/ *suffix* (used to form a *noun*) member, supporter, of a government, class, etc: *democrat; aristocrat.*

-cratic /-krætɪk/ (used to form an *adjective*): *democratic.*

crate /kreɪt/ *n* [C] large framework of light boards or basketwork for carrying goods in transport. □ *vt* put in a crate.

cra-ter /'kreɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** mouth of a volcano. **2** hole in the ground made by the explosion of a bomb, shell, etc.

cra-vat /krə'væt/ *n* [C] piece of cloth loosely folded and worn round the neck as a tie.

crave /kreɪv/ *vt, vi* ask earnestly for, have a strong desire for: *to ~ (for) forgiveness; to ~ for a drink.*

craving /'kreɪvɪŋ/ *n* [C] very strong desire: *a ~ for whisky.*

crawl /krɔ:l/ *vi* **1** move slowly, pulling the body along the ground or other surface (as worms and snakes do); (of human beings) move in this way, or on the hands and knees: *The wounded soldier ~ed into a shell-hole.* **2** go very slowly: *Our train ~ed over the damaged bridge.* **3** be full of, covered with, things that crawl: *The ground was ~ing with ants.* **4** (of the flesh) feel as if covered with crawling things: *She says that the sight of snakes makes her flesh ~.* **□ n** **1** [U] crawling movement: *Traffic in Oxford Street was reduced to a ~ during the rush hours.* **2** the ~, swimming style, bringing the arms over the head while lying on one's stomach.

crawler, (**a**) person or thing that crawls. (**b**) (*pl*) article of clothing made for a baby to crawl about in.

cray-fish /'kreɪfɪʃ/ *n* [C] freshwater shellfish like a lobster.

crayon /'kreɪən/ *n* [C] stick or pencil of coloured chalk, wax or charcoal. **□ vt** draw with crayons.

crave /kreɪz/ *vt* make wildly excited or mad: *a ~d look/expression; a half-~d prophet.* (Note: usually used as a *pp.*) **□ n** [C] enthusiastic interest that may last for a comparatively short time; the object of such interest: *the modern ~ for rock music.* **◇** *rage* (3).

crazy /'kreɪzi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** wildly excited or enthusiastic: *I'm ~ about/for you, darling.* **2** suffering from mental disorder; foolish: *You were ~ to lend that man your money.*

crazy paving, (of pavements) made up of irregularly shaped pieces.

craz-ily /-əli/ *adv*

crazi-ness *n* [U]

creak /kri:k/ *n* [C], *vi* (make a) sound like an unoiled hinge.

creaky *adj* (-ier, -iest) making creaking sounds: *~y stairs.*

cream /kri:m/ *n* [U] **1** fatty or oily part of milk which rises to the surface and can be made into butter. **2** kind of food containing or resembling cream: *~ cheese; ice-~.* **3** substance like cream in appearance or consistency, used for polishing, as a cosmetic, etc: *'furniture ~; 'face-~.* **4** part of a liquid that gathers at the top: *~ of tartar/lime.* **5** best part of anything: *the ~ of society*, those of highest rank. **6** yellowish-white colour. **□ adj** yellowish-white. **□ vt** take cream from (milk); add cream to: *~ed potatoes.*

creamy *adj* (-ier, -iest) smooth and rich like cream; containing cream: *~y butter.*

cream-ery /'kri:məri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** place where milk, cream, butter, cheese, etc are sold. **2** butter and cheese factory.

crease /kri:s/ *n* [C] **1** line made (on cloth,

paper, etc) by crushing, folding or pressing. **2** white line on a cricket pitch to mark the positions of certain players. **□ vt, vi** make, get a crease in: *This material ~s easily.*

cre-ate /kri'eɪt/ *vi* **1** cause something to exist; make (something new or original): *God ~d the world.* *Dickens ~d many wonderful characters in his novels.* **2** give rise to; produce: *His behaviour ~d a bad impression.* **3** invest (a person) with a rank: *He was ~d Baron of Bunsford.*

cre-ation /kri'eɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] the act of creating (eg the world): *the ~ of great works of art/of an Empire.* **2** the C~, the world or universe as created by God. **3** [U] production of the human intelligence, esp one in which imagination has a part: *the ~s of poets, artists, composers and dramatists.* *The women were wearing the newest ~s of the Paris dressmakers.*

cre-ative /kri'eɪtɪv/ *adj* having power to create; of creation: *useful and ~ work*, ie requiring intelligence and imagination.

cre-ative-ly *adv*

cre-ator /kri'eɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] person who creates. the C~, God.

crea-ture /kri:tʃə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** living animal. **2** living person: *a lovely ~*, a beautiful woman.

'creature comforts, material needs such as food and drink.

crèche /'kreɪʃ/ *n* [C] **1** (GB) public nursery where babies are looked after while their mothers are at work. **2** (US) = crib (3).

cre-dence /'kri:dəns/ *n* [U] **give/attach credence to**, (formal) believe (gossip, what is said, etc).

cre-den-tials /kri'denʃlɪz/ *n pl* letters or papers showing that a person is what he claims to be: *His ~ were so satisfactory that he was given the post of manager.*

cred-ible /'kredəbl/ *adj* that can be believed: *~ witnesses.*

cred-ibly /-əblɪ/ *adv* in a credible manner.

credi-bil-ity /'kredi'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

credit /'kredit/ *n* **1** [U] belief of others that a person, business company, etc can pay debts, or will keep a promise to pay: *No ~ is given at this shop*, payment must be in cash. **2** [U] money shown as owned by a person, company, etc in a bank account: *You have a ~ balance of £250.* **3** [C] sum of money advanced or loaned (by a bank, etc): *The bank refused further ~s to the company.* **4** (book-keeping) record of payments received: *Does this item go among the ~s or the debts?* **5** [C] (US) entry on a record to show that a course of study has been completed: *~s in history and geography.* **6** [U] honour, approval, good name or reputation: *a man of the highest ~.* **get/take credit (for sth)**, receive recognition, etc; take it: *He's cleverer than I gave him ~ for*, than I thought. **7** addition to a person's reputation: *The work does you ~.* **be a credit to sb/sth**, add to the good name of: *Your son is a ~ to you.* **8** [U] belief; trust; confidence: *The rumour is gaining ~.* **9** [C] (usually *pl*) names on

a film of persons responsible for acting, directing, etc.

'credit account, account with a shop, etc with an agreement for payments at a later date, eg monthly or quarterly.

'credit card, (a) one issued by a business firm allowing the holder to obtain goods on credit(1). (b) one issued by a bank allowing the holder to have money from its branches or use cheques to buy goods up to a written amount.

'credit side, (a) right-hand side of an account(1) showing payments received. (b) (fig) favourable comments about a person: *He is easily annoyed and can also be boring, but on the ~ side he is generous.*

'credit-squeeze, government policy of making it difficult to borrow money (as part of an anti-inflation policy).

credit-titles, *n pl* = credit(9).

'credit-worthy, *adj* (accepted as being) safe to offer credit to.

credit² /'kredit/ *vt* **1** believe that a person or thing has something: *Until now I've always ~ed you with more sense. The relics are ~ed with miraculous powers. Miraculous powers are ~ed to the relics.* **2** enter on the credit side of an account: *~ a customer with £10; ~ £10 to a customer/to his account.*

credi-table /'kreditəbl/ *adj* that brings credit(6,7,8): *a ~ attempt.*

credi-tably /-əbli/ *adv*

credi-tor /'kreditə(r)/ *n* [C] person to whom one owes money: *run away from one's ~s.*

cre-du-lity /kri'dʒʊləti/ *US*: -'du:-/ *n* [U] too great a readiness to believe things.

cre-du-lous /'kredʒʊləs/ *adj* (too) ready to believe things: *~ people who accept all the promises of the politicians.*

cre-du-lous-ly *adv*

creed /kri:d/ *n* [C] (system of) beliefs or opinions, esp on religious doctrine. **the C~**, (formal) summary of Christian doctrine.

creek /kri:k/ *n* [C] **1** (GB) narrow inlet of water on the coast or in a river-bank. **2** (US) small river.

creep /kri:p/ *vi* (pt,pp crept /krep/) **1** move along with the body close to the ground or floor: *The cat crept silently towards the bird.* **2** move slowly, quietly or secretly: *The thief crept along the corridor.* **3** (of time, age, etc) come on gradually: *Old age ~s on one un-awares.* **3** (of plants, etc) grow along the ground, over the surface of a wall, etc: *Ivy had crept over the ruined castle walls.* **4** (of the flesh) have the feeling that things are creeping over it (as the result of fear, repugnance, etc): *The sight of the cold, damp prison cell, with rats running about, made her flesh ~.* ⇨ **crawl**(4). □ *n* [C] (informal) person whose character is strongly disliked.

creeper /'kri:pə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** insect, bird, etc that creeps: **2** plant that grows along the ground, over rocks, walls, etc.

creepy /'kri:p/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) having or causing fear: *The ghost story made us all ~.*

cre-mate /kri'meit/ *vt* burn (a corpse) to ashes: *He says he wants to be ~d, not buried.*

cre-ma-tion /kri'meɪʃn/ *n* [U] cremating; [C] instance of this.

cre-ma-tor-ium /kremə'tɔ:riəm/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) furnace, building, place, for the cremating of corpses.

cre-ma-tory /'kremətəri/ *US*: -tɔ:ri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) = crematorium.

crepe, crêpe /kreip/ *n* [U] name for kinds of wrinkled cloth or paper.

'crepe paper, thin paper with a wavy or wrinkled surface.

crepe rubber, raw rubber with a wrinkled surface, used for the soles of shoes, etc.

crept /krep/ ⇨ **creep**.

cres-cendo /kri'fendəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s), *adj* **1** (passage of music to be played, something heard) with, of, increasing loudness. **2** (fig) progress towards a climax.

cres-cent /'kresnt/ *n* [C] **1** (something shaped like) the curve of the moon in the first quarter. **2** row of houses in the form of a crescent.

cross /kres/ *n* [U] name of various plants, esp the kind (water~) with hot-tasting leaves (used in salads and sandwiches).

crest /krest/ *n* [C] **1** tuft of feathers on a bird's head. **2** decoration like a crest formerly worn on the top of a helmet. **3** design over the shield of a coat of arms, or used separately (eg on a seal, or on notepaper): *the family ~*, one used by a family. **4** top of a slope or hill; white top of a large wave. **on the crest of a wave**, (fig) at the most favourable moment of one's fortunes. □ *vt* reach the crest of a hill, a wave.

'crest-fallen, (fig) very disappointed.

cre-tin /'kretin/ *US*: 'kritən/ *n* [C] deformed and mentally undeveloped person.

cre-vasse /kri'væs/ *n* [C] deep, open crack, esp in ice on a glacier.

crev-ice /'krevis/ *n* [C] narrow opening or crack (in a rock, wall, etc).

crew¹ /kru:/ *n* [C] **1** all the persons working a ship or aircraft; all these except the officers: *officers and ~*. **2** person or persons on a yacht or plane working under the direction of the helmsman or pilot. **3** group of persons working together; gang. □ *vi* act as crew(2): *Will you ~ for me in tomorrow's race?*

crib¹ /krib/ *n* [C] **1** wooden framework from which animals can pull out food. **2** representation (eg in a church at Christmas) of the nativity. **3** small bed for a newborn baby.

crib² /krib/ *n* [C] **1** something copied dishonestly from the work of another. **2** word-for-word translation of a foreign text used by students of the language. □ *vi*, *vi* (-bb-) **1** use a crib(2). **2** copy (another student's written work) dishonestly.

cricket¹ /'krikɪt/ *n* [C] small, brown jumping insect which makes a shrill noise by rubbing

its front wings together.

cricket² /'kɹɪkɪt/ *n* [U] ball game (1 ~ *match*) played on a field by two teams of eleven players each, with bats and wickets.

cricketer, cricket player.

cried /kraɪd/ *v* cry².

crier /'kraɪə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 officer who makes public announcements in a court of law. 2 person (esp a young child) who cries (2) a lot.

cries /kraɪz/ *pres tense* of cry²; *pl* of cry¹.

crime /kraɪm/ *n* [C] 1 offence for which there is severe punishment by law; [U] such offences collectively; serious law-breaking: *to commit a serious ~. It is the business of the police to prevent and detect ~ and of the law courts to punish ~.* 2 foolish or wrong act, not necessarily an offence against the law: *It would be a ~ to send the boy out on such a cold, wet night.* 3 **crime-wave**, period when many crimes are committed.

crimi-nal /'krɪmɪnəl/ *adj* of crime: *a ~ act*. □ *n* [C] person who commits a crime or crimes.

crimi-nally /-nəli/ *adv*

crimi-nol-ogy /'krɪmɪ'nɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] the study of crime.

crim-son /'krɪmzən/ *adj*, *n* [U] deep red (colour). □ *vt, vi* make or become crimson; bluish.

cringe /'krɪndʒ/ *vi* 1 move (the body) back or down in fear: *The dog ~ed at the sight of the whip.* 2 behave (towards a superior) in a way that shows lack of self-respect; be too humble: *cringing to/before a policeman.*

crinkle /'krɪŋkl/ *n* [C] small, narrow wrinkle (in material such as foil or paper). □ *vt, vi* make or get crinkles in: *~d paper*, eg crêpe paper.

cripple /'krɪpl/ *n* [C] person unable to walk or move properly, through injury or weakness in the spine or legs. □ *vt* make a cripple of; damage or weaken seriously: *~d soldiers; activities ~d by lack of money.*

cri-sis /'kraɪsɪs/ *n* [C] (*pl* crises /-sɪ:z/) 1 turning-point in illness, life, history. 2 time of difficulty, danger or anxiety about the future: *a cabinet/financial ~.*

crisp /krɪsp/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 (esp of food) hard, dry and easily broken: *~ toast/biscuits.* 2 (of the air, the weather) frosty, cold: *the ~ air of an autumn morning.* 3 (of style, manners) quick, precise and decided; showing no doubts or hesitation: *a man with a ~ manner of speaking.* □ *n* [C] (US = *chips*) thin slices of potatoes, fried and dried (usually sold in packets). □ *vt, vi* make or become crisp.

crisp-ly *adv*

crisp-ness *n* [C]

criss-cross /'krɪskɹɒs/ US: -krɒs/ *adj*, *adv* (as) with crossed lines: *a ~ pattern/design*. □ *vt, vi* move diagonally; mark with lines that cross.

cri-ter-ion /'kraɪtəriən/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ria /-rɪə/ or ~s) standard of judgement; principle by which something is measured for value: *Success in making money is not always a good ~ of real success in life.*

critic /'krɪtɪk/ *n* [C] 1 person who forms and gives judgements, esp about literature, art, music, etc: *musical/dramatic/literary ~s.* 2 person who finds fault, points out mistakes, etc: *I am my own most severe ~.*

criti-cal /'krɪtɪkl/ *adj* 1 of or at a crisis: *We are at a ~ time in our history.* The patient's condition is ~. He is dangerously ill. 2 of the work of a critic: *~ opinions on art and literature.* 3 fault-finding: *~ remarks.*

criti-cally /-klɪ/ *adv* in a critical (1) manner: *He's ~ly ill.*

criti-cism /'krɪtɪsɪzəm/ *n* 1 [U] the work of a critic; the art of making judgements (concerning art, literature, etc). 2 [C] judgement or opinion on literature, art, etc. 3 [U] fault-finding; [C] remark, etc that finds fault.

criti-cize (also -ise) /'krɪtɪsaɪz/ *vt, vi* form and give a judgement of; find fault with: *~ somebody for doing something.*

cri-tique /krɪ'tɪk/ *n* [C] critical essay or review.

croak /krɒk/ *n* [C] deep, hoarse sound (as made by frogs). □ *vt, vi* 1 make this kind of sound. 2 say in a croaking voice. 3 (*sl*) = die².

cro-chet /'krɒʃet/ US: krɒʃ'eɪ/ *vt, vi* make (material) with a thread looped over others with the help of a small hooked needle (called a ~-hook). □ *n* [U] material (eg lace) made or being made in this way.

crock /krɒk/ *n* [C] pot or jar made of baked earth, eg for containing water; broken piece of such a pot.

crock-ery /'krɒkəri/ *n* [U] pots, plates, cups, dishes and other utensils (made of baked clay).

croco-dile /'krɒkədɪl/ *n* [C] 1 large, river reptile with a long body and tail, covered with a hard skin. 2 (*informal*) (school children) walking in procession, two by two.

crocodile tears, insincere sorrow.

cro-cus /'krɒkəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) (kind of) small plant which flowers early in spring with large, coloured petals.

croft /krɒft/ US: krɒft/ *n* [C] small, enclosed field; small farm.

crofter, person who rents or owns a small farm, esp a joint tenant of a farm in Scotland.

crook /krʊk/ *n* [C] 1 stick or staff with a rounded hook at one end, esp such a stick used by a shepherd. 2 bend or curve, eg in a river or path. 3 (*informal*) person who makes a living by dishonest or criminal means. □ *vt, vi* bend into the shape of a crook: *to ~ one's finger/arm.*

crooked /'krʊkɪd/ *adj* 1 not straight or level; twisted; bent: *a ~ little man. You've got your hat on ~.* 2 (of a person or his actions) dishonest; not straightforward.

crook-ed-ly *adv*

croon /kru:n/ *vt, vi* hum or sing gently in a narrow range of notes: *~ a lullaby.*

crop¹ /krɒp/ *n* [C] 1 yearly (or season's) produce of grain, grass, fruit, etc: *the potato ~.* 2

(pl) agricultural plants in the fields: *to get the ~s in*. **3** group of persons or things, amount of anything, appearing or produced together: *The Prime Minister's statement produced a ~ of questions*.

crop² /krop/ *n* [C] **1** bag-like part of a bird's throat where food is broken up for digestion before passing into the stomach. **2** very short hair-cut.

crop³ /krop/ *vt, vi* (-pp-) **1** (of animals) bite off the tops of (grass, plants, etc); graze: *The sheep had ~ped the grass short*. **2** cut short (a person's hair, a horse's tail or ears). **3** sow or plant: *to ~ ten acres with wheat*. **4** bear a crop: *The beans ~ped well this year*. **5** **crop up/out**, (of rock, minerals) show up above the earth's surface. **6** **crop up**, appear or happen (esp unexpectedly): *All sorts of difficulties ~ped up*.

croquet /'kraʊkeɪ *US: krəʊ'keɪ* *n* [U] game played on short grass with wooden balls which are knocked with wooden mallets through hoops.

crozier, **crozier** /'kraʊziə(r) *US: -ʒər* *n* [C] bishop's staff, usually shaped like a shepherd's crook.

cross¹ /krɒs *US: krɔːs* *adj* **1** (informal) bad-tempered; easily or quickly showing anger: *Don't be ~ with the child for being late*. **2** (of winds) contrary; opposed: *Strong ~ winds made it difficult for the yachts to leave harbour*.

cross-ly *adv*

cross-ness *n* [U]

cross² /krɒs *US: krɔːs* *n* [C] **1** mark made by drawing one line across another, eg ×, +: *The place is marked on the map with a ~*. **2** line or stroke forming part of a letter (eg the horizontal stroke on a 't'). **3** stake or post with another piece of wood across it like T, † or X, as used in ancient times for crucifixion, esp **the C~**, that on which Christ died; model of this as a religious emblem; sign of a cross made with the right hand as a religious act. **4** (fig) suffering; affliction; burden of sorrow: *to bear one's ~*. **5** emblem, in the form of a cross or a star, (to be) worn by an order of knighthood; decoration for personal valour: *the Victoria C~*. **6** (place of) crossing. (*cut*) **on the cross**, diagonally: *This skirt material was cut on the ~*. **7** offspring of animals or plants of different sorts or breeds: *A mule is a ~ between a horse and an ass*.

cross³ /krɒs *US: krɔːs* *vt, vi* **1** go across; pass from one side to the other side of: *to ~ a road/river/bridge/the sea/the Sahara*. **cross one's mind**, (of ideas, etc) occur to one: *The idea has just ~ed my mind that...* **2** draw a line or lines across or through: *Two of the words had been ~ed out. I ~ed his name off the list*. **cross a cheque**, draw two parallel lines across it so that it can only be paid into a bank account. **3** put or place across or over: *to ~ one's legs*. **keep one's fingers crossed**, (fig) hope for the best, that nothing will hap-

pen to upset one's plans, etc. **4** **cross oneself**, make the sign of the cross on or over oneself as a religious act, to invoke God's protection, or as a sign of awe. **5** (of persons travelling, letters in the post) meet and pass: *We ~ed each other on the way. Our letters ~ed in the post*. **6** oppose or obstruct (somebody, his plans, wishes, etc): *He was angry at having his plans ~ed*. **7** produce a cross(7) by mixing breeds.

cross-bar /'krɒsbɑː(r) *US: 'krɔːs-* *n* [C] bar going across, eg the bar joining the two upright posts of the goal (in football, etc) or the front and rear ends of a bicycle frame.

cross-beam /'krɒsbim *US: 'krɔːs-* *n* [C] beam placed across, esp one that supports parts of a structure.

cross-benches /'krɒsbentʃɪz *US: 'krɔːs-* *n* *pl* those benches in the House of Commons used by members who do not vote regularly with either the Government or the Opposition. Hence, **cross-bencher** *n* [C].

cross-bow /'krɒsbəʊ *US: 'krɔːs-* *n* [C] old kind of bow placed across a grooved wooden support, used for shooting arrows, bolts, stones, etc.

cross-bred /'krɒsbred *US: 'krɔːs-* *adj* produced by crossing breeds: ~ sheep.

cross-breed /'krɒsbriːd *US: 'krɔːs-* *n* [C] (in farming, etc) animal, plant, etc produced by crossing breeds.

cross-country /,krɒs'kʌntri *US: 'krɔːs-* *adj, adv* across the country or fields, not along roads: *a ~ race*.

cross-check /,krɒs'tʃek *US: 'krɔːs-* *vt, vi* verify, eg a method, calculation, by using a different method, etc: *We ~ed the results twice*. □ *n* [C] verification of this sort: *We'd better do a ~ on these figures*.

cross-current /'krɒs kərənt *US: 'krɔːs kərənt* *n* [C] (fig) body of opinion contrary to that of the majority.

cross-division /,krɒs dɪ'vɪʒn *US: 'krɔːs-* *n* [C] division of a group according to more than one factor at the same time so that subdivisions interrelate; instance of this.

cross-examine /,krɒs ɪg'zæmɪn *US: 'krɔːs-* *vt* question closely, esp to test answers already given to someone else, as in a law court, by counsel, etc.

cross-examiner, person who cross-examines.

cross-examination /,krɒs ɪg'zæmɪ'neɪʃn *US: 'krɔːs-* *n* [C]

cross-eyed /'krɒsaɪd *US: 'krɔːs-* *adj* with one or both eyeballs turned towards the nose.

cross-fer-ti-lize (also **-ise**) /,krɒs'fɜːtəlaɪz *US: 'krɔːs-* *vt* carry pollen from the stamens of one plant to the pistil of another plant.

cross-fer-ti-li-za-tion (also **-isation**) /,krɒs'fɜːtəlaɪ'zeɪʃn *US: 'krɔːs-lɪ'z-* *n* [U]

cross-fire /'krɒsfəɪə(r) *US: 'krɔːs-* *n* [U] **1** firing of guns from two or more points so that the lines of fire cross **2** (fig) situation in which

questions are put from persons in different places.

cross-grained /ˈkrɒs ˈɡreɪnd/ US: /ˈkrɒs/ *adj* **1** (of wood) with the grain in crossing directions. **2** (fig) difficult to please or get on with.

cross-ing /ˈkrɒsɪŋ/ US: /ˈkrɒs-/ *n* [C] **1** the act of going across, esp by sea: *We had a rough ~ from Dover to Calais.* **2** place where two roads, two railways, or a road and a railway cross. **3** *street ~*, place on a street where pedestrians are requested to cross. ⇨ **level crossing**.

cross-legged /ˈkrɒs ˈlegd/ US: /ˈkrɒs ˈlegɪd/ *adv* (of a person sitting) with one leg placed across the other.

cross-pur-poses /ˈkrɒs ˈpɜːpəzɪz/ US: /ˈkrɒs/ *n pl* **be at cross-purposes**, (of two persons or groups) misunderstand one another; have different and conflicting purposes.

cross-question /ˈkrɒs ˈkwɛstʃən/ US: /ˈkrɒs/ *vt* = cross-examine.

cross-ref-er-ence /ˈkrɒs ˈrefərəns/ US: /ˈkrɒs/ *n* [C] reference from one part of a book, file, etc to another, for further information.

cross-road /ˈkrɒsrəʊd/ US: /ˈkrɒs-/ *n* [C] **1** road that crosses another. **2** (*pl*) (used with a *sing verb*) place where two or more roads meet: *We came to a ~.*

cross-section /ˈkrɒs ˈsekʃn/ US: /ˈkrɒs/ *n* [C] **1** (drawing of a) piece or slice made by cutting across, eg a tree trunk. **2** (fig) typical or representative sample of the whole: *a ~ of the electors.*

cross-stitch /ˈkrɒs stɪtʃ/ US: /ˈkrɒs/ *n* [C] (needlework using a) stitch formed of two stitches that cross.

cross-wise /ˈkrɒs waɪz/ US: /ˈkrɒs/ *adv* across; diagonally; in the form of a cross.

cross-word /ˈkrɒswɜːd/ US: /ˈkrɒs-/ *n* [C] (also ~ *puzzle*) puzzle in which words have to be written (from numbered clues) vertically and horizontally (up and down) in spaces on a chequered pattern.

crotch /krɒtʃ/ *n* [C] **1** place where a branch forks from a tree: *The child was sitting in a ~ of a tree.* **2** place where a pair of trousers or a person's legs fork from the trunk.

crotchet /ˈkrɒtʃɪt/ *n* [C] (*music*) (US = *quarter note*) black-headed note with stem (♩), half of a minim.

crotchety *adj* bad-tempered.

crouch /kraʊtʃ/ *vi* lower the body with the limbs together (in fear or to hide, or, of animals, ready to jump). □ *n* [C] crouching position.

croup¹ /kruːp/ *n* [U] children's disease in which there is inflammation of the windpipe, with coughing and difficulty in breathing.

croup² /kruːp/ *n* [C] rump or buttocks of certain animals.

croupier /ˈkruːpiə/ *n* [C] person who rakes in the money at a gaming table and pays out winnings.

crow¹ /krəʊ/ *n* [C] (kinds of) large, black bird

with a harsh cry. **as the 'crow flies**, in a straight line.

'crow's feet *n pl* network of little lines on the skin near the outer corners of a person's eyes.

'crow's-nest, protected look-out platform fixed at the mast-head of a ship for the look-out man.

crow² /krəʊ/ *vi* **1** (of a cock) make a loud, shrill cry. **2** (of persons) make known a triumph in order to cause envy: *to ~ over passing the exam with distinction.* □ *n* [C] sound of a cock.

crow-bar /ˈkrəʊbɑː(r)/ *n* [C] straight, iron bar, often with a forked end, used as a lever for moving heavy objects.

crowd /kraʊd/ *n* [C] **1** large number of people together, but without order or organization: *He pushed his way through the ~.* **2** (*formal*) company of persons associated in some way; set of persons: *I can't afford to go about with that ~; they're too extravagant.* **3** large number (of things, usually without order): *a desk covered with a ~ of books and papers.* □ *vi, vt* **1** come together in a crowd: *Now, don't all ~ together! crowd round*, form a circle (round): *People quickly ~ round when there is a car accident.* **2** (cause to) move through, etc in a crowd; fill with: *They ~ed through the gates into the stadium. They ~ed the buses with passengers/ ~ed people into the buses.* **3** (*informal*) put pressure on: *Don't ~ me; give me time to think!*

crowded *adj* having large numbers of people: *~ed cities/trains.*

crown¹ /kraʊn/ *n* [C] **1** ornamental head-dress of gold, jewels, etc worn by a sovereign ruler; royal power: *succeed to the ~*, become the sovereign ruler. **2** circle or wreath of flowers or leaves worn on the head, esp as a sign of victory, or as a reward: *a martyr's ~.* **3** (until 1971) a *half-~*, British coin worth 2s 6d; *half a ~*, the sum of 2s 6d (= 12½ new pence). **4** top of the head or of a hat; part of a tooth that shows. **5** (fig) perfection, completion: *the ~ of one's labours.*

crown prince, next in succession to the throne.

crown witness, witness for the Prosecution in a criminal case.

crown² /kraʊn/ *vt* **1** put a crown on (a king or queen): *the ~ed heads* (= kings and queens) of Europe. **2** reward with a crown; give honour to; reward: *efforts that were ~ed with success.* **3** be or have at the top of: *The hill is ~ed with a wood.* **4** put a happy finishing touch to: *to open a bottle of wine to ~ a feast.* **to crown (it) all**, to complete good or bad fortune: *It rained, we had no umbrellas, and, to ~ all, we missed the last bus and had to walk home.* **5** put an artificial cover on a broken tooth.

crown-ing *adj* completing; making perfect: *Her ~ing glory is her hair.*

cro-zier /'krəʊziə(r) *US*: -ʒər/ *n* [C] = crosier.

cru-cial /'kru:ʃl/ *adj* decisive; critical: *the ~ test/question; at the ~ moment.*

cru-cially /-ʃəli/ *adv*

cru-cible /'kru:səbl/ *n* [C] pot in which metals are melted (eg in a chemistry laboratory).

cru-ci-fi-x /'kru:sɪfɪks/ *n* [C] model of the Cross with the figure of Jesus on it.

cru-ci-fi-xion /,kru:sɪ'fɪkʃn/ *n* [U] putting to death, being put to death, on a cross(3); [C] instance of this. **the C~**, that of Jesus.

cru-cify /'kru:sɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) put to death by nailing or binding to a cross.

crude /kru:d/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** (of materials) in a natural state; not refined or manufactured: ~ oil, petroleum. **2** not having grace, taste or refinement: ~ manners. **3** not finished properly; badly worked out: ~ schemes/methods/ideas.

crude-ly *adv*

crud-ity /'kru:datɪ/ *n* [U] the state or quality of being crude; [C] (*pl* -ies) instance of this; crude act, remark, etc.

cruel /kruəl/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (of persons) taking pleasure in the suffering of others; prepared to give pain to others: *a man who is ~ to animals.* **2** causing pain or suffering; showing indifference to the sufferings of others: *a ~ blow/punishment/disease/war.*

cruel-ly /'kruəli/ *adv*

cruel-ty /'kruəltɪ/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] readiness to give pain or cause suffering to others: *C~ to children is severely punished in Britain.* **2** [C] cruel act.

cruise /kru:z/ *vi* **1** sail about, either for pleasure, or, in war, looking for enemy ships. **2** (of cars, aircraft) travel at the speed (and of aircraft at the altitude) most economical of fuel, less than the top speed: *The car has a cruising speed of 50 miles an hour.* □ *n* [C] cruising voyage: *to go on/for a ~.*

cruiser /'kru:zə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** fast warship. **2** (also 'cabin-~r) motor-boat (with sleeping accommodation, etc) designed for pleasure cruises.

crumb /krʌm/ *n* [C] **1** very small piece of dry food, esp a bit of bread or cake rubbed off or dropped from a large piece: *sweep up the ~s.* **2** (*fig*) small amount: *a few ~s of information/comfort.*

crumble /'krʌmbəl/ *vt, vi* **1** break, rub or fall into very small pieces: *crumbling walls, that are falling into ruin.* **2** (*fig*) be destroyed, decay: *hopes that ~d to dust, came to nothing.* □ *n* [U] kind of covering for a pie made of crumbs of pastry.

crum-bly /'krʌmbli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) easily crumbled.

crummy /'krʌmi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (*informal*) inferior in quality.

crum-pet /'krʌmpɪt/ *n* [C] flat, round, soft, unsweetened cake, usually toasted and eaten hot with butter spread on it.

crumple /'krʌmpl/ *vt, vi* **1** press or crush into

folds or creases: *to ~ one's clothes*, eg by packing them carelessly. **2** become full of folds or creases: *Some kinds of material ~ more easily than others.* **3** **crumple up**, crush; collapse: *to ~ up a sheet of paper.*

crunch /krʌntʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** crush noisily with the teeth when eating: *People who ~ nuts in the cinema can be very annoying.* **2** crush, be crushed, noisily under one's feet, under wheels, etc: *The frozen snow ~ed under the wheels of our car.* □ *n* [C] the act of, noise made by, crunching.

cru-sade /kru:'seɪd/ *n* [C] **1** one of the military expeditions by the Christian rulers and people of Europe during the Middle Ages to recover the Holy Land from the Muslims. **2** struggle or movement in support of something believed to be good or against something believed to be bad: *a ~ against racial hatred.* □ *vi* take part in a crusade.

cru-sader, person taking part in a crusade.

crush¹ /krʌʃ/ *n* **1** [U] crowd of people pressed together: *There was a frightful ~ at the gate into the stadium.* **2** [C] **have a crush on sb**, (*st*) be, imagine oneself to be, in love with.

crush² /krʌʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** press, be pressed, so that there is breaking or injury: *Wine is made by ~ing grapes.* **2** (cause to) become full of creases or irregular folds; lose shape: *Her dresses were badly ~ed when she took them out of the suitcase.* **3** be completely victorious: *He was not satisfied until he had ~ed his enemies.* **4** press or push in, etc: *They all tried to ~ into the front seats.*

crushing /'krʌʃɪŋ/ *adj* **1** overwhelming: *a ~ing defeat.* **2** in a manner intended to have a strong effect, esp to disconcert: *a ~ing reply.*

crush-ing-ly *adv*

crust /krʌst/ *n* **1** [C, U] (piece of the) hard-baked surface of a loaf; outer covering (pastry) of a pie or tart. **2** [C, U] hard surface: *a thin ~ of ice/frozen snow; the earth's ~, the surface.* □ *vt, vi* **crust over**, cover, become covered, with a crust; form into a crust: *The snow ~ed over (= froze hard on top) during the night.*

crus-ta-cean /kra'steɪʃn/ *n* [C] shellfish.

crusty /'krʌsti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** having a crust; hard like a crust: ~ bread. **2** (of persons, their behaviour) quick to show irritation, etc.

crutch /krʌtʃ/ *n* [C] **1** stick used as a support under the arm to help a lame person to walk: *a pair of ~es.* **2** support that is like a crutch in shape or use. **3** (*fig*) any moral support. **4** = crotch(2).

crux /krʌks/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) part (of a problem) that is the most difficult to solve: *The ~ of the matter is this...*

cry¹ /kraɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* cries) **1** loud sound of fear, pain, grief, etc; loud, excited statement: *a ~ for help; the ~ of an animal in pain; angry cries from the mob.* **a 'far/'long cry**, a long way from; very different from: *Being a junior clerk is a far ~ from being one of the Directors.* **2**

words spoken loudly to give information: *the ~ of the night watchman*. **3** watchword or phrase, used for a principle or cause: *a 'war-~. 'Equal opportunities for women' was their ~*. **4** fit of weeping: *have a good ~*.

'cry-baby, young person who cries often or easily without good or apparent cause.

cry² /kraɪ/ vi, vt (pt, pp cried) **1** (of persons, animals, birds) make sounds that express feelings (eg pain, fear): *A baby can ~ as soon as it is born. He cried with pain when the doctor pulled the splinter out.* **2** (of persons) weep; shed tears (with or without sounds): *The boy was ~ing because he had lost his money. cry one's 'heart out*, cry very much. **cry oneself to sleep**, cry until one falls asleep. **3** exclaim; call out loudly in words: *'Help! Help!' he cried.* **4** announce for sale; make known by calling out: *to ~ the news all over the town.*

cry-ing /'kraɪŋ/ adj (esp of evils) demanding attention: *a ~ shame/evil/need.*

crypt /kript/ n [C] underground room, esp of a church.

crypt-ic /'kriptɪk/ adj secret; with a hidden meaning, or a meaning not easily seen: *a ~ remark/clue in a crossword puzzle.*

crypt-ically /-kli/ adv

crys-tal /'kristl/ n **1** [U] transparent, natural substance like quartz; [C] piece of this as an ornament: *a necklace of ~s.* **2** [U] glassware of best quality, made into bowls, vases, etc: *The dining-table shone with silver and ~.* **3** [C] definite and regular shape taken naturally by the molecules of certain substances: *sugar and salt ~s; snow and ice ~s.*

crys-tal-line /'kristəlaɪn/ adj made of crystal(s); like crystal; very clear.

crys-tal-lize (also **-ise**) /'kristəlaɪz/ vt, vi **1** form, cause to form, into crystals(**3**). **2** cover (fruit, etc) with sugar-crystals: *~d ginger.* **3** (fig) (of ideas, plans) become, cause to be, clear and definite: *His vague ideas ~d into a definite plan.*

crys-tal-li-zation (also **-isation**) /,kristəlaɪ'zeɪʃn/ US: -lɪ'z-/ n [U]

cub /kʌb/ n [C] young lion, bear, fox, tiger.

cubby-hole /'kʌbi həʊl/ n [C] small, enclosed space.

cube /kju:b/ n [C] **1** solid body having six equal square sides; block of something so shaped or similarly shaped. **2** (maths) product of a number multiplied by itself twice: *The ~ of 5 (5³) is 5 × 5 × 5 (125).* □ vi multiply a number by itself twice: *10 ~d is 1000.*

cu-bic /'kju:bɪk/ adj having the shape of a cube; of a cube: *one ~ metre*, volume of a cube whose edge is one metre.

cu-bi-cal /'kju:bɪkl/ adj = cubic (the usual word).

cu-bicle /'kju:bɪkl/ n [C] small division of a larger room, walled or curtained to make a separate compartment, eg for sleeping in, or for (un)dressing, eg at a swimming-pool.

cub-ism /'kju:bɪzəm/ n [U] style in art in

which objects are represented so that they appear to be mostly of geometrical shapes.

cub-ist /'kju:bɪst/, artist who practises cubism.

cuckoo /'kʊku:/ n [C] bird whose call is like its name which lays its eggs in the nests of other birds.

'cuckoo-clock, one that strikes the hours with notes like the call of a cuckoo.

cu-cum-ber /'kju:kʌmbə(r)/ n [C, U] (creeping plant with a) long, green-skinned fleshy fruit, sliced and eaten in salads, or made into pickle. **as cool as a cucumber**, unexcited.

cud /kʌd/ n [U] food which oxen, etc bring back from the first stomach and chew again.

chew the cud, (fig) reflect; think deeply.

cuddle /'kʌdl/ vt, vi **1** hold close and lovingly in one's arms: *She likes to ~ her doll.* **2** lie close and comfortably: *The children ~d up (together) under the blankets.* □ n [C] act of cuddling; hug.

cud-dly /'kʌdlɪ/ adj suitable for, inviting, cuddling: *a nice cuddly doll.*

cud-gel /'kʌdʒəl/ vt, n [C] (-ll; US also -l-) (hit with a) short, thick stick or club.

cue¹ /kju:/ n [C] **1** something (eg the last words of an actor's speech) which shows when somebody else is to do or say something. **2** hint about how to behave, what to do, etc. **take one's cue from sb**, observe what he does as a guide to one's own action.

cue² /kju:/ n [C] billiard-player's long, tapering rod, for hitting the ball.

cuff¹ /kʌf/ n [C] end of a shirt or coat sleeve at the wrist.

'cuff-link, used for fastening a cuff.

cuff² /kʌf/ vt, n [C] (give a) light blow with the open hand.

cui-sine /kwɪ'zi:n/ n [U] (Fr) style of cooking; cooking: *a hotel where the ~ is excellent.*

cul-de-sac /'kʌl də sæk/ n [C] street with an opening at one end only.

cu-li-nary /'kʌlɪnəri/ n, -nerɪ/ adj of cooking or a kitchen: *~ plants*, good for cooking.

cull /kʌl/ vi select: *extracts ~ed from the best authors.*

cul-len-der /'kʌləndə(r)/ n [C] = colander.

cul-mi-nate /'kʌlmɪneɪt/ vt **culminate in**, (of efforts, hopes, careers, etc) reach the highest point: *misfortunes that ~d in bankruptcy.*

cul-mi-na-tion /,kʌlmɪ'neɪʃn/ n [C] highest point: *the culmination of his career.*

culp-able /'kʌlpəbl/ adj (legal) deserving punishment: *hold a person ~.*

cul-prit /'kʌlprɪt/ n [C] person who has done wrong.

cult /kʌlt/ n [C] **1** system of religious worship.

2 devotion to a person or practice and ritual (esp of a single deity): *the ~ of archery; the ~ of Browning.* **3** (group of persons devoted to a) popular fashion or craze.

cul-ti-vate /'kʌltɪveɪt/ vt **1** prepare (land) for crops by ploughing, etc; help (crops) to grow

(eg by breaking up the soil around them, destroying weeds, etc). **2** give care, thought, time, etc in order to develop something: *to ~ the mind/a person's friendship*.

cul-ti-vated /'kʌltɪveɪtɪd/ *adj* (of a person) having good manners and education.

cul-ti-va-tion /'kʌltɪveɪʃn/ *n* [U] cultivating or being cultivated: *the ~ of the soil; land that is under ~*.

cul-ti-va-tor /'kʌltɪveɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who cultivates. **2** machine for breaking up ground, destroying weeds, etc.

cul-tural /'kʌltʃərəl/ *adj* having to do with culture: *~ studies*, eg art, literature.

cul-ture /'kʌltʃə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] advanced development of the human powers; development of the body, mind and spirit by training and experience: *Physical ~ is important, but we must not neglect the ~ of the mind*. **2** [U] evidence of intellectual development (of arts, science, etc) in human society: *Universities should be centres of ~*. **3** [U] state of intellectual development among a people; [C] particular form of intellectual development: *We still owe much to Greek ~*. **4** [U] all the arts, beliefs, social institutions, etc characteristic of a community, race, etc: *the Arabic ~*. **5** [U] cultivating; the rearing of bees, silkworms, etc: *He has five acres devoted to bulb ~, to the growing of such flowers as daffodils and tulips*. **6** [C] growth of bacteria (for medical or scientific study): *a ~ of cholera germs*.

cul-tured *adj* (a) (of persons) cultivated. (b) (of tastes, interests, etc) refined.

cul-vert /'kʌlvət/ *n* [C] sewer or drain that crosses under a road, railway or embankment; channel for electrical cables under the ground.

cum-ber-some /'kʌmbəsəm/ *adj* heavy and awkward to carry: *a ~ parcel*.

cumu-lat-ive /'kju:mjʊlətɪv/ *US: -lətɪv/ adj* increasing in amount by one addition after another.

cumu-lus /'kju:mjʊləs/ *n* [C] (*pl* -li /-lɪ/) cloud made up of rounded masses on a flat base.

cunei-form /'kju:nɪfɔ:m/ *adj* wedge-shaped: *~ characters*, as used in old Persian and Assyrian writing.

cun-ning¹ /'kʌnɪŋ/ *adj* clever at deceiving; showing this kind of cleverness: *a ~ old fox; a ~ trick*.

cun-ning-ly *adv*

cun-ning² /'kʌnɪŋ/ *n* [U] quality of being cunning: *The boy showed a great deal of ~ in getting what he wanted*.

cup¹ /kʌp/ *n* [C] **1** small porcelain bowl, with a handle, used with a saucer, for tea, coffee etc; contents of a cup: *a 'tea~; a ~ of 'coffee*. **not my cup of tea**, (*informal*) not what I like, not what suits me. **2** = chalice. **3** vessel (usually of gold or silver) given as a prize in competitions: *I hope Arsenal will win the ~/4 thing shaped like a cup: the ~ of a flower; an 'egg~; the ~s of a bra*.

'cup final, annual football match to decide the winner of a competition between many teams.

'cup-tie, football match to eliminate teams competing for a cup(3).

cup-ful /'kʌpfʊl/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) as much as a cup can hold.

cup² /kʌp/ *vt* (-pp-) **1** put into the shape of a cup: *to ~ one's hands*, eg to catch a ball. **2** put round or over like a cup: *with her chin ~ped in her hand*.

cup-board /'kʌbəd/ *n* [C] set of shelves with doors, either built into a room as a fixture, or a separate piece of furniture, used for dishes, provisions, clothes, etc.

Cu-pid /'kju:pɪd/ *n* **1** Roman god of love; (picture or statue of a) beautiful boy (with wings and a bow and arrows). **2** symbol of love.

cu-pola /'kju:pələ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) small dome forming (part of) a roof; ceiling of a dome.

cur /kɜ:(r)/ *n* [C] **1** bad-tempered or worthless dog (esp long-bred). **2** cowardly or badly behaved man.

cur-able /'kjʊərəbl/ *adj* that can be cured.

cura-bil-ity /'kjʊərəbɪləti/ *n* [U]

cur-acy /'kjʊərəsi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) office and work of a curate.

curate /'kjʊərət/ *n* [C] clergyman who helps a parish priest (rector or vicar).

cura-tive /'kjʊərətɪv/ *adj* helping to, able to, cure (disease or ill health): *the ~ value of sunshine and sea air*.

cu-ra-tor /'kju'reɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] official in charge (esp) of a museum or art gallery.

curb /kɜ:b/ *n* [C] **1** chain or leather strap passing under a horse's jaw, used to control it. **2** (*fig*) something that holds one back or restrains: *put/keep a ~ on one's anger/passions*. **3** = *kerb*. □ *v* **1** control (a horse) by means of a curb. **2** keep (feelings, etc) under control: *to ~ one's impatience*.

curd /kɜ:d/ *n* **1** [C] (often *pl*) thick, soft substance, almost solid, formed when milk turns sour, used to make cheese. **2** [U] (in compounds) substance resembling curd: *'lemon-~, made from eggs, butter and sugar, flavoured with lemon*.

curdle /'kɜ:dl/ *vi, vt* **1** form, cause to form, into curds: *The milk has ~d*. **2** (*fig*): *What a blood-curdling (= horrifying) yell!*

cure¹ /'kjʊə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** curing or being cured(1): *The doctor cannot guarantee a ~*. **2** substance or treatment which cures(1): *Is there a ~ for cancer yet?*

cure² /'kjʊə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** bring (a person) back to health; provide and use successfully a remedy for a disease, ill health, suffering; get rid of (an evil): *to ~ a man of a disease; to ~ a child of bad habits*. **2** treat meat, fish, skin, tobacco, etc in order to keep it in good condition by salting, smoking, drying, etc: *'well-~d bacon*.

cur-few /'kɜ:fju:/ *n* [C] (*modern use*) time or signal (under law) for people to remain indoors: *to impose a ~ on a town; to lift/*

end the ~.

curio /'kjʊəriəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) unusual or interesting object.

curi-osity /'kjʊəri'bsəti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] being curious(1,2): *to be dying of/burning with ~* (= very curious) *to know what was happening*. **2** [C] strange or rare object.

curi-ous /'kjʊəriəs/ *adj* **1** eager (to learn, know): *I'm ~ to know what he said*. **2** having or showing too much interest in the affairs of others: ~ neighbours. **3** strange; unusual; hard to understand: *What a ~ mistake!* *Isn't he a ~-looking little man!*

curi-ously *adv*

curl ¹ /kɜ:l/ *n* **1** [C] something naturally like or twisted into a shape like the thread of a screw, esp a lock of hair of this shape: ~s (of hair) falling over a girl's shoulders; *a ~ of smoke rising from a cigarette*. **2** [U] the state of being curly: *How do you keep your hair in ~?*

curl ² /kɜ:l/ *vt, vi* make into curls; twist; grow or be in curls: *Does her hair ~ naturally?* *The dog ~ed (itself) up on the rug*.

cur-lew /'kɜ:lju:/ *n* [C] wading bird with a long, narrow, bill which curves down.

curly /'kɜ:li/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) having curls; arranged in curls: ~ hair; *a ~-headed girl*.

cur-rant /'kʌrənt/ *US*: 'kər-/ *n* [C] **1** small, sweet, dried seedless grape (grown in Greece and neighbouring countries) used in buns, cakes, puddings, etc. **2** (cultivated bush with) small black, red or white juicy fruit growing in clusters: *a 'black ~ bush*.

cur-rency /'kʌrənsi/ *US*: 'kər-/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] the state of being in common or general use: *The rumour soon gained ~, was repeated until many people were aware of it*. **2** [C,U] money that is in use in a country: *foreign currencies*; *a decimal ~*.

cur-rent ¹ /'kʌrənt/ *US*: 'kər-/ *adj* **1** in common or general use; generally accepted: ~ opinions/beliefs; *words that are no longer ~*. **2** now passing; of the present time: *the ~ year*, *this year*; *a newsreel showing ~ events*.

'current account, (with a bank) one from which money may be drawn without previous notice.

'current affairs, current(2) news.

cur-rent-ly *adv* at the present time: *It is ~ly reported that...*

cur-rent ² /'kʌrənt/ *US*: 'kər-/ *n* [C] **1** stream of water, air, gas, esp one flowing through slower moving or still water, etc: *A cold ~ of air came in when the door was opened*. *Although he was a strong swimmer he was swept away by the ~ and was drowned*. **2** flow of electricity through something or along a wire or cable. **3** course or movement (of events, opinions, thoughts, etc): *to influence the ~ of thought*.

cur-ricu-lum /'kʌrɪkju:ləm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or -la /-lə/) course of study in a school, college, etc.

cur-riculum ^{'vitae} /'vɪtaɪ/ (*Latin*) brief written account of one's past history (eg edu-

cation, employment), used when applying for a job, etc.

curry ¹ /'kʌri/ *US*: 'kəri/ *n* (*pl* -ies) [C,U] (dish of) meat, fish, eggs, etc cooked with hot-tasting spices: *Madras curries*. □ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) prepare curry.

curry ² /'kʌri/ *US*: 'kəri/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** rub down and clean (a horse). **2** prepare (tanned leather) by soaking, scraping, etc. **3** **curry favour (with sb)**, try to win favour or approval (by using flattery, etc).

curse ¹ /kɜ:s/ *n* [C] **1** word, phrase or sentence calling for the punishment, injury or destruction. **2** cause of misfortune or ruin: *'Gambling is often a ~*. *The rabbits are a ~* (ie damage crops, etc) *in this part of the country*. **3** word or words used in violent language expressing anger or hatred. **4** **the ~**, (informal) = menses.

curse ² /kɜ:s/ *vt, vi* **1** use a curse against; use violent language against: *to ~ and swear*; *cursing at a stupid mistake*. **2** **be cursed with**, suffer misfortune, trouble, etc because of: *to be ~d with a violent temper*.

cursed /kɜ:st, 'kɜ:sɪd/ *adj* **1** damnable; hateful. **2** (informal) very bad: *This work is a ~ nuisance*.

cur-sive /'kɜ:sɪv/ *adj* (of handwriting) with elaborate letters rounded and joined together.

cur-sory /'kɜ:səri/ *adj* (of work, reading, etc) quick; hurried; done without attention to details: *a ~ glance/inspection*.

cur-sor-ily /'kɜ:səri/ *adv*

curst /kɜ:st/ *adj* = cursed.

curt /kɜ:t/ *adj* (of a speaker, his manner, what he says) abrupt: *I gave him a ~ reply*.

curt-ly *adv*

curt-ness *n* [U]

cur-tail /kɜ:'teɪl/ *vt* make shorter than was first planned; cut off a part of: *to ~ a speech/one's holidays*.

cur-tail-ment *n* [C,U] act or result of curtailing.

cur-tain /'kɜ:tn/ *n* [C] **1** piece of cloth, etc as hung up at a window: *Please draw the ~s*, pull them across the window(s). **2** sheet of heavy material to draw or lower across the front of the stage in a theatre before and after each scene of a play. **3** (showing cover or protection): *A ~ of mist hid the view*. **4** (*pl*) (informal) end (to a career, etc): *If I'm late once more it will be ~s for me*. □ *vt* **1** furnish or cover with curtains: *enough material to ~ all the windows*. **2** **curtain off**, separate or divide with curtains: *to ~ off part of a room*.

curt-sey, curtsy /'kɜ:tsi/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s, -ies) formal sign of respect (bending the knees) made by women and girls (eg to a queen). □ *vi* (*pt, pp* ~ed, -ied) make this gesture.

cur-va-ture /'kɜ:vətʃə(r)/ *US*: '-tʃə(r)/ *n* [C,U] curving; the state of being curved: *to suffer from ~ of the spine*; *the ~ of the earth's surface*.

curve /kɜ:v/ *n* [C] line of which no part is

straight like part of the edge of a circle: *a ~ in the road*. □ *vt, vi* have, cause to have, the form of a curve: *The river ~s round the hill*.

cushion /'kʊʃn/ *n* [C] 1 small bag filled with feathers or other soft material (eg foam rubber), to make a seat more comfortable, or to kneel on, etc. 2 something soft and like a cushion in shape or function: *a ~ of moss*; *a 'pin-~*; *a ~ of air*, as for a hovercraft. □ *vt* 1 supply with cushions. 2 protect from shock with cushions: *~ed seats*. 3 (fig) protect from harmful changes: *farmers who are ~ed against falls in prices*, eg by subsidies.

cushy /'kʊʃi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (*sl*) (of a job, etc) not requiring much effort: *get a ~ job in the Civil Service*.

cusp /kasp/ *n* [C] pointed end (*esp* of a leaf).

cuss /kas/ *n* [C] (*sl*) 1 curse. **not worth a tinker's cuss**, worthless. 2 person: *a queer old ~*.

cus-tard /'kʌstəd/ *n* [C,U] 1 (egg-~) (dish of) mixture of eggs and milk, sweetened and flavoured, baked or boiled. 2 similar mixture prepared by adding sugar and milk to flavoured cornflour (~-powder), eaten with fruit, pastry, etc.

cus-tod-ian /'kʌstədiən/ *n* [C] 1 person who has custody of something or somebody. 2 caretaker of a public building.

cus-tody /'kʌstədi/ *n* [U] 1 (duty of) caring for, guarding: *A father has the ~ of his children while they are young*. *You should leave your jewellery in safe ~*, eg with your bank. 2 imprisonment. (**be**) **in custody**, in prison (eg awaiting trial).

cus-tom /'kʌstəm/ *n* 1 [U] usual and generally accepted behaviour among members of a social group (either small or large, eg a nation): *Don't be a slave to ~*, Do not do things merely because most people do them and have always done them. 2 [C] particular way of behaving which, because it has been long established, is observed by individuals and social groups: *Social ~s vary in different countries*. (*Note*: compare *habit*, a word that means something that a person does regularly and that he cannot easily give up.) 3 [U] regular support given to a tradesman by those who buy his goods: *We should very much like to have your ~*. 4 (*pl*) taxes due to the government on goods imported into a country; import duties; department of government (*the C~s*) that collects such duties: *How long will it take us to get through C~s?*

custom made, (of clothes) made to order.

cus-tom-ary /'kʌstəməri/ *US*: -meri/ *adj* in agreement with, according to, custom (1,2): *the ~ vote of thanks to the chairman*.

cus-tomer /'kʌstəmər/ *n* [C] 1 person who buys things, esp one who gives his custom (3) to a shop: *Mr Jones has lost some of his best ~s*. 2 (*informal*) person: *a queer/awkward/tough ~*, person who is strange or difficult to deal with.

cut¹ /kʌt/ *n* [C] 1 act of cutting; stroke with a sword, whip, etc; result of such as a stroke; opening made by a knife or other sharp-edged tool, etc: *a deep ~ in the leg*. 2 reduction in size, amount, length, etc: *a ~ in prices/salaries/expenditure*. 3 a cutting out; part that is cut out: *There were several ~s in the film*, Parts of it had been deleted. 4 something obtained by cutting: *a nice ~ of beef*. 5 style in which clothes, hair, etc are made by cutting. 6 remark, etc that hurts a person's feelings: *That remark was a ~ at me*. 7 refusal to recognize a person. 8 way across (from one place to another) that shortens the distance: *Let's take a 'short ~*. 9 **a cut above**, (*informal*) rather superior to: *She's a ~ above the other girls in the office*.

cut² /kʌt/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp ~*) (-tt-) (For uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 9 below; for uses with adjectives ⇨ 7 below; for uses with nouns or pronouns ⇨ 6 below.) 1 make an opening, incision, mark, wound, etc (with a sharp-edged instrument, eg a knife, a pair of scissors, or other edged tool): *He ~s his face/himself while shaving*. *I'm having my hair ~ (= shortened) tomorrow*. *Has the wheat been ~ (= harvested, reaped) yet?* *Please ~ a slice of cake for me/~ me a slice of cake*. *Two scenes/episodes were ~ (= deleted) by the censor*. *Was your salary ~ (= reduced)?* *He ~ a tunnel through a hill*. 2 (**a**) (of a sharp tool, instrument, etc) be suitable to use: *This knife does not ~ well*. (**b**) (of a material) be capable of being cut: *Sandstone ~s easily*. 3 stay away from, be absent from: *to ~ a class/a lecture*. *He ~ me in the street*, ignored me. ⇨ **cut**¹ (7). 4 (of lines) cross: *Let the point where AB ~s CD be called E*. 5 (sport, esp cricket, tennis, billiards) strike (a ball) so that it spins or is deflected; hit the edge of (a ball). 6 (used with nouns or pronouns) **cut the cards/pack**, lift part of a pack of playing-cards lying face downwards and turn it up to decide something (eg who is to deal). **cut (off) a corner**, go across, not round it. **cut corners**, (fig) finish something quickly by ignoring the rules, the smaller details, etc. **cut a disc/record**, record music, etc on to a gramophone record. **cut the ground from under sb/sb's feet**, leave him in a weak or illogical position; destroy the basis of his plan, argument, etc. **cut no/not much ice (with sb)**, have little or no effect or influence (on). **cut one's losses**, abandon a scheme that has caused financial losses before one loses too much. **cut both ways**, (of an action or argument) have an effect both for and against. 7 (used with adjectives) **cut sb dead**, pretend not to have seen somebody; treat as a complete stranger: *She ~ me dead in the street*, ignored me completely. **cut it fine**, leave the smallest amount of time available: *The bus leaves in ten minutes and you're still packing —that's ~ing it fine!* **cut sth/sb loose (from)**, make loose or

separate by cutting: ~ oneself loose from one's family, live an independent life. **cut sth open**, make an opening or split in: *He fell and ~ his head open.* **cut sth short**, make shorter: *to ~ a long story short; a career ~ short by illness.* **8** (used as a *pp*) **cut and 'dried**, (of opinions, etc) already formed and unlikely to be changed.

9 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

cut across sth, (a) take a shorter route across (a field, etc). (b) be contrary to: *Opinion on the Common Market ~ clean across normal political loyalties.*

cut sth away, remove by cutting: *We ~ away all the dead wood from the tree.*

cut sth back, (a) (of shrubs, bushes, etc) cut close to the stem. (b) reduce: ~ back production. Hence, **'cut-back** *n* [C]: *Several ~ backs in public spending are expected.*

cut sth/sb down, (a) cause to fall by cutting: *to ~ down a tree.* (b) kill or injure with a weapon. (c) deprive of life or health (by disease, etc): *He was ~ down in his prime.* (d) reduce in quantity, amount, etc: *I won't have a cigarette, thanks—I'm trying to ~ down, reduce the number of cigarettes I smoke.* (e) persuade (a person) to reduce a price, charge, etc: *We managed to ~ him down by £30.* (f) reduce the length of: ~ down a pair of trousers. **cut down on**, reduce one's consumption of: *He's trying to ~ down on cigarettes and beer.*

cut in, (a) (of the driver of a motor-vehicle, etc who has overtaken another vehicle) return too soon to his own side of the road (with the possibility of collision, etc): *Accidents are often caused by drivers who ~ in.* (b) interrupt (a conversation, etc). (c) *cut in half/two/three*, divide in two, three.

cut sb/sth off (from), (a) remove by cutting: *He ~ off a metre of cloth from the roll.* (b) stop; interrupt; isolate: *be ~ off while talking by telephone; ~ off the gas/electricity supply; be ~ off from all possibility of help.*

cut out, stop functioning: *One of the aircraft's engines ~ out.* **cut sth out**, (a) remove by cutting (eg from a periodical): *That's an interesting article—I'll ~ it out.* (b) make by cutting: ~ out a path through the jungle. (c) shape (clothes) by cutting the outlines of the parts on cloth: ~ out a dress. (d) (informal) leave out; omit: *Let's ~ out unimportant details.* (e) (informal) stop doing or using: *My doctor told me I must ~ out tobacco, stop smoking.* **Cut it out!** Stop doing that! **cut sb out**, defeat, eliminate (a rival, esp in a competition). (not) **be cut out for**, (not) have the qualities and abilities needed for: *He's not ~ out for that sort of work.*

cut sth/sb up, (a) cut into pieces: ~ up one's meat. (b) (informal) cause mental suffering to: *He was badly ~ up by the news of his son's death.* **cut up rough**, (sl) be violent and aggressive: *He'll ~ up rough if you don't give*

him what he asked for.

'cut 'glass, glassware with designs cut or engraved in it.

'cut-out *n* (a) article, etc cut out of a newspaper, etc. (b) device that disconnects an electric circuit.

'cut 'price, (esp) reduced below those of rivals or the manufacturer's recommend price.

'cut-'rate *adj* at a reduced price.

cute /kju:t/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** sharp-witted; quick-thinking. **2** (informal) (of a girl or woman) attractive; pretty and charming.

cute-ly *adv*

cute-ness *n* [U]

cu-ticle /'kju:ti:kl/ *n* [C] layer of hardened skin at the base of a finger-nail or toe-nail.

cut-lass /'kʌtləs/ *n* [C] **1** (sailor's) short, one-edged sword with a slightly curved blade. **2** cutting tool as used by cacao-growers and copra-growers.

cut-ler /'kʌtlə(r)/ *n* [C] man who makes and repairs knives and other cutting tools and instruments.

cut-lery /'kʌtləri/ *n* [U] **1** implements used at table (knives, forks, spoons). **2** trade of, things made or sold by, cutlers.

cut-let /'kʌtlɪt/ *n* [C] slice of meat or fish for one person: *a veal ~.*

cut-ter /'kʌtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person or thing that cuts: *a tailor's ~*, who cuts out cloth; *'wire-~s*, tool for cutting wires. **2** sailing-vessel with one mast; ship's boat for use between ship and shore.

cut-throat /'kʌt θrəʊt/ *n* [C] murderer. □ *adj* murderous: ~ competition, likely to ruin the weaker competitors.

cut-ting¹ /'kʌtɪŋ/ *adj* **1** sharp; piercing: *a ~ wind.* **2** sarcastic: *a ~ remark.*

cut-ting² /'kʌtɪŋ/ *n* [C] **1** unroofed passage dug through the ground for a road, railway, canal, etc. **2** something cut from a newspaper, etc and kept: *'press ~s.* **3** short piece of the stem of a plant, to be used for growing a new plant: *chrysanthemum ~s.* **4** [U] process of editing cinema films, tape recordings, etc, by cutting out unwanted parts.

cuttle-fish /'kʌtlɪfɪʃ/ *n* [C] sea-animal with long arms (tentacles) which sends out a black liquid when attacked.

cy-an-ide /'saɪənaɪd/ *n* [U] poisonous compound substance: *potassium ~; sodium ~.*

cycle /'saɪkl/ *n* [C] **1** series of events taking place in a regularly repeated order: *the ~ of the seasons.* **2** complete set or series: *a song ~*, eg by Schubert. **3** (common abbr for) bicycle or motor-cycle. □ *vi* ride a bicycle.

cyc-list /'saɪklɪst/ *n* person who cycles.

cyc-lone /'saɪkləʊn/ *n* [C] violent wind rotating round a calm central area; violent wind-storm.

cyc-lonic /'saɪklɒnɪk/ *adj* of or like a cyclone.

cyg-net /'sɪɡnɪt/ *n* [C] young swan.

cyl-in-der /'sɪlɪndə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** solid or hollow body shaped like a pole or log. **2** cylinder-

shaped chamber (in an engine) in which gas or steam works a piston: *a six~ engine/motor-car.*

cy-lin-dri-cal /sɪ'lɪndrɪkəl/ *adj* cylinder-shaped.

cym-bal /'sɪmbl/ *n* [C] one of a pair of round brass plates struck together to make clanging sounds.

cynic /'sɪnɪk/ *n* [C] person who sees little or no good in anything and who has no belief in human progress; person who shows this by sneering and being sarcastic.

cyni-cism /'sɪnɪsɪzəm/ *n* [U] cynic's opinions or attitude of mind; [C] expression of this attitude.

cyni-cal /'sɪnɪkəl/ *adj* of or like a cynic; sneering or contemptuous: *a ~ smile/remark.*

cyni-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

cy-pher /'saɪfə(r)/ *n* [C] = cipher.

cy-press /'saɪprəs/ *n* [C] (kinds of) evergreen tree with dark leaves and hard wood.

cyst /sɪst/ *n* [C] hollow growth in the body containing liquid matter.

czar /zɑ:(r)/ *n* (also **tsar**) emperor (of Russia before 1917).

czar-ina /zɑ:'rɪnə/ *n* Russian empress.

Dd

D, d /di:/ (*pl* D's, d's /di:z/) **1** the fourth letter of the English alphabet. **2** Roman numeral for 500.

'd, used for *had* or *would* (esp after *I*, *we*, *you*, *he*, *she*, *they*, *who*).

dab /dæb/ *vt, vi* (-bb-) touch, put on, lightly and gently: *~ one's eyes with a handkerchief.* □ *n* [C] **1** small quantity (of paint, etc) dabbed on. **2** slight tap: brief application of something to a surface (without rubbing).

dabble /'dæbl/ *vt, vi* **1** splash (the hands, feet, etc) about in water; put in and out of water. **2** be active in, study, as a hobby, not professionally: *dabbling in philosophy/politics.*

dachs-hund /'dæksʃʊnd/ *n* [C] small short-legged breed of dog.

dad /dæd/ *n* [C] (informal) = father.

daddy /'dædi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) child's word for 'father'.

daddy-long-legs, a long-legged flying insect (also called a *crane-fly*).

daf-fo-dil /'dæfədi/ *n* [C] plant with a yellow flower and long narrow leaves, growing from a bulb.

daft /dɑ:ft *US*: dæft/ *adj* (-er, -est) (informal) silly; foolish.

dag-ger /'dæɡə(r)/ *n* [C] short, pointed, two-edged knife used as a weapon.

dah-lia /'deɪliə *US*: 'dæliə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) garden plant with brightly coloured flowers,

growing from tuberous roots.

daily /'deɪli/ *adj, adv* happening, done, appearing, every day (or every weekday): *Most newspapers appear ~. Thousands of people cross this bridge ~.* □ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** newspaper published every day or every weekday. **2** (informal) woman who is paid to come and do housework every day.

dainty /'deɪnti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** (of persons) pretty, neat and delicate(7) in appearance and tastes: *a ~ little girl.* **2** (of persons and animals) rather difficult to please because of delicate tastes: *She's ~ about her food.* **3** (of things) pretty; delicate(3), easily injured or broken: *~ cups and saucers.* **4** (of food) delicate(8) and delicious: *~ cakes.*

daintily /-təli/ *adv*

dainti-ness *n* [U]

dairy /'deəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** shop where milk, butter, eggs, etc, are sold. **2** (part of a) building where milk and milk products are prepared.

dairy cattle, cows raised to produce milk, not meat.

dairy-maid, woman who works in a dairy.

dairy-man, dealer in milk, etc.

dais /'deɪs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es /-zɪz/) platform (esp at the end of a hall) for a lecturer or for a desk (for a lecturer, etc).

daisy /'deɪzi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) small white flower with a yellow centre; other similar plants of various sorts. **push up the daisies**, ⇨ push²(8).

dale /deɪl/ *n* [C] (esp in N England and in poetry) = valley.

daily /'deɪli/ *vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** trifle; think idly about: *~ with an idea or proposal.* **2** do something lazily: *Don't ~ over your work.*

dam¹ /dæm/ *n* [C] barrier built to keep back water and raise its level (eg to form a reservoir, or for hydro-electric power). □ *vt* (-mm-) **1** make a dam across (a narrow valley, etc); hold back by means of a dam: *~ up a river.* **2** (fig) hold back: *to ~ up one's feelings.*

dam² /dæm/ *n* [C] mother (of four-footed animals, eg horses). ⇨ sire.

dam-age /'dæmɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [U] harm or injury that causes loss of value: *The insurance company will pay for the ~ to my car.* **2** (*pl*) (legal) money claimed from or paid by a person causing loss or injury: *He claimed £5000 ~s from his employers for the loss of his right arm.* □ *vt* cause damage(1) to: *furniture ~d by fire.*

dame /deɪm/ *n* [C] **1** (title of a) woman who has been awarded the highest grade of the Order of the British Empire: *D~ Agatha Christie.* ⇨ lady(6). **2** (US sl) woman.

damn /dæm/ *vt* **1** (of God) condemn to everlasting punishment. **2** condemn; say that something or somebody is worthless, bad, etc: *The book was ~ed by the critics.* **3** (used to express anger, annoyance, impatience, etc): *I'll be ~ed if I'll go, I refuse to go. Oh ~! D~ you! your impudence!* □ *n* **not (be) worth a**

damn, (be) worthless.

dam-nable /'dæmnəbl/ *adj* **1** hateful; deserving to be damned. **2** (informal) very bad: ~ weather.

dam-nably /'dæmnəbli/ *adv*

dam-na-tion /dæm'neɪʃn/ *n* [U] being damned; ruin: to suffer eternal ~. □ *int* Curse it, you, etc.

damned /dæmd/ *adj* **1** the ~, souls in hell. **2** (informal) deserving to be damned: You ~ fool! □ *adv* (dated informal) extremely: ~ hot/funny.

damp ¹ /dæmp/ *adj* (-er, -est) not thoroughly dry; having some moisture (in or on): ~ clothes. □ *n* [U] state of being damp; damp atmosphere; moisture on the surface of, or existing throughout, something: The ~ rising from the ground caused the walls to stain badly.

damp-ish *adj* a little damp.

damp-ness *n* [U]

damp ² /dæmp/ *vt, vi* **1** make damp(1): to ~ clothes before ironing them. **2** (also 'dampen) make sad or dull: Nothing could ~ his spirits. **3** **damp down**, make (a fire) burn more slowly (eg by heaping ashes on it, or by controlling the draught of air entering a stove, etc).

dampen /'dæmpən/ *vt, vi* = damp(2).

damp-er /'dæmpə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** movable metal plate that regulates the flow of air into a fire in a stove or furnace. **2** person or thing that checks or discourages: His complaints were a ~ on the evening.

dam-sel /'dæmsəl/ *n* [C] (old use) girl; young, unmarried woman.

dam-son /'dæmsn/ *n* **1** [C] (tree producing) small dark-purple plum. **2** [U] dark-purple colour.

dance ¹ /dæns *US*: dæns/ *n* [C] **1** (series of) movements and steps in time with music; special form (eg a waltz), tune, piece of music, for such movements and steps: May I have the next ~? **2** meeting for dancing.

dance ² /dæns *US*: dæns/ *vi, vt* **1** move in rhythmical steps, usually with music, either alone, or with a partner, or in a group: They went on dancing until after midnight. **2** perform (a named kind of such movements or the named (style of) music for it): to ~ a waltz/ Swanlake. **3** move in a lively way, quickly, up and down, etc: The leaves were dancing in the wind. **4** cause to dance(3): to ~ a baby on one's knee.

dancer, person who dances.

danc-ing *adj* who or that dances. □ *n* [U] (in compounds): 'dancing-teacher, professional teacher of dancing; 'dancing-partner, person with whom one (usually) dances; 'ballet-dancing; 'tap-dancing.

dan-de-lion /'dændilaɪən/ *n* [C] small wild plant with bright-yellow flowers.

dan-druff /'dændrʌf/ *n* [U] dead skin in small pieces among the hair of the scalp.

dan-ger /'deɪndʒə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] chance of suffering, liability to suffer, injury or loss of life:

Is there any ~ of fire? **in danger (of)**: His life was in ~. He was in ~ of losing his life. **out of danger**: He has been very ill, but the doctors say that he is now out of ~, not likely to die. **2** [C] something or somebody that may cause danger: That man is a ~ to society.

dan-ger-ous /'deɪndʒərəs/ *adj* likely to cause danger: a ~ bridge/journey/illness. The river is ~ to bathe in.

dan-ger-ous-ly *adv*

dangle /'dæŋɡl/ *vi, vt* **1** hang or swing loosely; carry (something) so that it hangs or swings loosely: a bunch of keys dangling at the end of a chain. **2** **dangle round/about**, remain near (as an admirer) hoping to obtain something: She keeps her men dangling (about her).

dank /dæŋk/ *adj* (-er, -est) damp in an unpleasant or unhealthy way: a ~ and chilly cave.

dapple /'dæpl/ *vt* mark, become marked, with patches of different colour or shades of colour, esp of an animal, or of sunlight and shadow: a ~d horse; ~d shade, as when sunlight comes through the leaves of trees. (Note: usually used as a *pp*.)

dare ¹ /deə(r)/ *auxiliary verb* (3rd person sing is dare, not dares) have the courage, impudence, to: He wanted to fight me but he ~n't. How ~ he say rude things about me!

dare ² /deə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** be brave enough to: They wouldn't ~ (to be so rude)! **2** take the risk of; face: He will ~ any danger. **3** suggest that somebody has not the courage or ability to do something: I ~ you (to say that again)! □ *n* (only in) **do sth for a dare**, do it because one is dared(3) to do it.

'dare-devil, person who is foolishly daring.

dar-ing /'deərɪŋ/ *n* [U] adventurous courage: the ~ of the paratroops. □ *adj* bold and adventurous: a ~ robbery. What a ~ thing to do!

dar-ing-ly *adv*

dark ¹ /dɑ:k/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** with no or very little light: a ~, moonless night. It's getting too ~ to take photographs. **2** (of colour) not reflecting much light; nearer black than white: ~blue/green/brown; ~brown 'eyes. **3** (of the skin) not fair: a ~ complexion. **4** (fig) hidden, mysterious: a ~ secret, one that is closely guarded. **keep it dark**, keep a secret. **a dark horse**, (fig) person whose capabilities may be greater than they are known to be. **5** hopeless; sad; cheerless: Don't look on the ~ side of things. **6** unenlightened (morally or intellectually).

the 'Dark Ages, (in European history), from the 6th to the 12th centuries.

dark-ly *adv*

dark-ness *n* [U] the state of being dark: The room was in complete ~ness.

dark ² /dɑ:k/ *n* [U] **1** absence of light: All the lights went out and we were left in the ~. **before/after dark**, before/after the sun goes down. **2** (fig) ignorance: We were completely in the ~ about his movements.

dar-ling /^lda:liŋ/ *n* [C] person or object very much loved.

darn¹ /da:n/ *vt,vi* mend a hole by sewing over it: *My socks have been ~ed again and again.* □ *n* [C] place mended by darning.

'darning-needle, large sewing needle used for darning.

darn² /da:n/ *vt* (sl) = damn(3).

dart¹ /da:t/ *n* [C] **1** quick, sudden, forward movement: *The child made a sudden ~ across the road.* **2** small, sharp-pointed missile (feathered and pointed), to be thrown at a target (marked with numbers for scoring) in the game called *darts*.

dart² /da:t/ *vi,vt* (cause to) move forward suddenly and quickly; send suddenly and quickly: *The deer ~ed away when it saw us. She ~ed into the shop.*

dash¹ /dæʃ/ *n* **1** [C] sudden rush; violent movement: *to make a ~ for shelter/freedom.* **2** [C] (sound of) liquid striking something or being thrown or struck: *the ~ of the waves on the rocks.* **3** [C] small amount of something added or mixed: *water with a ~ of whisky in it; red with a ~ of blue.* **4** [C] stroke of the pen or a mark (—) used in printing. **5** short race: *the 100-metres ~.*

'dash-board, panel beneath the windscreen of a motor-vehicle, with the speedometer, various controls, etc.

dash² /dæʃ/ *vt,vi* **1** send or throw violently; move or be moved violently: *The huge waves ~ed over the rocks.* **2** *dash sb's hopes*, destroy, discourage, them. **3** (*dated informal*) (used as a mild substitute for) *Damn!*: *D~ it!*

data /^ldeɪtə/ *n* *pl* **1** facts; things certainly known (and from which conclusions may be drawn): *unless sufficient ~ are available.* **2** information prepared for and operated on a computer programme: *The ~ is ready for processing.* (*Note:* usually used with a *sing verb*.)

'data bank, centre with a comprehensive (computer) file of data.

'data 'processing, computer operations on data to obtain (more) information, solutions to problems, etc.

date¹ /deɪt/ *n* [C] **1** statement of the time, day, month, year, one or all three of these, when something happened or is to happen: *D~ of birth, 20 April 1974; the ~ of the discovery of America by Columbus (1492). What's today's ~?* **2** period of time, eg one to which antiquities belong: *Many ruins of Roman ~ (= of the time of ancient Rome) are to be seen in the south of France.* (*be/go*) *out of date*, no longer used; old-fashioned: *out-of-~ ideas.* *to date*, so far; until now. (*be/bring*) *up to date*, (a) in line with, according to, what is now known, used, etc: *up-to-~ ideas/methods.* (b) up to the present time: *to bring a catalogue up to ~.* **3** (*informal*) social meeting arranged at a certain time and place; appointment: *I have a ~ with her next month.* **4** (*informal*)

companion of the other sex with whom dates(3) are arranged.

blind date, ⇨ blind¹.

date² /deɪt/ *vt,vi* **1** have or put a date(1) on: *Don't forget to ~ your letters.* **2** give a date(2) to: *to ~ old coins. That suit ~s you*, shows your age (because it is old-fashioned). ⇨ **4** below. **3** *date from/back to*, have existed since: *The castle ~s back to the 14th century*, was built then. **4** show signs of becoming out of date: *Isn't this textbook beginning to ~?* **5** make a date(3) with.

dated *adj* out of fashion; (of words and phrases) used in the past but not now current.

date³ /deɪt/ *n* [C] small, brown, sweet, edible fruit of the *'date-palm*, common in N Africa and SW Asia.

date-line /^ldeɪt laɪn/ *n* (esp) (*international ~*) imaginary line from the north to the south pole on or near meridian 180°, east and west of which the date differs.

datum /^ldeɪtəm/ *n* (*sing of*) data.

daub /dɔ:b/ *vt,vi* **1** put (paint, clay, plaster, etc) roughly on a surface: *to ~ a wall with paint.* **2** paint (pictures) without skill or artistry. **3** make dirty: *trousers ~ed with paint.* □ *n* [C,U] (covering of) soft, sticky material, eg clay.

daugh-ter /^ldɔ:tə(r)/ *n* [C] one's female child. **daughter-in-law** /^ldɔ:trɪn lɔ:/ (*pl* ~s-in-law) wife of one's son.

daunt /dɔ:nt/ *vt* discourage: *nothing ~ed, not at all discouraged.*

daunt-less /^ldɔ:ntlɪs/ *adj* not discouraged.

davit /^ldævɪt/ *n* [C] one of a pair of small cranes(2), curved at the top, for supporting, lowering and raising a ship's boat.

dawdle /^ldɔ:dl/ *vi,vt* be slow and lazy: *Stop dawdling and do something useful!*

dawn¹ /dɔ:n/ *n* [C] **1** first light of day; day-break: *We must start at ~.* **2** (*fig*) beginning; birth: *the ~ of civilization.*

dawn² /dɔ:n/ *vi* **1** begin to grow light: *The day was just ~ing.* **2** begin to appear; grow clear (to the mind): *The truth began to ~ on him.*

day /deɪ/ *n* **1** [U] time between sunrise and sunset: *He has been working all (the) ~.* *We travelled ~ and night [night and ~ without stopping. by day, during daylight: We travelled by ~ and stayed at hotels every night. pass the time of day (with sb), exchange greetings, chat. 2 [C] period of twenty-four hours (from midnight): There are seven ~s in a week. day after day; every day, for many days together. day in, day out, continuously. one day, on a day (past or future). the other day, ⇨ other(3). some day, some time in the future. one of these (fine) days, (used in making a promise or a prophecy) before long; soon. that'll be the day, (used to show complete doubt that something will be done, happen etc) 3 [C] the hours of the day given to work: I've done a good ~'s work. call it a day, stop working. 4*

[C] (often *pl*) time; period. **see better days**, times when one is richer, more prosperous, etc: *Let's hope we'll soon see better ~s*. **make sb's day**, make him very happy. **the present day**, the time we are now living in: *present-~ (= modern) writers; in these ~s in this ~ and age (= nowadays); in those ~s (= then); in the ~s of Queen Victoria; in ~s to come*, in future times. **5** lifetime; period of success, prosperity, power, etc: *Colonialism has had its ~*. **6** **the ~**, contest: *We've won/ carried/lost the ~*.

'day-break, dawn.

'day-dream *vi*, *n* [C] (have) idle and pleasant thoughts.

'day-long *adj*, *adv* (lasting) for the whole day.

'day nursery, \Rightarrow nursery.

'day-return, ticket to travel to a place and back on the same day.

'day shift, (workers working a) period during the day, esp in a mine.

'day-time, day(1), esp: *in the ~-time*.

day-light /'deɪlaɪt/ *n* [U] **1** light of day: *Can we reach our destination in ~, before it gets dark?* **2** dawn: *We must leave before ~*.

daze /deɪz/ *vt* make (a person) feel stupid or unable to think clearly: *He looked ~d with drugs/was in a ~d state*. \square *n* **in a daze**, in a bewildered condition.

dazzle /'dæzl/ *vt* make (a person) unable to see clearly or act normally because of too much light, brilliance, splendour, etc: *~d by bright lights; dazzling opportunities*.

de- /di-, di-/ *prefix* (used with a verb) negative, reverse, opposite of: *depopulate*.

dea-con /'dɪkən/ *n* [C] minister or officer who has various duties in certain Christian churches (eg in the Church of England, below a bishop or priest; in nonconformist churches, a layman attending to secular affairs).

dea-con-ess /'dɪkənɪs/ *n* [C] woman deacon.

dea-con-ry *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (office of) deacons.

dead /ded/ *adj*, *n* [U] **1** (plants, animals, persons) no longer living: *the ~, dead persons; ~ flowers/leaves*. *The hunter fired and the snake fell ~*. **2** never having had life: *~ matter*, eg rock. **3** without movement or activity: *in the ~ of (the) night*, when everything is quiet. **4** no longer used or observed: *a ~ language/custom*. **5** (of the hands, etc) numbed, eg by cold; unable to feel anything: *~ fingers*. **dead to**, unconscious of, refusing to be affected by. **dead to the world**, (*fig*) fast asleep. **6** complete; abrupt; exact: *to come to a ~ stop*. **7** that can no longer be used: *a ~ match*, one that has been struck. *The telephone went ~*, did not transmit sounds. **8** (of sound) dull, heavy. **9** (of colours) dull. **10** (in cricket, tennis, etc) (of the surface of the ground) such that balls move slowly: *a ~ pitch*; (of the ball, in various games) out of play. \square *adv* completely; absolutely; thoroughly: *~ 'beat/'tired/'exhausted; ~ 'certain/'sure; ~ 'drunk; ~ ahead*, directly

ahead. *You're ~ right! He cut me ~*, \Rightarrow cut ²(7).

'dead 'centre, exact centre.

'dead 'end, cul-de-sac.

'dead 'heat, race in which two contestants reach the winning-post together.

dead language, \Rightarrow dead(4).

'dead-line, fixed date for finishing (doing) something.

'dead 'loss, complete failure.

dead march, slow, solemn music for a funeral.

'dead 'silence, complete silence.

dead-en /'dedn/ *vt* take away, deprive of, strength, feeling, brightness: *drugs to ~ the pain; thick walls that ~ the noise*.

dead-lock /'dedlɒk/ *n* [C,U] total failure to reach agreement, to settle a quarrel or grievance.

dead-ly /'dedli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** causing, likely to cause, death: *~ weapons/poison*. **2** filled with hate: *~ enemies*. **3** that may result in damnation: *the seven ~ sins*. **4** like that of death: *a ~ paleness*. \square *adv* like that of death: *~ pale*.

dead-pan /'dedpæn/ *adj* (of a face) showing no emotion.

deaf /def/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** unable to hear at all; unable to hear well: *to become ~; the ~ and dumb alphabet*, one in which signs made with the hands are used for letters or words. **2** unwilling to listen: *~ to all advice/entreaty*.

turned a deaf ear to, refused to listen to.

'deaf 'mute, person who is deaf and dumb.

deaf-ness *n* [U]

deafen /'defn/ *vt* make so much noise that hearing is difficult or impossible: *We were almost ~ed by the uproar*. *There were ~ing cheers when the speaker finished*.

deal¹ /di:l/ *n* [C,U] (board of) fir or pine wood.

deal² /di:l/ *n* [U] large or considerable quantity; quite a lot: *He has had to spend a good ~ of money on medicines*. *I have spent a great ~ of trouble over the work*. \square *adv* very much, often: *They see each other a great ~/see a great ~ of each other*.

deal³ /di:l/ *n* [C] **1** (in games) distribution of playing-cards: *It's your ~. a raw deal*, \Rightarrow raw(6). **2** business transaction or agreement: *It's a ~, I accept/agree*. **3** (*informal*) bargain: *I'll do/make a ~ with you*.

deal⁴ /di:l/ *vt*, *vi* (*pt*, *pp* ~t /delt/) **1** give out to a number of persons: *The money must be ~t out fairly*. *Who ~t the cards?* **2** **deal in sth**, stock, sell: *a shop that ~s in goods of all sorts*. **3** do business: *Do you ~ with Smith, the butcher?* **4** **deal with**, (a) do official things with: *That man is easy/difficult/impossible to ~ with*. (b) behave towards: *How would you ~ with an armed burglar?* (c) (of affairs) manage; attend to: *How shall we ~ with this problem?* (d) be about; be concerned with: *a book ~ing with West Africa*.

dealer /'di:lə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who deals out playing-cards. **2** trader: *a 'car ~*.

deal-ing /'di:liŋ/ *n* 1 [U] dealing out or distributing; behaviour towards others: *He is well known for fair ~.* 2 (pl) business relations: *I've always found him honest in his ~s with me.*

dealt /delt/ *pt, pp* of deal⁴.

dean /di:n/ *n* [C] 1 clergyman at the head of a cathedral chapter; clergyman who, under an archdeacon, is responsible for a number of parishes: *a rural ~.* 2 (in some universities) person with authority to maintain discipline; head of a department of studies.

dean-ery /'di:nəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) office, house, of a dean; group of parishes under a rural dean.

dear /diə(r)/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 loved; lovable: *What a ~ little child!* 2 (used as a form of address in speech, and at the beginning of letters): *D~ Madam/Sir; D~ Mr Green.* 3 high in price; (of a shop) asking high prices: *Everything is getting ~er.* 4 precious (to); greatly valued: *He lost everything that was ~ to him.* □ *adv* at a high cost: *If you want to make money, you must buy cheap and sell ~.* □ *n* [C] 1 lovable person: *Isn't she a ~!* 2 (used to address a person): *'Yes, ~'; (used with a, esp when encouraging somebody): 'Drink your milk up, Anne, there's a ~'.* □ *int* (used to express surprise, impatience, wonder, dismay, etc): *Oh ~! D~ me!*

dear-ly *adv* (a) very much: *He would ~ly love to see his mother again. He loves his mother ~ly.* (b) at great cost: *Victory was ~ly bought,* eg hundreds of soldiers were killed.

dear-ness *n* [U]

dearth /dɑ:θ/ *n* [U] shortage (the usual word): *a ~ of food.*

deary, dearie /'diəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (informal) dear one; darling (used, esp by an elderly woman to a younger person, or a mother to her child).

death /deθ/ *n* [C,U] 1 dying; ending of life: *There have been several ~s from drowning here this summer. Two children were burnt to ~ in the fire. sick to death of,* very fed up. ⇨ feed²(1). *bore sb to death,* bore him extremely. 2 killing or being killed: *The murderer was sentenced to ~, to be executed. put sb to death,* kill him. 3 state of being dead: *lie still in ~; united in ~,* eg of husband and wife in the same grave. (a fate) worse than death, to be greatly feared. 4 be the death of sb, be the cause of his death: *That old motor-bike will be the ~ of you. catch one's death of cold,* (informal) catch a cold that will be fatal. 5 (fig) destruction: *the ~ of one's hopes.*

'death-bed, on which one dies: *She's on her ~-bed,* is dying.

'death-certificate, official document giving cause of death.

'death-duties, taxes (to be) paid on a person's property after death.

'death-mask, cast of a dead person's face.

'death-penalty, execution as a punishment

for a crime.

'death rattle, unusual rattling sound in the throat of a dying person.

'death-roll, list of persons killed (in a war etc).

'death-trap, place, circumstances, etc likely to cause death.

'death-warrant, official document giving authority for an execution.

death-ly /'deθli/ *adj* like death: *a ~ stillness* □ *adv* like death: *~ pale.*

deb /deb/ *n* [C] (abbr of) débutante.

de-bar /di'ba:(r)/ *vt* (-rr-) shut out; prevent a person by a regulation (from doing or having): *~ prisoners from voting at elections.*

de-base /di'beis/ *vt* make lower in value, poorer in quality, character, etc: *to ~ the coinage,* eg by reducing the percentage of silver.

de-base-ment *n* [U]

de-bat-able /di'bɛɪtəbl/ *adj* that can be debated or disputed; open to question.

de-bate /di'beɪt/ *n* [C,U] formal discussion, eg at a public meeting, a committee; contest between two speakers, or two groups of speakers, to show skill and ability in arguing: *After a long ~ the bill was passed by the House of Commons and sent to the House of Lords.* □ *vi, vi* have a debate about; think over in order to decide: *We were debating whether to go to the mountains or to the seaside.*

de-bater, person who debates.

de-bauch /dr'bo:tʃ/ *vt* cause a person to lose virtue, to act immorally. □ *n* [C] occasion of excessive drinking, immoral behaviour: *a drunken ~.*

de-bauch-ery /dr'bo:tʃəri/ *n* [U] taking part in a debauch: *a life of ~ery;* [C] (pl -ies) instance of this.

de-bili-tate /dr'bilɪteɪt/ *vt* make (a person, his constitution) weak: *a debilitating climate.*

de-bil-ity /dr'biləti/ *n* [U] weakness (of health, purpose): *After her long illness she is suffering from general ~.*

debit /'deɪbɪt/ *n* [C] 1 (book-keeping) entry (in an account) of a sum owing. 2 (also ~side) left-hand side of an account, on which such entries are made. □ *vi* put on the debit side of an account: *~ a person's account (with £5).*

de-brief /di'brɪf/ *vt* question, examine, someone who has returned from a mission to obtain information. Hence, **de-brief-ing** *n* [C].

de-bris, dé-bris /'deɪbri/ *US: də'bri:/ n* [U] scattered broken pieces; wreckage: *searching among the ~ after the explosion.*

debt /det/ *n* [C,U] payment which must be, but has not yet been, paid to somebody; obligation: *If I pay all my ~s I shall have no money left. I owe him a ~ of gratitude for all he has done for me.*

debtor /-tə(r)/, person who is in debt to another person.

de-bug /di:'bag/ *vt* (-gg-) 1 remove defects

(from computer equipment). **2** remove microphones, etc from a room.

debut, début /'deibju: US: 'deɪbjʊ:/ *n* [C] (of an actor, musician, etc) first appearance on a public stage: *to make one's ~*.

débutante /'deibju:tɑ:nt US: 'deibju:tɑ:nt/ *n* [C] upper-class girl making her first appearance in high society.

decade /'dekeɪd/ *n* [C] period of ten years: *the first ~ of the 20th century*, ie 1900–1909.

deca-dence /'dekədəns/ *n* [U] falling to a lower level (in morals, art, literature, etc esp after a period at a high level).

deca-dent /'dekədənt/ *adj* in a state of decadence. □ *n* [C] person in this state.

de-cant /dɪ'kænt/ *vt* pour (wine, etc) from a bottle into another vessel slowly so as not to disturb the sediment.

de-canter, vessel, usually of glass with a stopper, into which wine is decanted.

de-capi-tate /dɪ'kæpɪteɪt/ *vt* behead.

de-cath-lon /dɪ'kæθlɒn/ *n* [C] (modern Olympic Games contest in which each competitor takes part in ten events (running, jumping, hurdles, shot put, discus, pole vault and javelin)).

de-cay /dɪ'keɪ/ *vi* go bad; lose power, health: *~ing teeth/vegetables*. □ *n* [U] decaying: *The house is in ~*.

de-cause /dɪ'si:z/ *vi* die. □ *n* (esp legal) (a person's) death. **the ~**, person who has, persons who have, recently died.

de-ceit /dɪ'si:t/ *n* 1 [U] causing a person to accept as true or genuine something that is false: *She is incapable of ~*, would never tell lies, etc. **2** [C] lie; dishonest trick.

de-ceit-ful /dɪ'si:tfl/ *adj* 1 in the habit of deceiving. **2** intended to deceive; misleading in appearance, etc: *~ words/acting*.

de-ceit-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

de-ceit-ful-ness *n* [U]

de-ceive /dɪ'si:v/ *vt* cause a person to believe something that is false; play a trick on; mislead (on purpose): *You can't pass the examination without working hard, so don't ~ yourself*.

de-ceiver, person who deceives.

De-cem-ber /dɪ'sembə(r)/ *n* the twelfth month of the year, with 31 days.

de-cency /'di:nsi:/ *n* [U] (the quality of) being decent; (regard for the) general opinion as to what is decent: *an offence against ~*, eg appearing naked in public.

de-cent /'di:snt/ *adj* 1 right and suitable; respectful: *Put on some ~ clothes before you call on the Smiths*. **2** modest; not likely to shock or embarrass others: *~ language and behaviour*. (Note: this is the only sense for which indecent is the opposite.) **3** (informal) likeable; satisfactory: *He's a very ~ person*.

de-cent-ly *adv* in a decent (1, 2) manner: *~ly dressed; behave ~ly*.

de-cen-tra-lize (also **-ise**) /,di:'sentərəlaɪz/ *vt* give greater powers (for self-government, etc) to (places, branches, etc) away from the

centre).

de-cen-tra-liz-ation (also **-isation**) /,di:'sentərəlaɪzeɪʃn US: -lɪz-/ *n* [U]

de-cep-tion /dɪ'seɪpʃn/ *n* 1 [U] deceiving; being deceived: *to practise ~ on the public*. **2** [C] trick intended to deceive: *a gross ~*.

de-cep-tive /dɪ'seɪptɪv/ *adj* deceiving: *How a person dresses is often ~*.

de-cep-tive-ly *adv*

deci-bel /'desɪbel/ *n* [C] unit for measuring the relative loudness of sounds.

de-cide /dɪ'saɪd/ *vt, vi* 1 settle (a question or a doubt); give a judgement: *The judge ~d the case. It's difficult to ~ between the two. The judge ~d for/in favour of/against the plaintiff*.

2 think about and come to a conclusion; make up one's mind: *The boy ~d not to/ ~d that he would not become a sailor. In the end she ~d on it/ ~d to buy it. We ~d against going/ ~d not to go for a holiday in Wales*. **3** cause to decide (2): *What ~d you to give up your job?*

de-cided *adj* (a) clear; definite: *There is a ~ difference between them*. (b) (of persons) determined: *He's quite ~ about it*.

de-cid-ed-ly *adv* definitely; undoubtedly: *~dly better*.

de-cidu-ous /dɪ'sɪdʒʊəs/ *adj* (of trees) losing their leaves annually (esp in autumn).

deci-mal /'desɪml/ *adj* of tens or one-tenths: *the ~ system*, for money, weights, etc; *a ~ fraction*, eg 0.091.

decimal point, the point in 15.61.

deci-mal-ize (also **-ise**) /-aɪz/ *vt* change to a decimal system: *~ized currency*.

deci-mal-ization (also **-isation**) /,desɪməlaɪzeɪʃn US: -lɪz-/ *n* [U]

deci-mate /'desɪmeɪt/ *vt* kill or destroy one-tenth or a large part of: *a population ~d by an earthquake*.

de-cipher /dɪ'saɪfə(r)/ *vt* find the meaning of (something written in code, bad handwriting, etc).

de-cipher-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be deciphered.

de-ci-sion /dɪ'si:ʒn/ *n* 1 [U] deciding; judging; [C] result of this; settlement of a question: *give a ~ on a case. Have they reached/come to/ arrived at/taken/made a ~ yet?* **2** [U] ability to decide and act accordingly; the quality of being decided (2): *A man who is not capable of ~* (= who hesitates, cannot decide questions) *cannot hold a position of responsibility*.

de-cis-ive /dɪ'saɪsɪv/ *adj* 1 having a decided or definite outcome or result; *a ~ battle*, deciding which side wins the war. **2** showing decision (2); definite: *He gave a ~ answer*.

de-cis-ive-ly *adv*

deck 1 /dek/ *n* [C] 1 any of the floors of a ship in or above the hull: *My cabin is on E ~. Shall we go up on ~?* **2** any similar surface, eg the floor of a bus: *Let's sit on the top ~ of the bus*. **3** pack of playing cards.

'deck-chair, collapsible chair of canvas, on a wooden or metal frame, used out of doors, eg

in parks or on the beach.

deck hand, member of a ship's crew who works on deck.

-decker suffix: a *'double-~er*, bus with an upper compartment. *She ate a 'double-~ sandwich*, one with three slices of bread.

deck² /dek/ *vt* decorate: *streets ~ed with flags*.

de-claim /di'kleim/ *vi, vt* **1** **declaim** *against*, speak with strong feeling; attack in words. **2** speak in the manner of addressing an audience or reciting poetry.

dec-la-ma-tion /deklə'meɪʃn/ *n* [U] **declaiming**: [C] speech full of strong feeling; formal speech.

de-cla-ma-tory /di'klæmətəri/ *US: -tɔːri/ adj*

dec-lar-a-tion /deklə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U] **declaring**: [C] that which is declared: *a ~ of war*; *the D ~ of Independence*, that made by the N American colonies of Great Britain, on 4 July 1776, that they were politically independent.

de-clare /di'kleə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** make known clearly or formally; announce: *to ~ the results of an election*. **1 ~ this meeting closed**. **declare war (on/against)**, announce that a state of war exists. **2** say solemnly; say in order to show that one has no doubt: *The accused man ~d that he was not guilty/~d himself innocent*. **3 declare for/against**, say that one is/ is not in favour of. **4** make a statement (to customs officials) of dutiable goods brought into a country, or (to a Tax Inspector) of one's income: *Have you anything to ~?*

de-clar-able /di'kleərəbl/ *adj* that must be declared (4).

de-class-ify /di'klæsɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) remove from a special (esp secret) classification: *~ information concerning nuclear arms*.

de-class-ifi-ca-tion /di'kliːksɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U]

de-clen-sion /di'klenʃn/ *n* (*gram*) [U] **varying the endings of nouns, pronouns, and adjectives** according to their use in a sentence; [C] class of words whose endings for different cases are alike.

de-cline¹ /di'klaɪn/ *n* [C] **declining**; gradual and continued loss of strength: *the ~ of the Roman Empire*; *a ~ in prices/prosperity*.

de-cline² /di'klaɪn/ *vt, vi* **1** say 'No' (to); refuse (something offered): *to ~ an invitation to (go to) a party*. **2** continue to become smaller, weaker, lower: *declining birthrate*; *declining sales*. **3** (of the sun) go down. **4** give the cases of (a word).

de-clutch /di'klʌtʃ/ *vi* **disconnect the clutch** (of a motor-vehicle) in order to change gear.

de-code /di'kəʊd/ *vt* **decipher** (a code).

de-com-pose /di'kɒmpəʊz/ *vt, vi* **1** separate (a substance, light, etc) into its parts: *A prism ~s light*. **2** (cause to) become bad or rotten; decay: *~d meat*.

de-com-po-si-tion /di'kɒmpəʊzɪʃn/ *n* [U]

dé-cor /'deɪkɔː(r)/ *US: der'kɔːr/ n* [C] (usually *sing*) all that makes up the general appearance, eg of a room or the stage of a theatre.

dec-or-ate /'dekəreɪt/ *vt* **1** put ornaments on; make (more) beautiful by placing adornments on or in: *to ~ a street with flags/a birthday cake*. **2** paint, plaster, etc the outside of (a building); put paint, wallpaper, etc on the inside rooms of (a building). **3** give (a person) a mark of distinction (eg a medal, an order): *Several soldiers were ~d for bravery*.

dec-ora-tion /dekə'reɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] **decorating** or being decorated. **2** [C] thing used for decorating: *cake ~s*. **3** [C] medal, ribbon, etc given and worn as an honour or award.

dec-or-a-tive /'dekrətɪv/ *US: 'dekəreɪtɪv/ adj* suitable for decorating (1): *Holly, with its bright red berries, is very ~*.

dec-or-a-tor /'dekəreɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] workman who decorates (2); *interior ~s*.

de-coy /'di:kɔɪ/ *n* [C] **1** (real or imitation) bird (eg a duck) or animal used to attract others so that they may be shot or caught; place designed for this purpose. **2** (*fig*) person or thing used to tempt somebody into a position of danger. □ *vt* /di'kɔɪ/ **trick** into a place of danger by means of a decoy: *He had been ~ed across the frontier and arrested as a spy*.

de-crease /di'kriːs/ *vt, vi* (cause to) become shorter, smaller, less: *The population of the village has ~d from 1000 to 500*. □ *n* /di'kriːs/ [U] **decreasing**; [C] amount by which something decreases: *There has been a ~ in our imports this year*.

de-cre-e /di'kriː/ *n* [C] **1** order given by a ruler or authority and having the force of a law: *issue a ~*; *rule by ~*. **2** judgement or decision of some law courts: *a ~ of divorce*. □ *vt, vi* **issue** a decree, order by, decree: *It had been ~d that...*

decree 'absolute, order for an immediate divorce.

decree nisi /di'kriː 'naɪsaɪ/, order for a divorce unless cause to prevent it is shown within a fixed period.

de-cre-pit /di'kreɪpɪt/ *adj* made weak by old age or hard use: *a ~ horse*.

de-cry /di'kraɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) try, by speaking against something, to make it seem less valuable, useful, etc.

dedi-cate /'dedɪkeɪt/ *vt* **1** give up, devote (one's time, energy, etc) to a special cause or purpose: *He ~d his life to the service of his country*. **2** devote with solemn ceremonies (to God, to a sacred use). **3** (of an author) write (or print) a person's name at the beginning of a book (to show gratitude or friendship to).

dedi-ca-tion /'dedɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* (a) [U] **dedicating**: *the dedication of a church*. (b) [C] words used in dedicating a book.

de-duce /di'djuːs/ *US: di'duːs/ vt* arrive at (knowledge, a theory, etc) by reasoning; reach a conclusion: *If you see a doctor leaving a house, you'll ~ that someone in the house is ill*.

de-duct /di'dʌkt/ *vt* take away (an amount or part).

de-duc-tion /di'dʌkʃn/ *n* **1** [U] **deducting**;

[C] amount deducted: *~s from pay for insurance and pension*. **2** [U] deducing; [C] conclusion reached by reasoning from general laws to a particular case.

deed /di:d/ *n* [C] **1** something done; action: *D~s are better than promises*. **2** (legal) written or printed signed agreement, esp about ownership or rights.

deep ¹/di:p/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** going a long way down from the top: *a ~ well/river*. **2** going a long way from the surface or edge: *a ~ wound*. **3** (fig) serious; not superficial: *a ~ thinker*. **4** placed or extending down, back or in (with words to show extent): *a hole two metres ~; to be ~ in debt*. **5** (of sounds) low: *in a ~ voice*. **6** in a ~ sleep, from which one is not easily awakened. **7** (of colours) strong; intense: *a ~ red*. **8** brought from far down: *a ~ sigh*, strongly felt: *~ sorrow/feelings/sympathy*. **9** **deep in**, absorbed in; having all one's attention centred on: *~ in thought/study/a book*. **10** (fig) difficult to understand or learn about: *a ~ mystery*.

deep-ly *adv* intensely: *He is ~ly interested in the subject*.

deep-ness *n* [U]

deep² /di:p/ *adv* far down or in: *We had to dig ~ to find water*.

deep-freeze *vt* freeze (food) quickly to keep fresh it for long periods: *~frozen fish*. □ *n* [C] special type of refrigerator (or a special part of an ordinary refrigerator) used for this purpose: *put fruit and vegetables in the ~ freeze*.

deep-fried *adj* fried in oil deep enough to cover it.

deep-rooted, not easily removed: *He has a ~ rooted dislike of hard work*.

deep-seated, firmly established: *The causes of the trouble are ~ seated*.

deep³ /di:p/ *n* the ~, (poetry) the sea.

deepen /di:pən/ *vt, vi* make or become deep.

deer /diə(r)/ *n* [C] (pl unchanged) (kinds of) graceful, quick-running animal, the male of which usually has horns.

deer-skin, (leather made of) deer's skin.

de-esca-late /di: 'eskəleɪt/ *vt* decrease the area or intensity of, eg a war.

de-face /di'feɪs/ *vt* spoil the appearance of (by marking or damaging the surface of).

de-face-ment *n* [C, U]

de-fame /di'feɪm/ *vt* attack the good reputation of; say evil things about.

defa-ma-tion /di'fəmeɪʃn/ *n* [U] defaming or being defamed; harm done to a person's reputation.

de-fama-tory /di'fəmətri/ *US*: -tɔ:ri/ *adj*

de-fault¹ /di'fəʊlt/ *n* [U] act of defaulting: *to win a case/a game by ~*, because the other person, team, player, etc does not appear. **in de-fault of**, in the absence of.

de-fault² /di'fəʊlt/ *vi* fail to perform a duty, or to appear (eg in a law court) when required to do so, or to pay a debt.

de-faulter, person who defaults.

de-feat /di'fi:t/ *vt* **1** overcome; win a victory over: *to ~ another school at football*. **2** make useless; cause to fail: *Our hopes were ~ed*. □ *n* [U] defeating or being defeated: *Our team has not yet suffered ~*. [C] instance of this: *six victories and two ~s*.

de-fe-cate /di'feki:t/ *vi* (medical) empty the bowels.

de-fect¹ /di'fekt/ *n* [C] fault; imperfection; something that is not complete or perfect: *~s in a system of education*.

de-fect² /di'fekt/ *vi* desert one's country, one's allegiance; to fall away from a political movement or party (usually to another one).

de-fec-tor /-tə(r)/, person who defects: *~ors from the Republican Party*.

de-fec-tion /di'fekʃn/ *n* [U] falling away from loyalty to a political party (or its leader), religion or duty; [C] instance of this: *~s from the Labour Party*.

de-fec-tive /di'fektiv/ *adj* imperfect: *~ in workmanship/moral sense*.

de-fec-tive-ly *adv*

de-fec-tive-ness *n* [U]

de-fence (US = **de-fense**) /di'fens/ *n* **1** [U] defending from attack; fighting against attack: *money used for national ~*. **2** [C] thing used for defending or protecting; means of defending: *People used to build strong walls round their towns as a ~ against enemies*. **3** [C, U] (legal) argument(s) used to contest an accusation; the lawyer(s) acting for an accused person: *The accused man made no ~. Counsel for the ~ put in a plea for mercy*.

de-fence-less *adj* unable to defend oneself.

de-fence-less-ly *adv*

de-fence-less-ness *n* [U]

de-fend /di'fend/ *vt* guard; protect; make safe: *to ~ one's country against enemies*. **2** speak or write in support of: *~ (= uphold) a claim; ~ (= contest) a lawsuit*.

de-fend-ant /di'fendənt/ *n* [C] person against whom a legal action is brought. ⇨ plaintiff.

de-fender /di'fendə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who defends. **2** (in sport, eg football) player who guards his goal area against attacks from the other side.

de-fens-ible /di'fensəbl/ *adj* able to be defended.

de-fens-ive /di'fensiv/ *adj* used for, intended for, defending: *~ warfare/measures*. □ *n* **be on the defensive**, be careful about defending one's ideas, actions, against criticism.

de-fens-ive-ly *adv*

de-fer¹ /di'fɜ:(r)/ *vt* (-rr-) put off to a later time: *I'll ~ my departure for a week*.

de-fer² /di'fɜ:(r)/ *vi* (-rr-) give way; yield (often to show respect): *~ to one's elders/to his opinions*.

de-fer-ence /di'fərəns/ *n* [U] giving way to the wishes, accepting the opinions or judgments, of another or others; respect: *to show ~*

to a judge. **in deference to**, out of respect for.

de-fer-en-tial /,dɛfə'renʃl/ *adj* showing respect.

de-fer-en-tially /-ʃəli/ *adv*

de-fiance /dɪ'faɪəns/ *n* [U] obvious refusal to obey; refusal to recognize authority; defying. **in defiance of**, refusing to obey: *to act in ~ of orders*.

de-fiant /dɪ'faɪənt/ *adj* showing defiance; openly disobedient.

defiant-ly *adv*

de-fi-ci-ency /dɪ'fɪʃɪns/ *n* (-ies) **1** [U] the state of being short of, less than, what is correct or needed; [C] instance of this: *suffering from a ~ of food*. **2** [C] amount by which something is short of what is correct or needed: *a ~ of £5*. **3** [C] something imperfect: *Cosmetics do not always cover up the deficiencies of nature*.

de-fi-cient /dɪ'fɪʃnt/ *adj* not having enough of: *~ in courage*; *a mentally ~ person*, one who is mentally subnormal.

defi-cit /'defɪsɪt/ *n* [C] amount by which something, esp a sum of money, is too small; amount by which payments are more than receipts. ⇨ **surplus**.

de-file /dɪ'faɪl/ *vt* make dirty or impure: *rivers ~d by waste from factories*; *to ~ one's mind*.

de-fine /dɪ'faɪn/ *vt* **1** state precisely the meaning of (eg words). **2** state or show clearly: *The powers of a judge are ~d by law*.

de-fin-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be defined.

defi-nite /'defɪnɪt/ *adj* clear; not doubtful or uncertain: *I want a ~ answer: 'Yes' or 'No'.*

definite 'article, the word 'the'.

defi-nite-ly *adv* (a) in a definite manner. (b) (informal) (used in answer to a question) yes, certainly.

defi-ni-tion /,dɛfɪ'nɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] defining: [C] statement that defines: *To give a ~ of a word is more difficult than you think*. **2** [U] clearness of outline; making or being distinct in outline; power of a lens (in a camera or telescope) to show clear outlines.

de-fini-tive /dɪ'fɪnɪtɪv/ *adj* to be considered decisive and without the need for, or possibility of, change or addition: *a ~ offer/answer*.

de-flate /dɪ'fleɪt/ *vt* **1** make (a tyre, balloon, etc) smaller by letting out air or gas. **2** (fig) lessen the conceit of: *~ a pompous politician*. **3** /dɪ'fleɪt/ take action to reduce the amount of money in circulation in order to lower or keep steady the prices of salable goods.

de-fla-tion /dɪ'fleɪʃn/ *n* [U]

de-fla-tion-ary /-əri/ *US: -neri/* *adj* designed or tending to produce deflation: *necessary deflationary measures by the Chancellor*.

de-flect /dɪ'flekt/ *vt, vi* (cause to) turn aside or move in a different direction: *The ball was ~ed off a defender into the goal*.

de-flec-tion /dɪ'flekʃn/ *n* [C, U]

de-form /dɪ'fɔ:m/ *vt* spoil the form or appearance of; put out of shape.

de-formed *adj* (of the body, or a part of it) badly shaped; unnaturally shaped: *The boy has a ~ed foot and cannot play games*.

de-form-ity /dɪ'fɔ:məti/ *n* [U] being deformed; [C] (pl -ies) deformed part (esp of the body).

de-fraud /dɪ'frɔ:d/ *vt* trick (a person) out of what is rightly his.

de-fray /dɪ'freɪ/ *vt* supply the money needed, pay (the expenses) for something.

de-frayal /-əl/ *n* [U]

de-fray-ment *n* [U]

de-frost /dɪ'frɔ:st/ *US: -frɔ:st/* *vt* remove, get rid of, ice or frost (eg in a refrigerator, on the windscreen of a motor-vehicle).

deft /deft/ *adj* quick and clever (esp with the fingers).

deft-ly *adv*

deft-ness *n* [U]

de-funct /dɪ'fʌŋkt/ *adj* (of things, eg laws) extinct.

de-fuse /dɪ'fju:z/ *vt* remove or make useless the fuse of, eg an unexploded bomb or shell.

defy /dɪ'faɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) **1** resist openly. **2** refuse to obey or show respect to: *to ~ one's superiors*. **3** offer difficulties that cannot be overcome: *The problem defied solution, could not be solved*. **4** dare² (3) (the usual word).

de-gen-er-ate¹ /dɪ'dʒenərət/ *adj* having lost qualities (physical, moral or mental) that are considered normal and desirable: *He didn't let riches and luxury make him ~*. □ *n* [C] degenerate person or animal.

de-gen-er-ate² /dɪ'dʒenərəɪt/ *vi* pass from a state of goodness to a lower state by losing qualities which are considered normal and desirable: *Young men of today are not degenerating*, eg not becoming less hard-working, less honest, than those of earlier times.

de-grade /dɪ'greɪd/ *vt* **1** reduce in rank or status. **2** cause to be less moral or less deserving of respect: *degrading oneself by cheating*.

de-gra-da-tion /,degrə'deɪʃn/ *n* [U] degrading or being degraded.

de-gree /dɪ'gri:/ *n* [C] **1** unit of measurement (of a circle) for angles: *an angle of ninety ~s*, (90°) a right angle; *a ~ of latitude*, about 69 miles. **2** unit of measurement for temperature: *Water freezes at 32 ~s Fahrenheit (32°F) or zero ~s Centigrade (0°C)*. **3** step or stage in a scale or process: *The girls show various ~s of skill in their use of carpentry tools. He was not in the slightest ~ interested, was completely uninterested*. **by degrees**, gradually: *Their friendship grew by ~s into love*. **to a high/ the highest degree**, intensively; exceedingly. **4** position in society: *persons of high ~*. **5** academic title; rank or grade given by a university to a person who has passed an examination: *studying for/ take a ~*; *the ~ of Master of Arts*. **6** (music) interval from one note to another. **7** (gram) one of the three forms of comparison of an adjective or adverb.

first degree, most extreme stage of serious-

ness: *first ~ burns, first ~ murder.*

third degree, severe and long examination (eg by the police) of an accused man to get information or a confession: *Are third~ methods used in your country?*

de-hy-drate /di:ha'dreit/ *vt* remove water or moisture (from): *~d vegetables.*

de-ice /di:'ais/ *vt* free, eg the surfaces of an aircraft, from ice.

de-ify /di:'ifai/ *vt* (pl, pp -ied) worship as a god.

deign /dem/ *vi* be kind or gracious enough to: *He passed by without ~ing to look at me.*

de-ity /'deiəti/ *US:* /'deiəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] divine quality or nature; state of being a god or goddess. **2** [C] god or goddess: *Roman deities*, eg Neptune, Minerva.

de-ject /dɪ'dʒekt/ *vt* make sad or gloomy: *Why is she looking so ~ed, in such low spirits?* (Note: usually used as a pp.)

de-ject-ed-ly *adv*

de-jec-tion /dɪ'dʒekʃn/ *n* [U] dejected state: *He left in ~.*

de-lay /di:'lei/ *vt, vi* **1** make or be slow or late: *The train was ~ed (for) two hours.* **2** put off until later: *Why have they ~ed opening the new school?* **3** *n* [U] delaying or being delayed: *We must leave without ~.* **2** [C] instance, time, of this: *after a ~ of three hours.*

de-lec-table /di:'lektəbl/ *adj* delightful; pleasant.

del-egacy /'deligəsi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) system of delegating; body of delegates.

del-egate ¹ /'deligət/ *n* [C] person to whom something is delegated (eg a representative sent to a conference or convention).

del-egate ² /'deligət/ *vt* appoint and send as a representative to a meeting; entrust (duties, rights, etc): *to ~ her to attended the conference; to ~ rights to a deputy.*

del-ega-tion /dɪ'lɛ'geɪʃn/ *n* (a) [U] delegating or being delegated. (b) [C] group or team of delegates.

de-lete /di:'li:t/ *vt* strike or take out (something written or printed): *Several words had been ~d by the censor.*

de-le-tion /di:'li:ʃn/ *n* [U] deleting; [C] instance of this.

de-lib-er-ate ¹ /di:'libərət/ *adj* **1** intentional; not by chance: *a ~ lie/insult.* **2** slow and cautious (in action, speech, etc): *He entered the room with ~ steps.*

de-lib-er-ate-ly *adv*

de-lib-er-ate ² /di:'libərət/ *vt, vi* (formal) consider, talk about, carefully: *We were deliberating whether to buy a new car.*

de-lib-er-ation /di:'libərə'eiʃn/ *n* (formal) **1** [C, U] careful consideration and discussion; debate: *After long ~, they decided to accept the offer.* **2** [U] being deliberate (2); slowness of movement: *to speak/take aim with great ~.*

deli-cacy /'delikasɪ/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] quality of being delicate (all senses): *The political situation is one of great ~, requires very care-*

ful handling. **2** [C] delicate (8) kind of food: *all the delicacies of the season.*

deli-cate /'delɪkət/ *adj* **1** soft; tender; of fine or thin material: *the ~ skin of a baby.* **2** fine; exquisite: *jewellery of ~ workmanship.* **3** easily injured; becoming ill easily; needing great care: *~ china/plants; a ~-looking child.* **4** requiring careful treatment or skilful handling: *a ~ surgical operation.* **5** (of colours) soft; not strong: *a ~ shade of pink.* **6** (of the senses, of instruments) able to appreciate or show very small changes or differences: *the ~ instruments needed by medical scientists.* **7** taking great care not to be immodest, not to hurt the feelings of others. **8** (of food, its flavour) pleasing to the taste and not strongly flavoured: *Some kinds of fish have a more ~ flavour than others.*

deli-cate-ly *adv*

deli-ca-tes-sen /dɪ'lɪkə'tesn/ *n* [C, U] (shop selling) prepared foods ready for serving (esp cooked meat, smoked fish, pickles).

de-li-cious /di:'liʃəs/ *adj* giving delight (esp to the senses of taste and smell, and to the sense of humour): *a ~ cake.*

de-li-cious-ly *adv*

de-light ¹ /di:'laɪt/ *n* **1** [U] great pleasure; joy: *To his great ~ he passed the examination.* **take delight in**, find pleasure in: *The naughty boy takes great ~ in pulling the cat's tail.* **2** [C] cause or source of great pleasure: *Dancing is her chief ~.*

de-light-ful /-fl/ *adj* giving pleasure: *a ~ful holiday.*

de-light-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

de-light ² /di:'laɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** give great pleasure to; please greatly: *Her singing ~ed everyone.* **2** **be delighted**, be greatly pleased: *I was ~ed to hear the news of your success/ ~ed at the news/ ~ed that you were successful.* **3** take or find great pleasure: *He ~s in teasing his young sister.*

de-lin-quency /di:'lɪŋkwənsɪ/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] wrong-doing; neglect of duty: *the problem of juvenile ~, doing wrong by young persons.* **2** [C] instance of this.

de-lin-quent /di:'lɪŋkwənt/ *n* [C], *adj* (person) doing wrong, behaving badly.

de-liri-ous /di:'lɪriəs/ *adj* **1** suffering from, showing, delirium. **2** wildly excited: *We were ~ with joy.*

de-liri-ous-ly *adv*

de-lir-i-um /di:'lɪriəm/ *n* [U] **1** violent mental disturbance, often accompanied by wild talk, esp during feverish illness. **2** (fig) wild excitement.

de-liver /di:'lɪvə(r)/ *vt* **1** take (letters, parcels, goods, etc) to houses, to the person(s) to whom they are addressed, to the buyer(s): *Did you ~ my message?* **2** **deliver from**, (formal) rescue, save, set free: *May God ~ us from all evil.* **3** give forth in words: *to ~ a sermon/a course of lectures.* **4** (of a medical attendant, eg a midwife) help (a woman) in childbirth. **5** sur-

render; give up; hand over: *to ~ up stolen goods*; *to ~ over the keys to the new house*. **6** send against: *to ~ a blow in the cause of freedom*.

de-liverer, person who delivers; rescuer.

de-liver-ance /dɪ'lɪvərəns/ *n* [U] delivering(2); rescue; being set free.

de-liv-ery /dɪ'lɪvəri/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] delivering (of letters, goods, etc): *We guarantee prompt ~*. **2** [C] periodical performance of this: *How many deliveries are there in your town* (= How often does the postman deliver letters) *every day?* **2** [U] manner of speaking (in lectures, etc): *His sermon was good, but his ~ was poor*.

dell /dɛl/ *n* [C] small valley, usually with trees.

de-louse /dɪ'laʊs/ *vt* rid (sb) of lice.

delta /'dɛltə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) **1** Greek letter **Δ** (Δ). **2** land in this shape at the place where some rivers meet the sea and separate to make two or more branches: *the Nile D~*.

delta-wing, aircraft wing of this shape (Δ).

de-lude /dɪ'lu:d/ *vt* deceive; mislead (on purpose): *deluding oneself with false hopes*; *to ~ him/oneself into believing that...*

del-uge /'dɛljʊ:dʒ/ *n* [C] **1** great flood; heavy rush of water; violent rainfall. **2** anything coming in a heavy rush: *a ~ of words/questions/protests*. □ *vt* flood: *He was ~d with questions*.

de-lu-sion /dɪ'lu:ʒn/ *n* [U] deluding or being deluded: [C] false opinion or belief, esp one that may be a symptom of madness: *to be under a ~/under the ~ that...; to suffer from ~s*.

de-lus-ive /dɪ'lu:sɪv/ *adj* not real; deceptive.

de-lus-ive-ly *adv*

de luxe /dɪ'la:ks/ *adj* (Fr) of very high quality, high standards of comfort, etc: *a ~ edition of a book*.

delve /dɛlv/ *vt, vi* **delve (into)**, investigate, look into: *to ~ into his past*.

dema-gogue /'deməgɒg *US*: -gɒg/ *n* [C] political leader who tries, by speeches appealing to the feelings instead of to reason, to stir up the people.

de-mand¹ /dɪ'ma:nd *US*: -'mænd/ *n* **1** [C] act of demanding(1); something that is demanded(1): *The workers' ~s* (eg for higher pay) *were refused by the employers*. **on demand**, when demanded: *a cheque payable on ~*. **make demands (on)**, use; take up: *Children make great ~s on one's income/time*. **2** [U] (or with *a* and an adjective) desire, by people ready to buy, employ, etc: *There is a great ~ for typists but a poor ~/not much ~ for clerks*. *Our goods are in great ~*.

de-mand² /dɪ'ma:nd *US*: -'mænd/ *vt* **1** ask for as if ordering, or as if one has a right to: *~ an apology from her*. **2** need; require: *This sort of work ~s great patience*.

de-mar-cate /'dɪ:mɑ:kɛɪt/ *vt* mark or fix the limits of, eg a frontier.

de-mar-ca-tion /'dɪ:mɑ:'keɪʃn/ *n* [U] marking of a boundary or limit; separation: *an obvi-*

ous line of ~ in the industrial dispute.

de-mean /dɪ'mi:n/ *vt* (formal) lower oneself in dignity, social esteem.

de-mean-our (*US* = -or) /dɪ'mi:nə(r)/ *n* [U] way of behaving: *I don't like his pompous ~*.

de-mented /dɪ'mentɪd/ *adj* **1** mad. **2** (informal) extremely worried.

de-mented-ly *adv*

deme-rara /'demə'reərə/ *n* [U] (also ~ *sugar*) light brown raw cane sugar (from Guyana).

de-mili-tar-ized (also -ised) /dɪ'mɪlɪtəraɪzd/ *adj* (of a country, or part of it) required, by treaty or agreement, to have no military forces or installation in it: *a ~ zone*.

de-mise /dɪ'maɪz/ *n* [C] (legal) death.

de-mist /dɪ'mɪst/ *vt* remove the mist from, eg the windscreen of a motor-vehicle.

demon /'demɒ/ *n* [C] (informal) (abbr for) demonstration(2).

de-mo-bil-ize (also -ise) /dɪ'məʊbəlaɪz/ *vt* release from military service.

de-mo-bil-ization (also -isation) /dɪ'məʊbəlaɪ'zeɪʃn *US*: -lɪ'z-/ *n* [U]

democ-racy /dɪ'mɒkrəsi/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [C, U] political system in which supreme power belongs to the people: *D~ needs time to become established in newly independent countries*.

2 [C] state which has the following juridical features: acknowledgement of the will of the majority as the source of power; the declaration of citizens' freedoms; the equality of citizens' rights: *D~ies acknowledge the will of the people*. **3** [U] guaranteeing of citizens' rights and freedoms in all aspects of public and private life: *Is there more ~ in Australia than in Great Britain?*

demon-cratic /'deməkrætɪk/ *n* [C] **1** person who favours or supports democracy. **2** **D~**, (US) member of the Democratic Party.

demo-cratic /'demə'krætɪk/ *adj* **1** of, like, supporting, democracy (1,2). **2** based on democracy, exercising democracy(1): *a ~ system of government*; *a ~ republic*. **3** favouring and practicing democracy (3).

the Democratic Party, (US) one of the two main political parties. ⇨ Republican.

demo-crati-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

de-moc-ra-tize (also -ise) /dɪ'mɒkrətaɪz/ *vt* make democratic.

de-mol-ish /dɪ'mɒlɪʃ/ *vt* **1** pull down, eg old buildings. **2** destroy, eg an argument; make an end of.

demo-li-tion /'demə'liʃn/ *n* [C, U]

de-mon, dae-mon /'dɪ:mən/ *n* [C] **1** evil, wicked or cruel supernatural being or spirit. **2** (informal) fierce or energetic person: *He's a ~ for work*.

de-mon-strable /dɪ'mɒnstrəbl/ *adj* that can be logically proved.

de-mon-strably /-əblɪ/ *adv*

dem-on-strate /'demənstreɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** show clearly by giving proof(s) or example(s): *How would you ~ that the world is round?* **2** take part in a demonstration(2): *The workers have*

marched through the streets with banners to ~ against the rising cost of living.

dem-on-strat-ion /dɪməŋ'streɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

1 demonstrating (1): *a ~ of affection*, eg when a child puts its arms round its mother's neck. **2** public display of feeling by a group, eg of workers, students: *a student ~ that ended in violence.*

de-mon-strat-ive /dɪ'mɒnstrə'tɪv/ *adj* **1** (of persons) showing feelings: *Some children are more ~ than others.* **2** marked by open expression of feelings: *~ behaviour.* **3** serving to point out. **4** (gram): *~ pronoun*, (this, these, that, those).

de-mon-strat-ive-ly *adv*

dem-on-strat-or /dɪməŋ'streɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who demonstrates (2): *The ~s were dispersed by the police.* **2** person who teaches or explains by demonstrating (1).

de-moral-ize (also **-ise**) /dɪ'mɒrəlaɪz/ *US: -'mɔ:r-/ vt* **1** hurt or weaken the morals of: *drugs that have a demoralizing effect.* **2** weaken the courage, confidence, self-discipline, etc of, eg an army.

de-mote /dɪ:'məʊt/ *vt* reduce to a lower rank or grade.

de-mo-tion /dɪ:'məʊʃn/ *n* [U]

de-motic /dɪ'mɒtɪk/ *adj* of, used by, ordinary people: *~ Greek*, the everyday form of modern Greek.

de-mur /dɪ'mɜ:(r)/ *vi* (-rr-) (formal) raise an objection: *to ~ to a demand; to ~ at working on Sundays.* □ *n* [C] hesitation or objection: (chiefly in) *without ~.*

de-mure /dɪ'mjʊə(r)/ *adj* **1** quiet and serious: *a ~ young lady.* **2** pretending to be, suggesting that one is, demure: *She gave him a ~ smile.*

de-mure-ly *adv*

den /den/ *n* [C] **1** animal's hidden lying-place, eg a cave. **2** secret resort: *an 'opium ~; a ~ of thieves.* **3** (informal) room in which a person works and studies without being disturbed.

de-nation-al-ize (also **-ise**) /dɪ:'næʃnəlaɪz/ *vt* transfer (a nationalized industry, etc) to private ownership again.

de-nation-al-iz-ation (also **-isation**) /dɪ:'næʃnəlaɪ'zeɪʃn/ *US: -lɪz-/ n* [U]

de-ni-able /dɪ'naɪəbl/ *adj* that can be denied.

de-nial /dɪ'naɪəl/ *n* **1** [U] denying; refusing a request; [C] instance of this: *the ~ of justice/of a request for help.* **2** [C] statement that something is not true: *the prisoner's repeated ~s of being involved in the robbery.*

denim /'denɪm/ *n* **1** [U] (usually pale blue) strong cotton cloth (used for jeans, overalls, etc). **2** (pl) (informal) jeans made from denim.

de-nomi-na-tion /dɪ'nɒmɪ'neɪʃn/ *n* [C] **1** name, esp one given to a class or religious group or sect: *The Protestant ~s include the Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists.* **2** class or unit (in weight, length, numbers, money, etc): *The US coin of the lowest ~ is the cent.*

de-nomi-na-tional /-ʃənl/ *adj* of religious groups: *inter-~, of several groups.*

de-nomi-na-tor /dɪ'nɒmɪneɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] number or quantity below the line in a fraction, eg 4 in $\frac{3}{4}$.

de-note /dɪ'nəʊt/ *vt* (formal) **1** be the sign or symbol of; be the name of: *In algebra the sign x usually ~s an unknown quantity.* **2** indicate: *His silence ~d his objection to the policy.*

de-nounce /dɪ'naʊns/ *vt* **1** speak publicly against; give information against: *to ~ her as a spy.* **2** give notice that one is going to end (a treaty or agreement).

dense /dens/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** (of liquids, vapour) not easily seen through: *a ~ fog; ~ smoke.* **2** (of people and things) crowded together in great numbers: *a ~ crowd/forest.* **3** stupid; having a mind that ideas can penetrate only with difficulty.

dense-ly *adv: a ~ly populated country.*

dense-ness *n* [U]

den-sity /'densəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] the quality of being dense: *the ~ of a forest/the population.* **2** [C,U] (physics) relation of weight to volume.

dent /dent/ *n* [C] **1** hollow, depression, in a hard surface made by a blow or by pressure. **2** (fig) (informal) damage, effect badly: *a ~ in one's pride.* □ *vt, vi* make or get a dent in: *a car badly ~ed in a collision.*

den-tal /'dentl/ *adj* of or for the teeth: *a ~ surgeon.*

dental floss, threads of silk, etc used to clean between teeth.

dental surgeon, dentist.

den-tist /'dentɪst/ *n* [C] person whose work is filling, cleaning, taking out, teeth and fitting artificial teeth.

den-tistry, work of a dentist.

den-ture /'dentʃə(r)/ *n* [C] device (fitted on the gums) with artificial teeth.

de-nude /dɪ'nju:d/ *vt* make naked or bare.

de-nunci-ation /dɪ'nʌnsɪ'eɪʃn/ *n* [C,U] denouncing: *the ~ of a traitor.*

deny /dɪ'naɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) **1** say that (something) is not true: *The accused man denied the charge. It cannot be denied that .../There is no ~ing the fact that....* Everyone must admit that... **2** say that one knows nothing about; refuse to acknowledge: *He denied the signature, said that it was not his.* **3** say 'no' to a request; refuse to give (something asked for or needed): *He denies himself his wife nothing.*

de-odor-ant /dɪ:'əʊdərənt/ *n* [C] substance that disguises or absorbs (esp body) odours.

de-odor-ize (also **-ise**) /dɪ:'əʊdəraɪz/ *vt* remove unwanted smells from.

de-part /dɪ'pɑ:t/ *vi* **1** go away; leave: *The train ~s (from Euston) at 3.30 pm.* **2** behave in a way that differs from: *~ from routine/the truth.*

the de-parted (sing) person who has recently died; (pl) those who have died: *pray for the souls of the ~ed.*

de-part-ment /dɪ'pɑ:tmənt/ *n* [C] one of several divisions of a government, business, shop, university, etc: *the Education D~ /D~ of*

Education.

de'partment store, large shop where many kinds of goods are sold in different departments.

de-part-mental /di:pa:t'mentl/ *adj* of a department (contrasted with the whole): *~al duties/administration.*

de-par-ture /di'pa:tʃə(r)/ *n* 1 [U] departing; going away; [C] instance of this: *There are notices showing arrivals and ~s of trains over there.* 2 [C,U] turning away or aside; changing: *a ~ from old custom; a new ~ in physics,* eg the discovery of nuclear fission.

de-pend /di'pend/ *vi* 1 need, rely on, (the support, etc of) in order to exist or to be true or to succeed: *Children ~ on their parents for food and clothing. that/it all depends,* the result depends on something else. 2 trust; be certain about: *You can always ~ on John to be there when he is needed.*

de-pend-able /-əbl/ *adj* that or who may be relied on.

de-pend-ant (also **-ent**) /di'pendənt/ *n* [C] person who depends on another or others for a home, food, etc. ⇨ *dependent adj.*

de-pend-ence /di'pendəns/ *n* [U] 1 the state of depending; being supported by others: *Why don't you find a job and stop this ~ on your parents?* 2 confident trust; reliance: *He's not a man you can put much ~ on.* You can't rely on him. 3 the state of being determined or conditioned by: *the ~ on drugs.*

de-pend-ency /di'pendənsi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) country governed or controlled by another: *The Hawaiian Islands are no longer a ~ of the USA.*

de-pend-ent /di'pendənt/ *n* [C] = *dependent*. □ *adj* depending: *Promotion is ~ on your record of success.*

de-pict /di'pikt/ *vt* show in the form of a picture; describe in words: *Many Mediterranean scenes are ~ed in these photographs.*

de-pic-tion /di'pikʃn/ *n* [U]

de-plete /di'pli:t/ *vt* use up, empty until little or none remains: *to ~ a lake of fish; ~d supplies.*

de-ple-tion /di'pli:ʃn/ *n* [U]

de-plore /di'plɔ:(r)/ *vt* show, say, that one is filled with great aversion, sorrow or regret for.

de-plor-able /di'plɔ:rəbl/ *adj* that is, or should be, deplored: *deplorable conduct.*

de-plor-ably /-əbl/ *adv*: *deplorably ignorant children.*

de-ploy /di'plɔ:/ *vt,vi* (of troops and warships) (cause to) spread out, eg into battle positions.

de-popu-late /di:popju:leɪt/ *vt* reduce the number of people living in a place: *a country ~d by war/famine.*

de-popu-la-tion /di:popju:'teɪʃn/ *n* [U]

de-port¹ /di'pɔ:t/ *vt* expel (an unwanted person) from a country: *The spy was imprisoned for two years and then ~ed.*

de-port-ation /di:pɔ:'teɪʃn/ *n* [U]

de-port² /di'pɔ:t/ *vt* (*formal*) behave: *to ~ oneself with dignity.*

de-port-ment *n* [U] (*esp*) position of one's body when standing and walking: *Many young ladies used to have lessons in ~ment.*

de-pose /di'pəʊz/ *vt,vi* remove, esp a ruler such as a king, from a position of authority.

de-posit¹ /di'pɒzɪt/ *n* [C] 1 money that is deposited (2,3): *The shopkeeper promised to keep the goods for me if I left/paid/made a ~.* 2 layer of matter deposited (4): *A thick ~ of mud covered the fields after the floods went down.* 3 layer of solid matter (often buried in the earth): *Valuable new ~s of tin have been found in Bolivia.*

de-posit account, money deposited in a bank, not to be withdrawn without notice, on which interest is payable.

de-posit² /di'pɒzɪt/ *vt* 1 lay or put down: *Some insects ~ their eggs in the ground.* 2 put or store for safe-keeping: *to ~ money in a bank/papers with one's lawyer.* 3 make part payment of money that is or will be owed: *We should like you to ~ a tenth of the price of the house.* 4 (*esp* of a river) leave (a layer of material on): *When the Nile floods it ~s a layer of mud on the land.*

de-posi-tor /di'pɒzɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] person who deposits, eg money in a bank.

de-pot /'depɒt/ *US*: /di'pɒt/ *n* [C] 1 storehouse, esp for military supplies; warehouse. 2 (*US*) railway or bus station.

de-prave /di'preɪv/ *vt* make morally bad; corrupt: *~d children; ~d (= perverted) humour.* (*Note*: usually used as a *pp*.)

de-prav-ity /di'prævəti/ *n* [U] depraved state; [C] vicious act.

de-pre-ci-ate /di'pri:ʃieɪt/ *vt,vi* make or become less in value: *Shares in this company have ~d over the past few years.*

de-prec-i-ation /di'pri:ʃi'eɪʃn/ *n* [U] lessening of value or estimation.

de-press /di'pres/ *vt* 1 press, push or pull down: *to ~ a lever/the keys of a piano.* 2 make sad, low in spirits: *The newspapers are full of ~ing news nowadays,* eg of war, crime, disasters, rising prices. 3 make less active; cause (prices) to be lower: *When business is ~ed there is usually an increase in unemployment.*

de-pressed 'area, part of a country where industry is depressed (producing poverty and unemployment).

de-pres-sion /di'preʃn/ *n* 1 [U] being depressed (2): *He committed suicide during a fit of ~.* 2 [C] hollow, dip, in the surface of something, esp the ground: *It rained heavily and every ~ in the road was soon filled with water.* 3 [C] time when business is depressed (3). 4 [C] lowering of, area of, atmospheric pressure; the system of winds round it: *a ~ over Iceland.*

de-pri-va-tion /di'prɪveɪʃn/ *n* [U] depriving or being deprived; [C] something of which one is deprived: *~ of one's rights as a citizen.*

de-prive /di'praɪv/ *vt* take away from;

prevent from having, using or enjoying: *trees that ~ a house of light.*

de-prived *adj* = underprivileged.

depth /depθ/ *n* 1 [C,U] being deep; distance from the top down, from the front to the back, from the surface inwards: *Water was found at a ~ of 10 metres. The snow is one metre in ~.* **be/go out of one's depth.** (a) be/go in water too deep to stand in: *If you can't swim, don't go out of your ~.* (b) (fig) attempt something too difficult: *When people start talking about nuclear physics I'm out of my ~.* **2** [C] deep learning, thought, feeling, etc: *She showed a ~ of feeling that surprised us.* **3 the ~ (s),** deepest or most central part(s): *in the ~ of winter; in the ~s of despair.*

depu-ta-tion /dɪpjuˈteɪʃn/ *n* [C] group of representatives; number of persons given the right to act or speak for others.

de-pute /dɪˈpjʊt/ *vi* 1 give (one's work, authority, etc) to a substitute. **2** give (a person) authority to act as one's representative.

depu-tize (also **-ise**) /dɪpjuˈtaɪz/ *vi* act as deputy: *Can you ~ for me?*

deputy /dɪˈpjʊti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** person to whom work, authority, etc is given: *I must find someone to act as (a) ~ for me during my absence.* **2** (in some countries, eg France) member of a legislative assembly.

de-rail /dɪˈreɪl/ *vi* cause (a train, etc) to run off the rails: *The engine was ~ed.*

de-rail-ment *n* [C,U]

de-range /dɪˈreɪndʒ/ *vi* put out of working order; put into confusion; disturb: *He is mentally ~d, insane.*

der-el-ict /dɪˈerəlɪkt/ *adj* abandoned; deserted and left to fall into ruin: *a ~ house.*

der-el-ic-tion /dɪˈerəlɪkʃn/ *n* (a) making derelict: *the ~ion caused by the invading armies.* (b) (deliberate) neglect of duty.

de-re-strict /dɪˈrɪstrikt/ *vi* cancel a restriction on: *~ a road, remove a speed limit.*

de-ride /dɪˈraɪd/ *vi* laugh at and show contempt: *They ~d his efforts as childish.*

de-ri-sion /dɪˈrɪʒn/ *n* [U] deriding or being derided; [C] instance of this: *using ~s to annoy an enemy.*

de-ris-ive /dɪˈraɪsɪv/ *adj* showing or deserving derision: *a ~ offer, eg £5000 for a house that is worth £10000.*

de-ris-ory /dɪˈraɪsəri/ *adj* = derisive.

deri-va-tion /dɪˈrɪveɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] deriving or being derived; origin; descent: *the ~ of words from Latin; a word of Latin ~.* **2** [C] first form and meaning of a word; statement of how a word was formed and how it changed: *to study the ~s of words.*

de-riva-tive /dɪˈrɪvətɪv/ *adj, n* [C] (thing, word, substance) derived from another: *'Assertion' is a ~ of 'assert'.*

de-rive /dɪˈraɪv/ *vi, vi* **1** get: *to ~ great pleasure from one's studies.* **2** have as a source or origin: *Thousands of English words are ~d from Latin.*

der-ma-tol-ogist /dɜːməˈtɒlədʒɪst/ *n* [C] expert in skin diseases.

der-ma-tol-ogy /dɜːməˈtɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] medical study of the skin, its diseases, etc.

dero-gate /dɪˈrəɡeɪt/ *vi* (*formal*) take away (a merit, good quality, right).

dero-ga-tion /dɪˈrəɡeɪʃn/ *n* [U] lessening (of authority, dignity, reputation, etc).

de-roga-tory /dɪˈrɒɡətəri/ *US: -tɔːri/ adj* tending to damage or take away from (one's credit, etc): *Is the slang word 'cop' as ~ as 'pig' for 'policeman'?*

der-ick /dɪˈerɪk/ *n* [C] **1** (also **~-crane**) large crane for moving or lifting heavy weights, esp on a ship. **2** framework over an oil-well or bore-hole, to hold the drilling machinery, etc.

des-cant /dɪˈskænt/ *n* [C] (*music*) additional independent accompaniment (often improvised) to a melody.

de-scend /dɪˈsend/ *vi, vt* **1** (*formal*) come or go down: *On turning the corner, we saw that the path ~ed steeply.* **2** be descended from, have as ancestors: *According to the Bible, we are all ~ed from Adam.* **3** (of property, qualities, rights) pass (from father to son) by inheritance; come from earlier times. **4** attack suddenly: *The bandits ~ed on the defenceless village.* **5** degrade oneself: *You would never ~ to fraud/cheating.*

de-scend-ant /dɪˈsendənt/ *n* [C] person who is descended from (the person or persons named): *the ~s of Queen Victoria.*

de-scent /dɪˈsent/ *n* 1 [C,U] coming or going down: *The ~ of the mountain took two hours.* **2** [U] ancestry: *of French ~, having French ancestors.* **3** [C] sudden attack: *The Danes made numerous ~s on the English coast during the 10th century.* **4** [U] handing down, eg of property, titles, qualities, etc by inheritance.

de-scribe /dɪˈskraɪb/ *vi* **1** say what (a person or thing) is like: *Words cannot ~ the beauty of the scene.* **2** say that (a person or thing) has certain qualities: *He ~s himself as a doctor.* **3** mark out, draw, (esp a geometrical figure): *It is easy to ~ a circle if you have a pair of compasses.*

de-scrip-tion /dɪˈskrɪpʃn/ *n* 1 [C,U] describing; picture in words: *Her beauty is beyond ~, too beautiful to be expressed in words. Can you give me a ~ of the thief?* **2** [C] (*informal*) sort: *The harbour was crowded with vessels of every ~, of many different kinds.*

de-scrip-tive /dɪˈskrɪptɪv/ *adj* serving to describe; fond of describing.

des-ecrate /dɪˈsekreɪt/ *vi* use (a sacred thing or place) in an unworthy or wicked way.

des-ecra-tion /dɪˈsekreɪʃn/ *n* [U] desecrating or being desecrated.

de-seg-re-gate /dɪˈsiːɡreɪt/ *vi* abolish (esp racial) segregation in: *~d schools.*

de-seg-re-ga-tion /dɪˈsiːɡreɪʃn/ *n* [U]

de-sert /dɪˈzɜːt/ *vi, vi* **1** go away from: *The streets were ~ed, No people were to be seen.* **2** leave without help or support, esp in a wrong

or cruel way: *He ~ed his wife and children and went abroad.* **3** run away from; leave (esp service in a ship, the armed forces) without authority or permission: *A soldier who ~s his post in time of war is punished severely.* **4** fail: *His courage ~ed him.*

de-serter, person who deserts, esp in the sense of **3** above.

de-ser-tion /dɪ'zɜːʃn/ *n* [C, U]

des-ert² /'dezət/ *n* [C, U] (large area of) land that is without water and trees, often sand-covered: *the Sahara D~*. □ *adj* barren; uncultivated: *the ~ areas of N Africa.*

desert 'island, one without inhabitants.

de-serts /dɪ'zɜːts/ *n pl* that which a person deserves: *to be rewarded/punished according to one's ~*.

de-serve /dɪ'zɜːv/ *vt, vi* have the right, be worthy of (because of actions, conduct, qualities): *He ~s to be sent to prison.*

de-serv-ed-ly /dɪ'zɜːvdlɪ/ *adv* according to what is deserved; rightly: *to be ~dly punished.*

de-serv-ing /dɪ'zɜːvɪŋ/ *adj* having merit; worthy (of): *to give money to a ~ cause; to be ~ of sympathy.*

des-ic-cate /'desɪkət/ *vt* dry out all the moisture from, esp solid food, to preserve it: *~d fruit/coconut.*

de-sign /dɪ'zain/ *n* **1** [C] drawing or outline from which something may be made: *~s for a dress/garden.* **2** [U] art of making such drawings, etc: *a school of ~.* **3** [U] general arrangement or planning (of a picture, book, building, machine, etc): *The building is poor in ~.* **3** [C] pattern; arrangement of lines, shapes, details, as ornament: *a vase with a ~ of flowers on it.* **4** [C, U] purpose; intention; mental plan: *Was it by accident or ~ that he arrived too late to help?* **have designs on**, (a) intend (selfishly or evilly) to get possession of: *That man has ~s on your money/your life.* (b) (informal): *He has ~s on that young girl, wants to have a relationship with her.* □ *vt, vi* **1** prepare a plan, sketch, etc (of something to be made): *~ a dress/garden. He ~s for a large firm of carpet manufacturers.* **2** set apart, intend, plan: *This room was ~ed for the children.*

de-signer /dɪ'zaɪnə(r)/ *n* [C] person who designs, eg machinery, clothes, books.

de-sign-ing /dɪ'zaɪnɪŋ/ *adj* (esp) artful and cunning; fond of intrigue. □ *n* [U] art of making designs (for machinery, etc).

des-ig-nate¹ /'deɪɡneɪt/ *adj* appointed to office (but not yet installed): *the bishop ~.*

des-ig-nate² /'deɪɡneɪt/ *vt* **1** mark or point out clearly; give a name or title to: *to ~ the boundaries.* **2** appoint to a position or office: *He ~d Smith as his successor.*

des-ig-na-tion /dɪ'zeɪɡ'neɪʃn/ *n* [U] appointing to an office; [C] name, title or description.

de-sir-able /dɪ'zaɪərəbl/ *adj* to be desired; worth having: *This ~ property to be sold, as used in an estate agent's advertisement.*

de-sir-abil-ity /dɪ'zaɪərə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

de-sire¹ /dɪ'zaɪə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] strong longing; [C] instance of this: *He has no/not much ~ for wealth.* **2** [C] thing that is wished for: *Her chief ~ is to marry a rich man/to get into University.*

de-sire² /dɪ'zaɪə(r)/ *vt* (formal) long for; wish; have a desire(1) for: *I hope you achieve all you ~.* **2** (official style) request: *It is ~d that this rule shall be brought to your attention.*

de-sir-ous /dɪ'zaɪərəs/ *adj* (formal) feeling desire: *~ of peace.*

de-sist /dɪ'zɪst/ *vi* (formal) stop: *I must ask you to ~ from taking photographs.*

desk /desk/ *n* [C] **1** piece of furniture (not a table) with a flat or sloping top and drawers at which to read, write or do business, eg one for office use. **2** = reception desk.

deso-late /'desələt/ *adj* **1** (of a place) in a ruined, neglected state; (of land or a country) unlivable in; unfit to live in: *a ~, wind-swept moorland area.* **2** friendless; wretched; lonely and sad: *a ~-looking child.* □ *vt* /'desələt/ make desolate.

deso-late-ly *adv*

deso-la-tion /'desələ'leɪʃn/ *n* [U] making or being desolate: *the desolation caused by war.*

des-pair¹ /dɪ'speə(r)/ *n* [U] **1** the state of having lost all hope: *You will drive me to ~. He gave up in ~. He was filled with ~ when he read the examination questions.* **2 the despair of**, that causes loss of hope: *This boy is the ~ of all his teachers. They no longer hope to teach him anything.*

des-pair² /dɪ'speə(r)/ *vi* be in despair: *to ~ of success/of ever succeeding.*

des-pair-ing-ly *adv*

des-patch /dɪ'spætʃ/ *n, v* = dispatch.

des-per-ate /'despərət/ *adj* **1** (of a person) filled with despair and ready to do anything, regardless of danger (often because of violent behaviour): *The prisoners became ~ in their attempts to escape. They are all ~ criminals.* **2** extremely serious or dangerous: *The economic state of the country is ~.* **3** giving little hope of success; tried when all else has failed: *use ~ remedies.*

des-per-ate-ly *adv*

des-per-ation /dɪ'spə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U] the state of being desperate(1): *The people rose in ~ against their rulers.*

des-pic-able /dɪ'spɪkəbl/ *adj* deserving to be despised; contemptible.

des-pic-ably /-əblɪ/ *adv*

des-pise /dɪ'spaɪz/ *vt* feel contempt for; consider worthless: *Strike-breakers are ~d by their workmates.*

des-pite /dɪ'spaɪt/ *prep* in spite of: *D~ what she says...*

de-spon-dency /dɪ'spɒndənsɪ/ *n* [U] loss of hope: *to fall into ~.*

de-spon-dent /dɪ'spɒndənt/ *adj* having or showing loss of hope: *Don't become too despondent.*

de-spon-dent-ly *adv*

des-pot /'despɒt/ *n* [C] ruler with unlimited

powers, esp one who uses these powers wrongly or cruelly.

des-potic /dɪ'spɒtɪk/ *adj* of or like a despot or tyrant.

des-ert /dɪ'zɜ:t/ *n* [C] course of fruit, etc at the end of a meal.

des-ert-spoon, medium-sized spoon.

des-ert-spoon-ful /-fʊl/, as much as a dessertspoon can hold.

des-ti-na-tion /dɪ'stɪneɪʃn/ *n* [C] place to which a person or thing is going or is being sent.

des-tine /'destɪn/ *vt* intend, decide in advance: *They were ~d never to meet again*, Fate had determined that they should never meet again.

des-tiny /'destɪni/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] power believed to control events: *tricks played on human beings by ~*. **2** [C] that which happens to a person, thought of as determined in advance by fate, etc: *It was his ~ to die in a foreign country, far from his family*.

des-ti-tute /'destɪtju:t/ *US*: -tu:t/ *adj* without food, clothes and other things necessary for life: *When Mr Hill died, his wife and children were left ~*.

des-ti-tu-tion /dɪ'stɪtju:ʃn/ *US*: -tu:-/ *n* [U] being destitute: *a war that brought desolation and destitution*.

de-stroy /dɪ'stroɪ/ *vt* break to pieces; make useless; put an end to: *Don't ~ that box—it may be useful*. *All his hopes were ~ed*.

de-stroyer /dɪ'stroɪə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person or thing that destroys. **2** small, fast warship for protecting larger ships.

de-struc-tible /dɪ'strʌktəbl/ *adj* that can be destroyed.

de-struc-ti-bil-ity /dɪ'strʌktə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

de-struc-tion /dɪ'strʌkʃn/ *n* [U] **1** destroying or being destroyed: *the ~ of a town by an earthquake*. **2** that which ruins or destroys: *Gambing was his ~*.

de-struc-tive /dɪ'strʌktɪv/ *adj* causing destruction; fond of, in the habit of, destroying: *Are all small children ~?*

de-tach /dɪ'tætʃ/ *vt* **1** unfasten and take apart; separate: *to ~ a coach from a train*. **2** send (a party of soldiers, ships, etc) away from the main body: *A number of men were ~ed to guard the right flank*.

de-tached *adj* (a) (of the mind, opinions, etc) not influenced by others: *to take a ~ed view of an event*. (b) (of a house) not joined to another on either side.

de-tach-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be separated: *a ~able lining in a coat*.

de-tach-ment /dɪ'tætʃmənt/ *n* **1** [U] detaching or being detached: *the ~ of a letter from a file*. **2** [U] the state of being detached (1, 2), of not being influenced by surroundings, opinions, etc; being indifferent and uninterested. **3** [C] group of men, ships, etc detached (2) from a larger number (for a special duty, etc).

de-tail /'di:teɪl/ *US*: dɪ'teɪl/ *n* **1** [C] small, par-

ticular fact or item: *Please give me all the ~s*. **2**

[C] collection of such small facts or items. **3** [U] (art) the smaller or less important parts considered as a whole: *The composition of the picture is good but there is too much ~*. **4** [C] = detachment (3).

de-tail² /'di:teɪl/ *US*: dɪ'teɪl/ *vt* **1** describe fully: *a ~ed description*. **2** appoint for special duty: *Three soldiers were ~ed to guard the bridge*. ⇨ detail¹ (4).

de-tain /dɪ'teɪn/ *vt* keep waiting; keep back; prevent from leaving or going forward: *He told his wife that he had been ~ed in the office*.

de-tainee /dɪ'teɪneɪ/ *n* [C] person who is detained (esp by the authorities, who is suspected of doing wrong, etc).

de-tect /dɪ'tekt/ *vt* discover (the existence or presence of, etc): *The dentist could ~ no sign of decay in her teeth*.

de-tect-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be detected.

de-tect-or /-tə(r)/, device for detecting, eg metal or a radio signal.

de-tec-tion /dɪ'tekʃn/ *n* [U] detecting: being discovered: *He tried to escape ~ by disguising himself as an old man*.

de-tec-tive /dɪ'tektɪv/ *n* [C] person whose business it is to detect criminals.

de-tective story/novel, one in which the main interest is crime and the process of solving it.

de-ten-tion /dɪ'tenʃn/ *n* [U] detaining or being detained, eg keeping a pupil in school after ordinary hours, as a punishment.

de-ter /dɪ'tɜ:(r)/ *vt* (-rr-) discourage: *Failure did not ~ him from trying the exam again*. ⇨ deterrent.

de-ter-gent /dɪ'tɜ:dʒənt/ *n* [C, U], *adj* (substance) that removes dirt, esp used to wash clothes, etc.

de-terio-rate /dɪ'tɪəriəreɪt/ *vt, vi* make or become of less value, or worse (in quality): *Health quickly ~s in a cold, damp house*.

de-terio-ra-tion /dɪ'tɪəriə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U]

de-ter-mi-nate /dɪ'tɜ:mi-nət/ *adj* (formal) definite; fixed.

de-ter-mi-na-tion /dɪ'tɜ:mi-neɪʃn/ *n* [U] **1** determining or being determined; deciding: *The ~ of the meaning of a word is often difficult without a context*. **2** calculation or finding out: *the ~ of the amount of metal in ore*. **3** firmness of purpose; resolution: *his ~ to learn English*.

de-ter-mine /dɪ'tɜ:mi-n/ *vt, vi* **1** decide; fix (the usual word): *to ~ a date for a meeting*. **2** calculate; find out precisely: *to ~ the speed of light*. **3** decide firmly, resolve, make up one's mind: *His future has not yet been ~d, but he may study medicine*. **4** cause to decide: *What ~d you to accept the offer?* **5** be the fact that decides: *The size of your feet ~s the size of your shoes*.

de-ter-min-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be determined.

de-ter-rent /dɪ'terənt/ *US*: -tɜ:-/ *n* [C], *adj* (thing) tending to, intended to, deter: *Do you*

believe that the hydrogen bomb is a ~, that it will discourage countries from making war?

de-test /di'test/ *vt* hate strongly: *to ~ dogs.*

de-test-able /-əbl/ *adj* hateful; deserving to be hated.

de-throne /di'θrəʊn/ *vt* **1** remove (a ruler) from the throne. **2** (fig) remove from a position of authority or influence.

de-throne-ment *n* [U]

det-on-ate /'detəneɪt/ *vt, vi* (cause to) explode with a loud noise.

det-on-ation /,detə'neiʃn/ *n* [C, U] explosion; noise of an explosion.

det-on-ator /'detəneɪtə(r)/, part of a bomb or shell that explodes first, causing the substance in the bomb, etc to explode.

de-tour /'di:tʊə(r) *US*: dɪ'tʊər/ *n* [C] roundabout way, eg a way used when the main road is blocked; diversion: *to make a ~*. □ *vt* make a detour.

de-tract /di'trækt/ *vi* take away (from the credit, value, etc, of): *to ~ from his merit*, make it appear less.

de-trac-tor /-tə(r)/, person who tries to make a person's reputation, etc smaller.

det-ri-ment /'detrɪmənt/ *n* [U] damage; harm: *I know nothing to his ~*, nothing against him.

det-ri-men-tal /,detrɪ'mentl/ *adj* harmful: activities that would be ~al to our interests.

det-ri-men-tally /-təli/ *adv*

deuce /djʊs *US*: dʊs/ *n* [C] **1** the two on playing-cards or dice. **2** (tennis) the score of 40 each after which either side must gain two successive points to win the set.

de-value /,di:vælju:/ *vt* make (the value of a currency) less (esp in terms of gold): *to ~ the dollar/pound.*

de-valuation /,di:vælju'eɪʃn/ *n* [C] (of currency) change to a new, lower fixed value.

dev-as-tate /'devəsteɪt/ *vt* ruin; make desolate: towns ~d by fire/floods/war.

dev-as-ta-tion /,devə'steɪʃn/ *n* [U]

de-velop /dɪ'veləp/ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) grow larger, fuller or more mature, organized: *Plants ~ from seeds. We must ~ the natural resources of our country. Amsterdam ~ed into one of the greatest ports in the world.* **2** (of something not at first active or visible) come or bring into a state in which it is active or visible: *He ~ed a cough.* **3** treat (an exposed film or plate) with chemicals so that the photographed image can be seen. **4** use (an area of land) for the building of houses (or shops, factories, etc) and so increase its value.

de-vel-oper, (a) person who, authority which, develops land, etc. (b) substance used to develop films and plates.

de-vel-op-ment /dɪ'veləpmənt/ *n* **1** [U] developing or being developed (all senses): *He is engaged in the ~ of his business. The ~ of photographic films requires a dark-room.* **2** [C] new stage which is the result of developing: *The latest ~s in medical research.*

de-vi-ate /'di:vɪet/ *vi* turn, move away, leave (what is usual, customary, right, etc): *to ~ from the truth/a rule/one's custom.*

de-vi-ation /,di:vɪ'eɪʃn/ *n* [U] turning aside or away: ~ from the rules; [C] instance or amount or degree of this: *slight ~s of the magnetic needle, in a compass.*

de-vi-ation-ist, person who deviates, esp from the principles of a social or political system, eg Marxism.

de-vice /dɪ'vaɪs/ *n* [C] **1** plan; scheme; trick: *a ~ to put the police off the scent.* **2** something thought out, invented or adapted, for a special purpose: *a nuclear ~*, eg an atomic or hydrogen bomb. **3** sign, symbol or figure used in a decoration, eg a crest on a shield.

devil /'devl/ *n* [C] **1** the spirit of evil; wicked spirit; cruel or mischievous person. **the D~**, the supreme spirit of evil, Satan. **2** wretched or unfortunate person: *Oh, you poor ~!* **talk/speak of the devil**, (used when a person being talked about appears). **3** (informal) (used in exclamations): *What! Who! Where! Why the ~...? go to the devil*, I wish you bad luck. □ also dare-devil.

devil-may-care *adj* daring; without thinking of the consequences.

devil-ment /'devlmənt/ (also **dev-ilry** /'devəlri/) *n* **1** [C] mischief: *She's up to some ~ or other.* **2** [U] high spirits: *The baby's full of ~.*

de-vi-ous /'di:vɪəs/ *adj* **1** winding; roundabout: *to take a ~ route to avoid busy streets.* **2** cunning, deceitful: *to get rich by ~ means.*

de-vi-ous-ly *adv*

de-vi-ous-ness *n* [U]

de-vise /dɪ'vaɪz/ *vt* think out; plan: *to ~ a scheme for making money.*

de-void /dɪ'vɔɪd/ *adj* devoid of, without; empty of: ~ of shame/sense.

de-vol-ution /,dɪ:vəlu:ʃn *US*: ,dev-/ *n* [U] deputing, delegating or decentralizing (of power or authority).

de-volve /dɪ'vɒlv/ *vi, vt* (formal) **1** (of work, duties) be transferred or passed to: *When the President is ill, his duties ~ on the Vice-President.* **2** pass, transfer, (work, duties).

de-vote /dɪ'vəʊt/ *vt* give up (oneself, one's time, energy, etc) to: *to ~ one's life to sport. He ~d himself to charitable work for refugees.*

de-voted *adj* very loving or loyal: *a ~d friend.*

de-vot-ed-ly *adv*

devo-tee /,devə'ti:/ *n* [C] person who is devoted to something: *a ~ of sport/music.*

de-vo-tion /dɪ'vəʊʃn/ *n* **1** [U] deep, strong love: *the ~ of a mother for her children.* **2** [U] devoting or being devoted: ~ to duty. **3** (pl) prayers: *The priest was at his ~s.*

de-vo-tional /-ʃənl/ *adj* of, used in, devotions(3): ~al literature, for use in worship.

de-vour /dɪ'vaʊə(r)/ *vt* **1** eat hungrily or greedily: *The hungry boy ~ed his dinner.* **2** (fig) absorb, use up, destroy, occupy, etc completely.

ly: *The fire ~ed twenty acres of forest.*

de-vout /dɪ'vaʊt/ *adj* **1** paying serious attention to religious duties: *a ~ old lady.* **2** (of prayers, wishes, etc) serious; sincere: *a ~ supporter; ~ wishes for your success.*

de-vout-ly *adv* eagerly; sincerely.

de-vout-ness *n* [U]

dew /dju: *US: du:-* *n* [U] tiny drops of moisture produced on cool surfaces between evening and morning, from water vapour in the air: *The grass was wet with ~.*

'dew drop, small drop of dew.

dewy *adj* (-ier, -iest) wet with dew.

dex-ter-ity /dɛk'stɛrətɪ/ *n* [U] skill, esp in handling things.

dex-ter-ous /dɛk'stɛərəs/ *adj* clever, skilful with the hands.

dex-ter-ous-ly *adv*

dhow /daʊ/ *n* [C] single-masted ship, esp as used by Arab sailors for coastal voyages.

di- /daɪ-, dɪ-/ *prefix* twice, double: **dilemma**.

dia- /daɪə-, daɪə-/ *prefix* through, across: **diagonal**.

dia-betes /daɪə'bɪtɪz/ *n* [U] disease of the pancreas in which sugar and starchy foods cannot be properly absorbed.

dia-betic /daɪə'bɛtɪk/ *adj* of diabetes. □ *n* [C] person suffering from diabetes.

dia-bolic /daɪə'bɒlɪk/ (also **dia-boli-cal** /-kl/) *adj* **1** of or like a devil. **2** very cruel, bad or wicked.

dia-boli-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

di-aer-es-is, di-er-es-is /daɪ'ærəsɪs/ *n* [C] (*pl* -eses /-əsɪz/) mark (as in *naïve*) placed over a vowel to show that it is sounded separately from a preceding vowel.

di-ag-nose /daɪəg'nəʊz *US: -əʊs/* *vt* determine the nature of (esp a disease) from observation of symptoms: *The doctor ~d the illness as measles.*

di-ag-nosis /daɪəg'nəʊsɪs/ *n* (*pl* -noses /-nəʊsɪz/) **1** [U] diagnosing. **2** [C] (statement of the) result of this.

di-ag-nos-tic /daɪəg'nɒstɪk/ *adj* of diagnosis: *symptoms that were of no ~ value.*

di-ag-on-al /daɪ'æɡənəl/ *n* [C], *adj* (straight line) going across a straight-sided figure, eg an oblong, from corner to corner; slanting; crossed by slanting lines.

di-ag-on-ally /-əlɪ/ *adv*

dia-gram /daɪəgræm/ *n* [C] drawing, design or plan to explain or illustrate something.

dia-gram-matic /daɪəgrə'mætɪk/ *adj*

dia-gram-mati-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

dial /daɪəl/ *n* [C] **1** marked face or flat plate with a pointer for measuring (weight, volume, pressure, consumption of gas, etc). **2** plate, disc, etc on a radio set with names or numbers, for tuning into broadcasting stations. **3** part of a telephone, with numbers and/or letters, used to make a connection. **4** face (of a clock or watch). □ *vt* (-ll-) telephone: *I ~led 01-230 1212. Please ~ the following ...*

'dialling tone, sound showing that the caller

can dial a number.

dia-lect /daɪəlekt/ *n* [C,U] form of a language (grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation) used in a part of a country or by a class of people: *the Yorkshire ~.*

dia-lec-tal /daɪə'lektl/ *adj* of dialects: *~al differences between two counties.*

dia-logue (*US* also **dia-log**) /daɪəlɒg *US: -ləg/* *n* **1** [U] (writing in the form of a) conversation or talk: *Plays are written in ~.* **2** [C] exchange of views; talk: *a ~ between the two Prime Ministers.*

di-am-eter /daɪ'æmɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] measurement across any geometrical figure or body; (length of a) straight line drawn from side to side through the centre, esp of a circular, spherical or cylindrical form: *the ~ of a tree-trunk.*

dia-metri-cally /daɪə'metrɪklɪ/ *adv* completely; entirely: *~ opposed views.*

dia-mond /daɪə'mɒnd/ *n* [C] **1** brilliant precious stone, the hardest substance known: *a ring with a ~ in it; a ~ ring/necklace.* **2** piece of this substance (often artificially made) as used in industry, or as a stylus for playing gramophone records. **3** figure with four equal sides whose angles are not right angles; this shape (as printed in red on playing-cards): *ten of ~s.* **diamond wedding**, sixtieth anniversary of a wedding.

dia-phragm /daɪəfræm/ *n* [C] **1** wall of muscle between the chest and the abdomen. **2** arrangement of thin plates that control the inlet of light, eg through a camera lens. **3** vibrating disc or cone in some instruments, eg a telephone receiver, producing sound-waves.

di-ar-rhoea (also **-rrhea**) /daɪə'rɪə/ *n* [U] too frequent and too watery emptying of the bowels.

diary /daɪəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (book for a) daily record of events, appointments, etc: *keep a ~.*

dia-rist /daɪə'rɪst/, person who keeps a diary.

dice /daɪs/ *n pl* (*sing die* which is rarely used) small cubes of wood, bone, etc marked with spots, used in games. □ *vi, vt* **1** play dice. **dice with death**, (*informal*) act dangerously and at the risk of death. **2** cut (food, eg carrots) into small cubes.

dicey /daɪsɪ/ *adj* (*informal*) uncertain.

di-chot-omy /daɪ'kɒtəmi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) division into two (usually opposite groups or mutually exclusive pairs): *the ~ of truth and falsehood.*

dic-tate /dɪk'tet *US: 'dɪktet/* *vt, vi* **1** say or read aloud (words to be written down by another or others): *to ~ a letter to a secretary.* **2** state with the force of authority: *to ~ terms to a defeated enemy.* **3** give orders: *I won't be ~d to, I refuse to accept orders from you.* □ *n* [C] (usually *pl*) direction or order: *the ~s of common sense.*

dic-ta-tion /dɪk'tetʃn/ *n* **1** [U] dictating; being dictated to: *The pupils wrote at their teacher's ~.* **2** [C] passage, etc that is dictated.

dic-ta-tor /ˈdɪkˈtɛtə(r) *US*: ˈdɪkˈtɛtər/ *n* [C] ruler who has absolute authority, esp one who has obtained such power by force.

dic-ta-tor-ial /ˈdɪkˈtɔːriəl/ *adj* (a) of or like a dictator: ~ial government. (b) fond of giving orders: his ~ial manner.

dic-ta-tori-ally /-əl/ *adv*

dic-ta-tor-ship *n* [C,U] (country with) government by a dictator.

dic-tion /ˈdɪkʃn/ *n* [U] choice and use of words; style or way of speaking or writing.

dic-tion-ary /ˈdɪkʃənri *US*: -nəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) book dealing with the words of a language, or with words or topics of a special subject, arranged in ABC order.

did /dɪd/ ⇨ do.

di-dac-tic /dɪˈdæktɪk *US*: daɪ-/ *adj* **1** intended to teach: ~ poetry. **2** having the manner of a teacher.

diddle /ˈdɪdl/ *vt* (informal) cheat: I was ~d (out of my fee).

die /daɪ/ *n* [C] **1** (pl dice) ⇨ dice. **2** (pl ~s) block of hard metal with a design, etc cut in it, used for shaping coins, type '3), medals, etc or stamping paper, leather, etc. **'die-cast** *adj* made by casting metal in a mould.

die /daɪ/ *vi* (pt,pp ~d, present participle dying) **1** come to the end of life: Flowers soon ~ if they are left without water. She ~d of a fever. **die hard**, only after a struggle. **2** have a strong wish: We're all dying for a drink. **3** pass from human knowledge; be lost: His fame will never ~.

4 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

die away, lose strength, become faint or weak: The breeze/noise ~d away.

die down, (a) (of a fire) burn with less heat. (b) (of excitement, etc) become less strong. (c) (of noise, etc) become less loud.

die off, die one by one: The leaves of this plant are dying off.

die out, become extinct; come to a complete end: Many old customs are gradually dying out.

die-sel engine /ˈdiːzl ɛndʒɪn/ *n* [C] oil-burning engine (as used for buses, locomotives) which burns ~diesel oil (heavy fuel oil, not petrol).

diet /ˈdaɪət/ *n* [C] **1** sort of food usually eaten (by a person, community, etc): Too rich a ~ (= Too much rich food) is not good for you. **2** sort of food to which a person is limited, eg in order to lose weight: The doctor put her on a ~. □ *vt,vi* restrict, be restricted, to a diet(2): Is he still ~ing?

die-tary /ˈdaɪəri *US*: -teri/ *adj* of diet: ~ary rules.

diet /ˈdaɪət/ *n* [C] series of meetings for discussion of national, international or church affairs: the Japanese D~, legislative assembly.

dif-fer /ˈdɪfə(r)/ *vi* **1** be unlike: They look like each other but ~ widely in their tastes. How does French ~ from English? **2** disagree; have

another opinion: I'm sorry to ~ from you about/on/upon that question. **agree to differ**, give up the attempt to convince each other.

dif-fer-ence /ˈdɪfrəns/ *n* [C,U] **1** the state of being unlike: the ~ between summer and winter. **2** amount, degree, manner, in which things are unlike: The ~ between 7 and 18 is 11. I can't see much ~ between/in them. **3 make a/some/no/any/not much, etc difference**, be of some/no, etc importance: It won't make much ~ whether you go today or tomorrow. ⇨ also near~. **4** disagreement: Why can't you settle your ~s and be friends again?

dif-fer-ent /ˈdɪfrənt/ *adj* **1** not the same: She wears a ~ dress every time I see her. Life today is ~ from life long ago. **2** separate; distinct: I called three ~ times, but he was out.

dif-fer-ent-ly *adv*

dif-fer-en-tial /ˈdɪfərənʃl/ *adj* of, showing, depending on, a difference: ~ taxes, that differ according to circumstances. □ *n* [C] (also wage ~) difference (expressed in a percentage) in wages between skilled and unskilled workers in the same industry: The increase for all workers would upset the wage ~.

dif-fer-en-ti-ate /ˈdɪfərənʃiət/ *vt* **1** see as different; show to be different: to ~ varieties of plants; to ~ one variety from another. **2** treat as different: It is wrong to ~ between pupils according to their family background.

dif-fi-cult /ˈdɪfɪkəlt/ *adj* **1** not easy; requiring effort, strength, skill or ability: a ~ problem/language. The sound is ~ to pronounce. It is a ~ sound to pronounce. **2** (of persons) not easily pleased or satisfied; easily offended: He's a ~ man to get on with.

dif-fi-culty /ˈdɪfɪkəlti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] the state or quality of being difficult: Do you have any ~ in understanding English? **2** [C] something hard to do or understand: to be in financial difficulties, be poor, in debt, etc.

dif-fi-dence /ˈdɪfɪdəns/ *n* [U] state of not having confidence; shyness.

dif-fi-dent /ˈdɪfɪdənt/ *adj* not having, not showing, much belief in one's own abilities: to be ~ about doing something.

dif-fi-dent-ly *adv*

dif-fuse /ˈdɪfjuːz/ *vt,vi* **1** send out, spread, in every direction: to ~ knowledge/light/heat. **2** (of gases and liquids) (cause to) mix slowly.

dif-fu-sion /ˈdɪfjuːʒn/ *n* [U] spreading or being spread.

dif-fuse /ˈdɪfjuːs/ *adj* **1** using too many words: a ~ writer/style. **2** spread out; scattered: ~ light.

dif-fuse-ly *adv*

dif-fuse-ness *n* [U]

dig /dɪg/ *n* [C] (informal) **1** push or thrust: Give her a ~ in the ribs. That was a ~ at me, a remark directed against me. **2** site being excavated by archaeologists. **3** (pl) (GB informal) lodgings: Are you living at home or in ~?

dig /dɪg/ *vt,vi* (pt,pp dug /dʌg/) (-gg-) **1** use a

tool (eg a spade), a machine, claws, etc to break up and move earth, etc; make a way (through, into, etc) by doing this; make (a hole, etc) by doing this; get (something) by doing this: *It is difficult to ~ the ground when it is frozen hard. They are ~ing a tunnel through the hill.* **2** (sf) enjoy; appreciate; understand; follow: *I don't ~ modern jazz.* **3** (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

dig sth in/into sth, push, thrust, poke: *to ~ a fork into a potato. The rider dug his spurs in.*

dig sb/sth out (of sth), (a) get out by digging: *He was buried by the avalanche and had to be dug out.* (b) get by searching: *to ~ information out of books and reports.*

dig sth up, (a) break up (land) by digging: *to ~ up land for a new garden.* (b) remove from the ground by digging: *We dug the tree up by the roots.* (c) bring to light (what has been buried or hidden) by digging: *An old Greek statue was dug up here last month.* (d) (fig): *The newspapers love to ~ up scandals.*

di-gest¹ /daɪdʒest/ *n* [C] short, condensed account; summary: *a ~ of the week's news.*

di-gest² /daɪdʒest/ *vt, vi* **1** (of food) change, be changed, in the stomach and bowels, so that it can be used in the body: *Some foods ~ / are ~ed more easily than others.* **2** take into the mind; make as part of one's knowledge; reduce (a mass of facts, etc) to order: *Have you ~ed everything that is important in the book?*

di-gest-ible /-əbl/ *adj* that can be digested.

di-ges-tion /daɪdʒestʃn/ *n* [U] digesting; person's ability to digest food.

di-ges-tive /daɪdʒestɪv/ *adj* of digestion (of food).

the di-ges-tive system, the alimentary canal.

dig-ger /dɪgə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who digs: *a 'gold-~, one who digs for gold.* **2** mechanical excavator.

dig-ging /dɪgɪŋ/ *n* [U] action of digging.

digit /dɪdʒɪt/ *n* [C] **1** any one of the ten Arabic numerals 0 to 9: *The number 57306 contains five ~s.* **2** finger or toe.

digi-tal /dɪdʒɪtl/ *adj* of, using, digits: *a ~ watch, with numbers, not hands* ⁽⁸⁾.

dig-nify /dɪgnɪfaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) cause to appear worthy or honourable; give dignity to.

dig-ni-fied *adj* having or showing dignity: *a dignified old lady.*

dig-ni-tary /dɪgnɪtri/ *US: -teri/ n* [C] (pl -ies) person holding a high office, esp in the church, eg a bishop.

dig-nity /dɪgnəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] true worth; the quality that earns or deserves respect: *A man's ~ depends on his character, not his wealth.* **2** [U] calm and serious manner or style: *He's afraid of losing ~ (eg of being made to look foolish) and won't speak a foreign language.*

di-gress /daɪɡres/ *vi* (esp in speaking or writing) turn or move away (from the main

subject).

di-gres-sion /daɪɡresʃn/ *n* [U] digressing; [C] instance of this.

digs /dɪgz/ *n pl* (GB informal) lodgings.

dike, dyke /daɪk/ *n* [C] **1** ditch (for carrying away water from land). **2** long wall of earth, etc (to keep back water and prevent flooding). □ *vi* make dikes: *diking in the Fens.*

dil-api-dated /dɪləpɪdɪtɪd/ *adj* falling to pieces; in a state of disrepair: *a ~ old house.*

dil-api-da-tion /dɪləpɪ'deɪʃn/ *n* [U]

di-late /daɪleɪt/ *vi, vt* (cause to) become wider, larger, further open: *The pupils of your eyes ~ when you enter a dark room.* **2** (formal) speak or write comprehensively about: *If there were time, I could ~ on this subject.*

di-la-tion /daɪleɪʃn/ *n* [U]

dila-tory /dɪlətri/ *US: -tɔːri/ adj* slow in doing things; causing delay.

di-lemma /dɪ'lemə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) situation in which one has to choose between two things, two courses of action, etc.

dili-gence /dɪlɪdʒəns/ *n* [U] steady effort; showing care and effort.

dili-gent /dɪlɪdʒənt/ *adj* hard-working; showing care and effort.

dili-gent-ly *adv*

dill /dɪl/ *n* [U] herb with spicy seeds, eg as used for flavouring pickles.

di-lute /daɪljʊt/ *US: -luːt/ vt* make (a liquid or colour) weaker or thinner (by adding water or other liquid): *to ~ orange squash with water.* □ *adj* (of acids, etc) weakened by diluting.

di-lu-tion /daɪljʊːʃn/ *US: -luː- / n* [C, U]

dim /dɪm/ *adj* (-mer, -mest) **1** not bright; not (to be) seen clearly: *the ~ outline of buildings on a dark night; ~ memories/recollections of my childhood.* **2** (of the eyes, eyesight) not able to see clearly: *His eyesight is getting ~mer.* **take a dim view of**, (informal) regard with disapproval or as hopeless. **3** (informal) unintelligent. □ *vt, vi* (-mm-) make or become dim: *eyes ~med by tears.*

dim-ly *adv* in a dim manner: *a ~ly lit room.*

dim-ness *n* [U]

dime /daɪm/ *n* [C] coin of US and Canada worth ten cents.

di-men-sion /dɪ'menʃn/ *n* **1** [C] measurement of any sort (breadth, length, thickness, height, etc): *What are the ~s of the room?* **2** (pl) size; extent: *the ~s of the problem.*

-di-men-sional /-ʃənl/ *suffix*: *two-/three-dimensional*, having two, three, dimensions.

dim-in-ish /dɪ'mɪnɪʃ/ *vi, vt* make or become less: *~ing food supplies. The judge decided that it was a case of ~d responsibility* (eg because of age, illness, intelligence of the offender).

dim-inu-tive /dɪ'mɪnjʊtɪv/ *US: -nu-/ adj* **1** unusually or remarkably small. **2** (gram) (of a suffix) indicating smallness. □ *n* [C] word formed by the use of a suffix of this kind, eg *streamlet*, a small stream.

dimple /dɪmpl/ *n* [C] **1** small natural hollow in the chin or cheek (either permanent, or

which appears, for example, when a person smiles). **2** slight hollow on water (made, for example, by a breeze). □ *vt, vi* make, form, a dimple.

din /dɪn/ *n* [U] loud, confused noise that continues: *The children were making so much ~/such a ~ that I couldn't study.*

dine /daɪn/ *vi, vt* **1** have dinner: *to ~ off roast beef.* **dine out**, eat outside one's home (eg at the house of friends or at a restaurant). **2** give a dinner for.

'dining-car, railway coach in which meals are served.

'dining-room, room (in a house) in which meals are eaten.

'dining-table, table used for eating.

diner /ˈdaɪnə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who dines. **2** dining-car on a train. **3** (US) restaurant shaped like a diner (2).

ding-dong /ˈdɪŋ ˈdɒŋ/ *n* [C], *adv* (with the sound of bells striking repeatedly).

din-ghy, din-gey /ˈdɪŋɡi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies, ~s) **1** (kinds of) small open boat. **2** inflatable rubber boat (eg for use in an emergency).

dingy /ˈdɪŋɡi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) dirty-looking; not fresh or cheerful: *a ~ room.*

ding-ily /-əlɪ/ *adv*

dingi-ness *n* [U]

din-ing /ˈdaɪnɪŋ/ ⇨ dine.

dinner /ˈdɪnə(r)/ *n* [C] main meal of the day, whether eaten at midday or in the evening: *It's time for ~/~time. He ate too much ~. Shall we give a ~/~party for her? Shall we ask him to ~? (Note: a and the are rarely used.)*

'dinner-jacket, black jacket worn by men in the evening for formal occasions.

'dinner-service/-set, set of plates, dishes, etc for dinner.

dino-saur /ˈdaɪnəsəʊ(r)/ *n* [C] large extinct reptile.

di-ocesan /daɪˈoʊsɪn/ *adj* of a diocese.

di-o-cese /ˈdaɪoʊsɪz/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s /-sɪzɪz/) bishop's district.

dip¹ /dɪp/ *n* [C] **1** act of dipping. **2** (informal) quick bathe or swim: *to have/take/go for a ~.* **3** downward slope: *a ~ in the road.*

dip² /dɪp/ *vt, vi* (-pp-) **1** put, lower, into a liquid: *to ~ one's pen into the ink.* **2 dip into**, (fig): *to ~ into one's purse*, spend money; *to ~ into a book/an author*, take a hurried look. **3** go below a surface or level: *The sun ~ped below the horizon.* **4** (cause to) go down and then up again: *to ~ the headlights of a car*, lower their beams (in order not to dazzle the driver of another car). *The land ~s gently to the south.*

diph-theria /dɪˈθɜːrɪə/ *n* [U] serious disease of the throat causing difficulty in breathing.

diph-thong /ˈdɪfθɒŋ/ *US*: -θɔːŋ/ *n* [C] union of two vowel sounds or vowel letters, eg /aɪ/ as in *pipe* /paɪp/.

di-ploma /dɪˈpləʊmə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) educational certificate of proficiency: *a ~ in architecture.*

di-plo-macy /dɪˈpləʊməsi/ *n* [U] **1** management of a country's affairs by ambassadors and ministers living overseas and their direction by ministries of Foreign Affairs at home; skill in this. **2** art of, skill in, dealing with people so that business is done smoothly.

diplo-mat /ˈdɪpləmət/ *n* [C] person engaged in diplomacy for his country (eg an ambassador).

diplo-matic /ˈdɪpləˈmætɪk/ *adj* **1** of diplomacy: *the ~ service.* **2** tactful; having diplomacy (2): *a ~ answer; to be ~ in dealing with people.*

diplo-mati-cally /-kli/ *adv*

di-ploma-tist /dɪˈpləʊməst/ *n* [C] **1** = diplomat. **2** person clever at dealing with people.

dire /ˈdaɪə(r)/ *adj* **1** dreadful; terrible: *~ news.* **2** extreme: *to be in ~ need of help.*

di-rect¹ /dɪˈrekt/ *adj* **1** (going) straight; not curved or crooked; not turned aside: *in a ~ line.* **2** with nothing or no one in between; in an unbroken line: *as a ~ result of this decision.* *He's a ~ descendant of the Duke of Kent.* **3** straightforward; going straight to the point: *He has a ~ way of speaking/doing things.* **4** exact: *the ~ opposite.* □ *adv* without interrupting a journey; without going by a roundabout way: *The train goes there ~.*

(Note: *direct* is usually pronounced /ˈdaɪrɛkt/ in these compounds.)

'direct action, use of strikes by workmen to get their demands.

'direct current, electric current flowing in one direction.

'direct method, method of teaching a foreign language without using the student's own language.

'direct object, (gram) the noun or clause in a sentence to which the action of the verb is related, as 'He took the money'.

'direct speech, (gram) speaker's actual words.

di-rect-ness *n* [U]

di-rect² /dɪˈrekt/ *vt, vi* **1** tell or show how to do something, how to get somewhere: *Can you ~ me to the post office?* **2** address (the more usual word): *Shall I ~ the letter to his office or to his home?* **3** speak or write to: *My remarks were not ~ed to all of you.* **4** manage; control: *Who is ~ing the play?* **5** turn: *Our energies must be ~ed towards higher productivity.* **6** order: *The officer ~ed his men to advance slowly.*

di-rec-tion /dɪˈrɛkʃn/ *n* [C] **1** course taken by a moving person or thing; point towards which a person or thing looks or faces: *Tom went off in one ~ and Harry in another (~).* **2** [U] *have a good/poor sense of direction*, be able/unable to determine well one's position when there are no known or visible landmarks. **3** [C] (often *pl*) information or instructions about what to do, where to go, how to do something, etc: *D~s about putting the parts together are printed on the card.* **4** [U]

management; control; guidance: *He did the work under my ~.*

di-rec-tional /-jənəl/ *adj* of direction in space (esp of radio signals transmitted over a narrow angle): *a ~al aerial.*

di-rec-tive /dɪ'rektɪv/ *n* [C] general or detailed instructions as given to staff to guide them in their work.

di-rect-ly /dɪ'rektli/ *adv* **1** in a direct manner: *He was looking ~ at us.* **2** at once; without delay: *Come in ~.* **3** in a short time: *I'll be there ~.* **□ conj** (informal) as soon as; *D ~ I'd done it, I knew I'd made a mistake.*

di-rec-tor /dɪ'rektə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who directs, esp one of a group (called the *Board of D~s*) who manage the affairs of a business company. **2** person who supervises and instructs actors and actresses, the lighting, camera crew, etc in plays and films.

di-rec-tor-ship, position of a company director; time during which he holds his position.

di-rec-tor-ate /dɪ'rektərət/ *n* [C] **1** office or position of a director. **2** board of directors.

di-rec-tory /dɪ'rektəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** (book with a list of persons, business firms, etc in a district. **2** list of telephone subscribers and their addresses in ABC order.

dirge /dɜːdʒ/ *n* [C] song sung at a burial or for a dead person.

dirt /dɜːt/ *n* [U] **1** unclean matter (eg dust, soil, mud) esp when it is where it is not wanted (eg on the skin, clothes, in buildings): *His clothes were covered with ~.* **2** loose earth or soil: *a ~ road.* **treat sb like dirt**, treat him as if he is worthless. **3** obscene, rude talk.

'dirt-cheap, very cheap, almost valueless.

'dirt-track, one made of cinders, etc (for, eg motor-cycle races).

dirty ¹/dɜːti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** not clean; covered with dirt: *~ hands/clothes.* **2** causing one to be dirty: *~ work.* **3** (of the weather) rough; stormy: *I'm glad I haven't to go out on such a ~ night.* **4** obscene: *scribble ~ words on lavatory walls.* **5** (informal) mean, dishonourable: *play a ~ trick on her; get/give him a ~ look,* one of severe disapproval or disgust. **do the dirty on sb.** (informal) deceive him.

dirt-ily /-əli/ *adv*

dirty ²/dɜːti/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) make or become dirty: *Don't ~ your new dress.*

dis- /dis-/ *prefix* (used with a *verb* or *noun*) negative, reverse, opposite of: *disorder; disagree.*

dis-abil-ity /dɪsə'bɪləti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] state of being disabled. **2** [C] something that disables or disqualifies a person.

dis-able /dɪs'eɪbl/ *vt* make unable to do something, esp take away the power of using the limbs: *He was ~d in the war.*

disabled *adj* crippled. **□ n** the ~, (used with a *pl verb*) disabled persons.

dis-able-ment *n* [U]

dis-ad-van-tage /dɪsəd'vɑːntɪdʒ/ *US*:

-væn-/n **1** [C] unfavourable condition; something that stands in the way of progress, success, etc: *It is a ~ to be small when you're standing in a crowd at a football match.* **2** [U] loss; injury: *rumours to his ~, that hurt his reputation, etc.*

dis-ad-van-tageous /dɪsəd'vʌntɪdʒəs/ *adj* causing a disadvantage (to): *in a ~ position.*

dis-ad-van-tageously *adv*

dis-a-f-fected /dɪsə'fektɪd/ *adj* (formal) unfriendly; (inclined to be) disloyal.

dis-a-f-fection /dɪsə'fekʃn/ *n* [U] political discontent; disloyalty.

dis-agree /dɪsə'ɡriː/ *vt* **1** take a different view; have different opinions; not agree: *I'm sorry to ~ with you/with your statement/with what you say.* **2** (of food, climate) have bad effects on; prove unsuitable: *The climate/That fish ~s with me.*

dis-agree-able /-əbl/ *adj* unpleasant: *~able weather; a ~able old man.*

dis-agree-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

dis-agree-ment /dɪsə'ɡrɪmənt/ *n* **1** [U] act of disagreement; absence of agreement: *to be in ~ with him/the plan.* **2** [C] instance of this; difference of opinion; small quarrel: *~s between husbands and wives.*

dis-al-low /dɪsə'lau/ *vt* refuse to allow or accept as correct: *The judge ~ed the claim.*

dis-ap-pear /dɪsə'piə(r)/ *vi* go out of sight; be seen no more: *Let's hope our difficulties will soon ~.*

dis-ap-pear-ance /-rəns/ *n* [C,U].

dis-ap-point /dɪsə'pɔɪnt/ *vt* fail to please, to do or be equal to what is hoped for or expected: *The book ~ed me.*

dis-ap-pointed *adj* sad at not getting what was hoped for, etc: *We were ~ed when we heard that you could not come. What are you looking so ~ed about?*

dis-ap-point-ed-ly *adv*

dis-ap-point-ing *adj* causing a person to be disappointed: *Our holiday was so ~ing.*

dis-ap-point-ment /dɪsə'pɔɪntmənt/ *n* **1** [U] being disappointed: *To her great ~, it rained on the day of the picnic.* **2** [C] person or thing that disappoints: *He had suffered many ~s in love.*

dis-ap-pro-ba-tion /dɪsə'prə'beɪʃn/ *n* [U] (formal) disapproval.

dis-ap-proval /dɪsə'pruːvəl/ *n* [U] disapproving: *He shook his head in ~, to show that he disapproved.*

dis-ap-prove /dɪsə'pruːv/ *vi, vt* have, express, an unfavourable opinion: *She wants to become an actress but her parents ~ (of her intentions).*

dis-ap-prov-ing-ly *adv* in a way that shows disapproval: *When Mary lit a cigar, her father looked at her disapprovingly.*

dis-arm /dɪs'ɑːm/ *vi, vt* **1** take away weapons and other means of attack from: *Five hundred rebels were captured and ~ed.* **2** (of nations)

reduce the size of, give up the use of, armed forces: *It is necessary to persuade the Great Powers to ~.* **3** make it difficult for a person to feel anger, suspicion, doubt: *I felt angry, but her smiles ~ed me.*

dis-arma-ment /dɪs'ɑ:məmənt/ *n* [U] disarming or being disarmed (2): *~ament conferences.*

dis-array /dɪsə'reɪ/ *n* [U], *vt* (put into) disorder: *The troops were in ~.*

dis-as-sociate /dɪsə'səʊʃieɪt/ *vt* = dissociate.

dis-as-ter /dɪ'zɑ:stə(r) *US*: -'zæs-/ *n* **1** [C] great or sudden misfortune; terrible accident (eg a great flood or fire, an earthquake, a serious defeat in war, the loss of a large sum of money). **2** [U] great misfortune or suffering: *a record of ~.*

dis-as-trous /dɪ'zɑ:stɹəs *US*: -'zæs-/ *adj* causing disaster: *~ floods; a defeat that was ~ to the country.*

dis-as-trous-ly *adv*

dis-band /dɪs'bænd/ *vt, vi* (of organized groups) break up: *The army (was) ~ed when the war ended.*

dis-be-lief /dɪsbrɪ'li:f/ *n* [U] state of not believing; refusal to believe.

dis-be-lieve /dɪsbrɪ'li:v/ *vt, vi* refuse to believe; be unable or unwilling to believe in.

disc, (also **disk**) /dɪsk/ *n* [C] **1** thin, flat, round object, eg a gramophone record; round surface that appears to be flat: *the sun's ~.* **2** layer of gristle between vertebrae: *a slipped ~, one that is slightly dislocated.*

'disc jockey, radio or TV broadcaster who introduces performers and comments on records and tapes (esp) of light and popular music.

dis-card /dɪ'skɑ:d/ *vt* **1** (formal) throw out or away; put aside, give up (something useless or unwanted): *to ~ old beliefs.* **2** remove, take away, a playing-card from those in one's hand. □ *n* [C] card or cards discarded (2).

dis-cern /dɪ'sɜ:n/ *vt* (formal) **1** see clearly (with the eyes or with the mind). **2** (esp) see with an effort: *It is often difficult to ~ the truth of what we are told.*

dis-cern-ing *adj* able to see and understand well.

dis-cern-ible /-əbl/ *adj* that can be discerned.

dis-cern-ment *n* [U] (good) ability to judge, form opinions.

dis-charge¹ /dɪs'tʃɑ:dʒ/ *n* [C] discharging or being discharged (all senses).

dis-charge² /dɪs'tʃɑ:dʒ/ *vt, vi* **1** unload (cargo from) a ship. **2** give or send out (liquid, gas, electric current, etc): *Where do the sewers ~ their contents? Lightning is caused by clouds discharging electricity.* **3** fire (a gun, etc). **4** send (a person) away; allow (a person) to leave: *to ~ a patient from hospital. The accused man was found not guilty and was ~d. The typist was ~d (= dismissed) for being dishonest.* **5** pay (a debt); perform (a duty).

dis-ciple /dɪ'saɪpl/ *n* [C] **1** follower of any leader of religious thought, art, learning, etc. **2** one of the twelve personal followers of Jesus Christ.

dis-ci-pli-nar-ian /dɪsɪplɪ'neəriən/ *n* [C] person able to maintain discipline (2): *a good/strict/poor ~.*

dis-ci-plin-ary /dɪsɪplɪ'nəri *US*: -nerɪ/ *adj* of or for discipline: *to take ~ action; ~ punishment.*

dis-ci-pline¹ /dɪsɪplɪn/ *n* **1** [U] training, esp of the mind and character, to produce self-control, habits of obedience, etc: *school ~; military ~.* **2** [U] the result of such training; order kept (eg among soldiers): *The soldiers showed perfect ~ under the fire of the enemy.* **3** [C] set rules for conduct; method by which training may be given: *Pronunciation drill and question and answer work are good ~s for learning a foreign language.* **4** [U] punishment.

dis-ci-pline² /dɪsɪplɪn/ *vt* apply discipline (1) to; train and control the mind and character of; punish: *It isn't easy to ~ badly behaved children.*

dis-claim /dɪ'skleɪm/ *vt* say that one does not own, that one has no connection with: *to ~ responsibility for something; to ~ all knowledge of an incident.*

dis-close /dɪ'skləʊz/ *vt* **1** uncover; allow to be seen. **2** make known: *to ~ a secret.*

dis-clos-ure /dɪ'skləʊʒə(r) *n* [U] disclosing or being disclosed; [C] that which is disclosed (esp that which has been kept secret).

dis-colour (*US* = **-color**) /dɪ'skələ(r) *vt, vi* **1** change, spoil, the colour of: *walls ~ed by damp.* **2** become changed in colour: *paper that ~s in strong sunlight.*

dis-colour-ation (*US* = **-color-**) /dɪ'skələ'reɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

dis-com-fort /dɪ'skʌmfət/ *n* **1** [U] absence of comfort; uneasiness of mind or body. **2** [C] something that causes uneasiness; hardship: *the ~s endured by explorers in the Antarctic.*

dis-con-cert /dɪskən'sɜ:t/ *vt* **1** upset the calmness or self-possession of: *The Manager was ~ed to discover that he had forgotten to bring his diary.* **2** spoil or upset (plans).

dis-con-nect /dɪskə'nekt/ *vt* detach from; take (two things) apart: *You should ~ the TV set (eg by pulling out the plug) before you make adjustments inside it.*

dis-con-nected *adj* (of speech or writing) having the ideas, etc badly ordered.

dis-con-so-late /dɪ'skɒnsələt/ *adj* unhappy, miserable, because of the loss of something; without hope or comfort.

dis-con-so-late-ly *adv*

dis-con-tent /dɪskən'tent/ *n* [U] dissatisfaction; absence of contentment; [C] cause of this. □ *vt* make dissatisfied: *to be ~ed with one's job.* (Note: usually used as a *pp*.)

dis-con-tent-ed-ly *adv*

dis-con-tinue /dɪskən'tɪnju:/ *vt, vi* (formal) stop; give up; put an end to; come to an end: *to*

~ (paying) weekly visits.

dis-con-tin-u-ous /dɪskən'tɪnjuəs/ *adj* not continuous.

dis-cord /dɪskɔ:d/ *n* **1** [U] disagreement; quarrelling: *What has brought ~ into the family*, caused its members to quarrel? **2** [C] difference of opinion; dispute. **3** [U] (music) state of not having harmony between sounds, notes, etc sounded together; [C] instance of this.

dis-cord-ance /dɪskɔ:dəns/ *n* [U] being without harmony; disagreement.

dis-cord-ant /dɪ'skɔ:dənt/ *adj* (a) not in agreement: ~ant opinions. (b) (of sounds) not harmonious: *the ~ant noises of motor-car horns*.

disco /dɪskəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) (informal) discotheque.

dis-co-theque /dɪskəteɪk/ *n* [C] club where people dance to amplified pop music.

dis-count¹ /dɪskaʊnt/ *n* [C] amount of money which may be taken off the full price, eg of (a) goods bought by shopkeepers for resale, (b) an account if paid promptly.

dis-count² /dɪ'skaʊnt/ *US: 'dɪskaʊnt/ vt* (esp) refuse complete belief to a piece of news, a story, etc: *Some reporters like sensational news, so you should ~ a great deal of what appears in the popular press*.

dis-coun-ten-ance /dɪ'skaʊntənəns/ *vt* (formal) refuse to approve of or believe.

dis-cour-age /dɪ'skʌrdz/ *US: -'skər-/ vt* **1** lessen, take away, the courage or confidence of: *Don't let one failure ~ you*; try again. **2** put difficulties in his way; try to persuade him not to do it: *The wet weather is discouraging people from going to the meeting*.

dis-cour-age-ment *n* [C,U]

dis-course /dɪ'skɔ:s/ *n* **1** [C] speech; lecture; sermon; treatise. **2** [U] (old use) conversation: *in ~ with*. □ *vi* /dɪ'skɔ:s/ (formal) talk, preach or lecture.

dis-cour-teous /dɪ'skɜ:tɪəs/ *adj* impolite (the usual word): *It was ~ of you to arrive late*.

dis-cour-teous-ly *adv*

dis-cour-tesy /dɪ'skɜ:təsi/ *n* [C,U]

dis-cover /dɪ'skʌvə(r)/ *vt* find out; get knowledge of, (something existing but not yet known): *Columbus ~ed America, but did not explore the new continent*.

dis-coverer, person who has made a discovery.

dis-covery /dɪ'skʌvəri/ *n* (pl ~ies) **1** [U] discovering or being discovered: *a voyage of ~*; *the ~ of new chemical elements*. **2** [C] something that is discovered: *He made wonderful scientific discoveries*.

dis-credit¹ /dɪ'skredit/ *vt* refuse to believe or have confidence in; cause the truth, value or credit to seem doubtful: *The judge advised the jury to ~ the evidence of one of the witnesses*.

dis-credit² /dɪ'skredit/ *n* **1** [U] loss of credit or reputation: *If you continue to behave in this way, you will bring ~ on yourself*. **2** a **dis-credit to**, person, thing, causing such loss: a

~ to the school. **3** [U] doubt; disbelief.

dis-credit-able /-əbl/ *adj* bringing discredit: ~able conduct.

dis-credit-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

dis-creet /dɪ'skri:t/ *adj* careful, tactful, in what one says and does: *I decided to maintain a ~ silence*.

dis-creet-ly *adv*

dis-crep-ancy /dɪ'skreɪnsi/ *n* [C,U] (pl ~ies) (of statements and accounts) difference; absence of agreement: *There was considerable ~/There were numerous discrepancies between the two accounts of the fighting*.

dis-cre-tion /dɪ'skreʃn/ *n* [U] **1** being discreet: *You must show more ~ in choosing your friends*. **2** freedom to act according to one's own judgement, to do what seems right or best: *Use your ~*.

dis-cre-tion-ary /-əri/ *US: -neri/ adj* having discretion (2): ~ary powers.

dis-crimi-nate /dɪ'skrɪmɪneɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** be, make, see, a difference between: *Can you ~ good books from bad/ ~ between good and bad books?* **2** treat differently; make distinctions: *laws which do not ~ against anyone*, that treat all people in the same way.

dis-crimi-nat-ing *adj* (a) able to see or make small differences: *a discriminating taste in literature*. (b) giving special or different treatment to certain people, countries, etc: *discriminating duties*.

dis-crimi-na-tion /dɪ'skrɪmɪ'neɪʃn/ *n* [U] discriminating; ability to discriminate: *Some people do not show much ~ in their choice of books. Is there racial ~ in your country?*

dis-crim-i-na-tory /dɪ'skrɪmɪ'neɪtəri/ *US: -tɔ:ri/ adj* discriminating (b): *discriminatory legislation*.

dis-cur-sive /dɪ'skɜ:sɪv/ *adj* (of a person, what he says or does, his style) wandering from one point or subject to another.

dis-cur-sive-ly *adv*

dis-cus /dɪ'skʌs/ *n* [C] (pl ~es) heavy, round plate of stone, metal or wood, thrown in ancient Roman and Greek athletic contests and in modern contests (eg the Olympic Games).

dis-cuss /dɪ'skʌs/ *vt* examine and argue about (a subject): *to ~ (with one's friends) what to do/how to do it/how something should be done*.

dis-cus-sion /dɪ'skʌʃn/ *n* [U] discussing or being discussed; [C] talk for the purpose of discussing: *after much ~*; *after several long ~s*. **under discussion**, being discussed: *The proposal is still under ~*.

dis-dain /dɪ'sdeɪn/ *vt* (formal) look on with contempt; think (it) dishonourable, be too proud, (to do something): *A good man should ~ flattery. He ~ed my offer of help*. □ *n* [U] contempt; scorn: *No one likes to be treated with ~*.

dis-dain-ful /-fl/ *adj* showing contempt: ~ful looks.

dis-dain-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

dis-ease /dɪ'zi:z/ *n* [U] illness; disorder of body or mind or of plants; [C] particular kind of illness or disorder.

dis-eased /dɪ'zi:zd/ *adj* suffering from, injured by, diseased.

dis-em-bark /dɪsɪm'bɑ:k/ *vt, vi* put, go, on shore: ~ from the liner.

dis-em-bar-ka-tion /dɪsɪm'bɑ:'keɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

dis-en-chant /dɪsɪn'tʃɑ:nt *US*: -'tʃænt/ *vt* be not pleased with, be disillusioned: *He is ~ed with the Government.*

dis-en-chant-ment *n* [C, U]

dis-en-gage /dɪsɪm'geɪdʒ/ *vt, vi* separate, detach (oneself or something): *to ~ the gears of a car.*

dis-en-tangle /dɪsɪn'tæŋgl/ *vt, vi* 1 free, from complications or confusion: *to ~ truth from falsehood.* 2 become clear of tangles: *I can't ~ this wool.*

dis-favour (*US* = -favor) /dɪs'feɪvə(r)/ *n* [U] (formal) state of being out of favour; disapproval: *to be in ~; to fall into ~.* □ *vt* disapprove of.

dis-fig-ure /dɪs'fɪɡə(r) *US*: -gɜ:(r)/ *vt* spoil the appearance or shape of: *beautiful scenery ~d by ugly advertising signs; a face ~d by a broken nose/an ugly scar.*

dis-fig-ure-ment *n* [C, U]

dis-fran-chise /dɪs'fræntʃaɪz/ *vt* deprive of rights of citizenship; (esp) deprive (a place) of the right to send a representative to parliament or (a citizen) of the right to vote for a parliamentary representative.

dis-gorge /dɪs'ɡɔ:dʒ/ *vt* 1 throw up or out from, or as from, the throat. 2 (fig) give up (esp something taken wrongfully).

dis-grace /dɪs'ɡreɪs/ *n* 1 [U] loss of respect, favour, good reputation: *A man who commits a crime and is sent to prison brings ~ on himself and his family.* 2 [U] state of having lost respect, etc: *He told a lie and is in ~.* 3 a ~, thing, state of affairs, person, that is a cause of shame or discredit: *These shams are a ~ to the city authorities.*

dis-grace-ful /-fl/ *adj* bringing or causing disgrace: ~ful behaviour.

dis-grace-fully /-fəli/ *adv*: *to behave ~fully.*

dis-grace² /dɪs'ɡreɪs/ *vt* 1 bring disgrace on; be a disgrace to: *Don't ~ the family name.* 2 put (a person) out of favour.

dis-gruntled /dɪs'ɡrʌntld/ *adj* discontented; in a bad mood.

dis-guise¹ /dɪs'gaɪz/ *n* 1 [U] disguising; disguised condition: *He went among the enemy in ~.* 2 [C, U] dress, actions, manner, etc used for disguising: *He had tried all sorts of ~s.*

dis-guise² /dɪs'gaɪz/ *vt* 1 change the appearance, etc of, in order to deceive or to hide the identity of: *He ~d his looks but he could not ~ his voice.* 2 conceal: *He ~d his sorrow beneath a cheerful appearance/by appearing cheerful.*

dis-gust¹ /dɪs'ɡʌst/ *n* [U] strong feeling of dislike or distaste (eg caused by a bad smell or

taste, a horrible sight, evil conduct): *He turned away in ~.*

dis-gust² /dɪs'ɡʌst/ *vt* cause disgust in: *We were ~ed at/by/with what we saw.*

dis-gust-ing *adj*: behaviour that is ~ing to everybody.

dis-gust-ing-ly *adv*

dish¹ /dɪʃ/ *n* [C] 1 shallow, flat-bottomed vessel, of earthenware, glass, metal, etc from which food is served at table: *a 'meat-~.* 2 the ~es, all the plates, bowls, cups and saucers, etc used for a meal: *to wash up the ~es.* 3 meal: *His favourite ~ is steak and kidney pie.* 4 large concave reflector for receiving radio-waves from outer space, or in radio-telescopes, etc. 5 (sl) attractive girl: *She's quite a ~!*

'dish-cloth, cloth for washing dishes, etc.

'dish-washer, electric machine for washing dishes, cutlery, etc.

'dish-water, water in which crockery has been washed.

'dish-ful /-fʊl/ *n* [C] as much as a dish can hold.

dish² /dɪʃ/ *vt* 1 put on or into a dish: *to ~ (up) the dinner, get it ready for serving.* 2 (fig) prepare, serve up facts, arguments, etc: *to ~ up the usual arguments in a new form.* **dish sth out**, distribute: *to ~ out programmes.*

dis-hearten /dɪs'hɑ:tn/ *vt* cause to lose courage or confidence: *Don't be ~ed by what he says.*

di-shev-elled (*US* = -eled) /dɪ'seɪvld/ *adj* (of the hair and clothes) untidy.

dis-honest /dɪs'ɒnɪst/ *adj* not honest; intended to cheat, deceive or mislead.

dis-honest-ly *adv*

dis-honesty /dɪs'ɒnɪsti/ *n* [U] being dishonest; [C] dishonest act, etc.

dis-hon-our (*US* = -honor) /dɪs'ɒnə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 disgrace or shame; loss, absence, of honour and self-respect: *to bring ~ on one's family.* 2 person or thing that brings dishonour: *He was a ~ to his family.* □ *vt* 1 bring shame, discredit. 2 (of a bank): ~ a cheque, refuse to pay money on it (because the bank's customer has not enough credit).

dis-hon-our-able /dɪs'ɒnrəbl/ *adj* without honour; shameful.

dis-hon-our-ably /-ɒnrəbli/ *adv*

dis-il-lu-sion /dɪsɪ'lʊ:ʒn/ *vt* set free from mistaken beliefs: *They had thought that the holiday would be restful, but they were soon ~ed.* □ *n* [U] the state of being disillusioned.

dis-il-lu-sion-ment *n* [C] freedom from illusions: *in a state of complete ~ment.*

dis-in-cli-na-tion /dɪsɪn'kli:neɪʃn/ *n* [C, U] (formal) unwillingness: *Some teachers have a strong ~ for work.*

dis-in-clined /dɪsɪn'klaɪnd/ *adj* (formal) reluctant or unwilling: *He was ~d to help me.*

dis-in-fect /dɪsɪn'fekt/ *vt* make free from infection by bacteria: *The house was ~ed after Tom had had scarlet fever.*

dis-in-fec-tant /dɪsɪn'fektənt/ *adj, n* [C, U]

disinfecting (chemical).

dis-in-genu-ous /disɪn'dʒɛnjuəs/ *adj* (formal) insincere (the usual word).

dis-in-herit /disɪn'hɛrɪt/ *vt* take away the right to inherit.

dis-in-heri-tance /disɪn'hɛrɪtəns/ *n* [C,U] (act of) disinheriting.

dis-in-te-grate /disɪntɪɡrɪt/ *vt,vi* (cause to) break up into small parts or pieces: *rocks ~d by frost and rain.*

dis-in-te-gra-tion /disɪntɪɡrɪʃn/ *n* [U]

dis-in-ter /disɪn'tɜ:(r)/ *vt* (-rr-) dig up (a body) from the earth (eg from a grave).

dis-in-ter-ment *n* [C,U]

dis-in-ter-ested /disɪn'trɛstɪd/ *adj* not influenced by personal feelings or interests: *His action was not altogether ~. ⇨ uninterested.*

dis-in-ter-ested-ly *adv*

dis-jointed /disɪdʒɔɪntɪd/ *adj* (eg of speech and writing) not connected; incoherent.

dis-jointed-ly *adv*

dis-jointed-ness *n* [U]

dis-junc-tive /disɪdʒʌŋktrɪv/ *adj* (gram): ~ conjunction, one expressing opposition of or contrast between ideas (eg *either... or*).

disk /disk/ *n* ⇨ disc.

dis-like /dislaɪk/ *vt* not like: *to ~ getting up early/being disturbed.* ⇨ *n* [C] feeling of not liking; feeling against: *to have a ~ off/for cats; to take a ~ to him, begin to dislike him.*

dis-lo-cate /'disləkeɪt/ *US: -ləʊk-/ vt* 1 put (esp a bone in the body) out of position: *He fell from his horse and ~d his shoulder.* 2 put traffic, machinery, business, etc out of order: *Traffic was badly ~d by the heavy fall of snow.*

dis-lo-ca-tion /'disləkeɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

dis-lodge /dis'lɒdʒ/ *vt* move, force, from the place occupied: *to ~ a stone from a building/ the enemy from their positions.*

dis-lodge-ment *n* [C,U]

dis-loyal /disləʊəl/ *adj* not loyal (to).

dis-loyal-ly *adv*

dis-loyal-ty *n* [C,U]

dis-mal /'dɪzməl/ *adj* sad, gloomy; miserable: *~ weather; in a ~ voice.*

dis-mal-ly /-əlɪ/ *adv*

dis-mantle /dis'mæntl/ *vt* 1 take away fittings, furnishings, etc from: *The old warship was ~d.* 2 take to pieces: *to ~ an engine.*

dis-may /dis'meɪ/ *n* [U] feeling of fear and discouragement: *The news that the enemy were near filled/struck them with ~.* ⇨ *vt* fill with dismay: *We were ~ed at the news.*

dis-mem-ber /dis'membə(r)/ *vt* 1 tear or cut the limbs from: *He was ~ed by the lion.* 2 (fig) divide up (a country, etc).

dis-miss /dis'mɪs/ *vt* 1 send away (from one's employment, from service): *She was ~ed for being lazy and dishonest.* 2 allow to go: *The teacher ~ed his class when the bell rang.* 3 put away from the mind; stop thinking or talking about: *to ~ all thoughts of revenge.* 4 (cricket) (of the team that is fielding) put a batsman or a team out: *The fast bowler ~ed*

Smith for ten runs.

dis-mis-sal /-sl/ *n* [C,U]

dis-mount /dis'maʊnt/ *vi,vt* 1 get down (from a horse, bike etc). 2 remove (something) from its mount: *to ~ a gun* (from the gun-carriage).

dis-obedi-ence /disə'bɪdi:əns/ *n* [U] failure or refusal to obey: *acts of ~; ~ to orders.*

dis-obedi-ent /disə'bɪdi:ənt/ *adj* not obedient (to).

dis-obedi-ent-ly *adv*

dis-obey /disə'beɪ/ *vt* pay no attention to orders; not obey a person, a law, etc.

dis-order /dis'ɔ:də(r)/ *n* 1 [U] absence of order; confusion: *The burglars left the room in great ~.* 2 [U] absence of order caused by political troubles; [C] angry outburst of rioting caused by political troubles, etc: *Troops were called out to deal with the ~s in the capital.* 3 [C,U] disturbance of the normal working of the body or mind: *suffering from mental ~.* ⇨ *vt* put into disorder: *a ~ed mind.*

dis-order-ly /dis'ɔ:dəli/ *adj* 1 in disorder: *a ~ room/desk.* 2 causing disturbance; unruly; lawless: *~ crowds/behaviour.*

dis-or-gan-ize (also **-ise**) /dis'ɔ:gənaɪz/ *vt* throw into confusion; upset the working or system of: *The train service was ~d by fog.*

dis-or-gan-iz-ation (also **-isation**) /dis'ɔ:gənaɪzəʃn/ *US: -nɪz-/n* [U]

dis-orien-tate /dis'ɔ:riənteɪt/ (also **dis-orient** /dis'ɔ:riənt/) *vt* confuse (a person) so that he does not know where he is, the time, date, etc.

dis-own /dis'aʊn/ *vt* say that one does not know, that one has not, or no longer wishes to have, any connection with (a person or thing): *The boy was so cruel that his father ~ed him.*

dis-par-age /dis'pærɪdʒ/ *vt* say things to suggest that (a person or thing) is of little value or importance.

dis-par-age-ment *n* [U]

dis-par-ag-ing-ly *adv* in a disparaging way.

dis-par-ate /'dispəreɪt/ *adj* that cannot be compared in quality, amount, kind, etc.

dis-par-ity /dis'pærəti/ *n* [U] inequality; difference; [C] (pl -ies) instance or degree of this.

dis-pas-sion-ate /dis'pæʃənət/ *adj* free from passion; not taking sides, not showing favour (in a quarrel, etc between others).

dis-pas-sion-ate-ly *adv*

dis-patch¹, des-patch /drɪ'spætʃ/ *n* 1 [U] dispatching or being dispatched (all senses): *Please hurry up the ~ of these telegrams.* 2 [C] thing dispatched (1), esp, a government, military or newspaper report: *London newspapers receive ~es from all parts of the world.* 3 [U] (formal) speed: *to act with ~.*

dis-patch², des-patch /drɪ'spætʃ/ *vt* 1 send off, to a destination, on a journey, for a special purpose: *to ~ letters/telegrams.* 2 finish, get through, business, etc. 3 kill: *The executioner quickly ~ed the condemned man.*

dis-pel /drɪ'spel/ *vt* (-ll-) drive away: *The wind*

soon ~ed the fog. How can we ~ their doubts and fears?

dis-pens-able /dɪ'spensəbl/ *adj* that can be done without; not necessary.

dis-pens-ary /dɪ'spensəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) place where medicines are given out (eg in a hospital).

dis-pen-sa-tion /,dɪspen'seɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] the act of dispensing (1) or distributing: *the ~ of justice/medicine/food*. 2 [C,U] permission to do something that is usually forbidden, or not to do something that is usually required, esp by ecclesiastical law: *to be granted ~ from fasting during a journey*.

dis-pense /dɪ'spens/ *vt, vi* 1 deal out; distribute; administer: *to ~ charity/justice*. 2 mix; prepare, give out (medicines): *to ~ a prescription*. 3 **dispense with**, (a) do without: *He is not yet well enough to ~ with the doctor's services*. (b) make unnecessary: *The new design ~s with gears*.

dis-penser, (a) person who dispenses, esp medicines. (b) container from which something can be obtained without removing a cover, lid, etc: *a ~ for liquid soap*.

dispensing chemist, one qualified to prepare and give out medicines.

dis-perse /dɪ'spɜːs/ *vt, vi* (cause to) go in different directions: *The police ~d the crowd. The crowd ~d when the police arrived*.

dis-per-sal /dɪ'spɜːsl/ *n* [U].

dis-per-sion /dɪ'spɜːʃn/ *US*: -ʒn/ *n* = dispersal, esp of light.

dis-pirited /dɪ'spɪrɪtɪd/ *adj* discouraged; disheartened.

dis-place /dɪ'spleɪs/ *vt* 1 put out of the right or usual position. 2 take the place of; put in the place of: *Tom has ~d Harry in Mary's affections*.

displaced person, one who must leave his country because of war, etc.

dis-place-ment /dɪ'spleɪsmənt/ *n* [U] 1 displacing or being displaced: *the ~ of human labour by machines*. 2 amount of water displaced by a solid body in it, or floating in it: *a ship of 10000 tons ~*.

dis-play¹ /dɪ'spleɪ/ *n* [C,U] displaying; show or exhibition: *a fashion ~*, a showing of new styles in clothes, etc; *a ~ of bad temper*.

dis-play² /dɪ'spleɪ/ *vt* 1 show; place or spread out so that there is no difficulty in seeing: *Department stores ~ their goods in the windows*. 2 allow to be seen; show signs of having: *to ~ one's ignorance. She ~ed no sign of emotion*.

dis-please /dɪ'spleɪz/ *vt* not please; offend; annoy; make indignant or angry: *to be ~d with her (for doing that); to be ~d at her conduct*.

dis-pleas-ing *adj* not pleasing (to a person).

dis-pleas-ing-ly *adv*

dis-pleasure /dɪ'spleɪʒə(r)/ *n* [U] displeased feeling; dissatisfaction: *He incurred his father's ~*.

dis-pos-able /dɪ'spəʊzəbl/ *adj* made so that

it may be (easily) disposed of after use: *~ nap-pies*, of soft paper which disintegrates quickly in water.

dis-pos-al /dɪ'spəʊzl/ *n* [U] 1 the act of disposing (1): *the ~ of rubbish*, getting rid of it; *a 'bomb ~ squad*, group of men who, when unexploded bombs are found, try to make them harmless and remove them. 2 control; management. **at one's disposal**, to be used as one wishes: *My desk/report is at your ~*.

dis-pose /dɪ'spəʊz/ *vi, vt* 1 finish with; get rid of; deal with: *to ~ of rubbish. He doesn't want to ~ of (eg sell) the land*. 2 place (persons, objects) in good order or in suitable positions: *The cruisers were ~d in a single line*. 3 (formal) be willing or ready: *I'm not ~d/don't feel ~d to help my lazy sister*.

dis-posi-tion /,dɪspə'zɪʃn/ *n* [C] 1 arrangement (the more usual word): *the ~ of furniture in a room*. 2 person's natural qualities of mind and character: *a man with a cheerful ~*. 3 (formal) inclination: *There was a general ~ to leave early*. Most people seemed to wish to leave early. 4 power of ordering and disposing: *Who has the ~ of this property*, the power or authority to dispose of it?

dis-pos-ess /,dɪspə'zeɪs/ *vt* take away (property, esp land) from; compel (a person) to give up (the house he occupies): *The nobles were ~ed of their property after the Revolution*.

dis-pro-portion-ate /,dɪsprə'pɔːʃənət/ *adj* out of proportion; relatively too large or small, etc: *to give a ~ amount of one's time to games*.

dis-pro-portion-ate-ly *adv*

dis-prove /dɪ'spruːv/ *vt* prove to be wrong or false.

dis-put-able /dɪ'spjʊ:təbl/ *adj* that may be disputed; questionable.

dis-pu-tant /dɪ'spjʊ:tənt/ *n* [C] person who disputes.

dis-pute¹ /'dɪspjuːt/ *n* 1 [U] debate, argument: *The matter in ~ (= being disputed) is the ownership of a house*. 2 [C] quarrel; controversy: *There were many religious ~s in England during the 17th century*.

dis-pute² /dɪ'spjʊːt/ *vi, vt* 1 argue, debate, quarrel. 2 discuss, question the truth or validity of: *to ~ a statement/a claim/a decision*. 3 oppose; resist: *to ~ an advance by the enemy*.

dis-qual-ify /dɪ'skwɒlɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) make unfit or unable: *As he was a professional, he was disqualified from taking part in the Olympic Games*.

dis-qual-i-fi-ca-tion /dɪ'skwɒlɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

dis-quiet /dɪ'skwaɪət/ *vt* (formal) make troubled, anxious, uneasy: *~ed by apprehensions of illness*. □ *n* [U] anxiety: *The President's speech caused considerable ~ in some European capitals*.

dis-quiet-ing *adj* causing anxiety: *~ing news*.

dis-re-gard /dɪsri'gɑ:d/ *vt* pay no attention to; show no respect for: *to ~ a warning*. □ *n* [U] inattention; indifference; neglect: *~ of a rule; ~ for one's teachers*.

dis-re-pair /dɪsri'peə(r)/ *n* [U] the state of needing repair: *The building was in bad ~*.

dis-repu-table /dɪs'repjutable/ *adj* having a bad reputation; not respectable: *~ behaviour; a ~ appearance*.

dis-repu-tably /-əbli/ *adv*

dis-re-pute /dɪsri'pjut/ *n* [U] condition of being disreputable; discredit. **fall into dis-repute**, no longer have a good reputation.

dis-re-spect /dɪsri'spekt/ *n* [U] rudeness; want of respect: *He meant no ~ by that remark*, did not intend to be impolite.

dis-re-spect-ful /-fl/ *adj* showing disrespect.

dis-re-spect-fully /-fəli/ *adv*: *to speak ~ fully of/about him*.

dis-rupt /dɪs'rʌpt/ *vt* break up, split, separate by force a State, an empire, communications, etc: *Their quarrels seem likely to ~ the meeting*.

dis-rup-tion /dɪs'rʌpʃn/ *n* [C, U] (instance of) disrupting or being disrupted: *serious ~ions in the factory*.

dis-rup-tive /dɪs'rʌptɪv/ *adj* causing disruption: *~ive forces*.

dis-sat-is-fac-tion /dɪ,sætɪs'fækʃn/ *n* [U] the state of being dissatisfied.

dis-sat-isfy /dɪ,sætɪsfaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) fail to satisfy; make discontented: *to be dissatisfied with one's salary*.

dis-sect /dɪ'sekt/ *vt* cut up (parts of an animal body, plant, etc) in order to study its structure.

dis-sec-tion /dɪ'sekʃn/ *n* [C, U]

dis-semi-nate /dɪ'semneɪt/ *vt* distribute or spread widely ideas, doctrines, etc.

dis-semi-na-tion /dɪ'semneɪʃn/ *n* [U]

dis-sen-sion /dɪ'senʃn/ *n* [U] angry quarrelling, disagreement; [C] instance of this: *~(s) between rival groups in politics*.

dis-sent¹ /dɪ'sent/ *n* [U] dissenting; (expression of) disagreement: *to express strong ~*.

dis-sent² /dɪ'sent/ *vi* 1 have a different opinion (from); refuse to agree to: *I strongly ~ from what the last speaker has said*. 2 (esp) refuse to accept the religious doctrine of the Church of England.

dis-sen-ter, person who dissents (2).

dis-ser-ta-tion /dɪ'sa:teɪʃn/ *n* [C] long written or spoken account (eg as submitted for a higher university degree): *a ~ on/upon/ concerning...*

dis-ser-vice /dɪ'sa:vis/ *n* [U] harmful or unhelpful action: *You are doing her a great ~ spreading such rumours*.

dis-si-dent /dɪ'sɪdənt/ *adj* disagreeing. □ *n* [C] person who disagrees; dissenter.

dis-simi-lar /dɪ'sɪmɪlə(r)/ *adj* not the same; not similar: *people with ~ tastes*.

dis-simi-lar-ity /dɪ'sɪmɪ'lærəti/ *n* [U] state of not having similarity; [C] (pl -ies) point, area,

of difference.

dis-si-pate /dɪ'sɪpeɪt/ *vt, vi* 1 (cause to) disperse, go away: *to ~ fear/doubt/ignorance*. 2 waste time, leisure, money foolishly: *Don't ~ your efforts*.

dis-sipated *adj* behaving in a foolish and often harmful way: *to lead a ~ life*.

dis-si-pa-tion /dɪ'sɪpeɪʃn/ *n* [U] dissipating or being dissipated: *a life of ~*.

dis-so-ciate /dɪ'səʊseɪt/ *vt* separate (in thought, feeling); not associate with: *A politician's public and private life should be ~d*. I wish to ~ myself from what has just been said.

dis-so-cia-tion /dɪ'səʊsɪ'eɪʃn/ *n* [U]

dis-sol-uble /dɪ'sɒljubl/ *adj* that can be dissolved, disintegrated or annulled.

dis-solu-bil-ity /dɪ'sɒljʊ'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

dis-sol-ute /dɪ'sɒljut/ *US: -lut/ adj* (of persons, their behaviour) immoral, evil: *to lead a ~ life*.

dis-sol-ute-ly *adv*

dis-sol-ution /dɪ'sɒlu:ʃn/ *n* [C, U] 1 breaking up; undoing or ending (of a marriage, partnership, etc). 2 (esp) ending of Parliament before a general election.

dis-solve /dɪ'zɒlv/ *vt, vi* 1 (of a liquid) soak into a solid so that the solid itself becomes liquid: *Water ~s salt*. 2 (of a solid) become liquid as the result of being taken into a liquid: *Salt ~s in water*. 3 cause (a solid) to dissolve: *He ~d the salt in water*. 4 disappear; fade away: *The view ~d in mist*. 5 bring to, come to, an end: *to ~ a business partnership/a marriage/Parliament*.

dis-son-ance /dɪ'sənəns/ *n* 1 [U] discord. 2 [C] combination of notes that is discordant.

dis-son-ant /dɪ'sənənt/ *adj* harsh in tone.

dis-suade /dɪ'sweɪd/ *vt* advise against: *I tried to ~ her from marrying him*.

dis-sua-sion /dɪ'sweɪʒn/ *n* [U]

dis-taff /dɪ'sta:f/ *US: -tæf/ n* [C] stick round which wool, flax, etc is wound for spinning by hand.

dis-tance /dɪ'stəns/ *n* [C, U] 1 measure of space, between two points, places, etc: *In the USA ~ is measured in miles, not in kilometres*. *The town is a great ~ off, a long way off*. **in the distance**, far away: *A ship could be seen in the ~*. 2 space of time: *to look back over a ~ of fifty years*. ⇨ also long distance.

dis-tant /dɪ'stənt/ *adj* 1 far away in space or time: *We had a ~ view of Mount Everest*. 2 far off in family relationship: *She's a ~ cousin of mine*. 3 (of degree of similarity) not easily seen: *There is a ~ resemblance between the cousins*. 4 reserved; not showing familiarity: *She's always very ~ with strangers*.

dis-tant-ly *adv* in a distant manner: *He is ~ly related to me*.

dis-taste /dɪ'steɪst/ *n* [U] dislike: *a ~ for hard work*.

dis-taste-ful /-fl/ *adj* disagreeable; unpleasant: *It is ~ful to me to have to say this, but...*

dis-taste-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

dis-tend /dɪ'stend/ *vt, vi* (cause to) swell out (by pressure from within): *a ~ed stomach/vein.*

dis-til (US = -till) /dɪ'stɪl/ *vt, vi* (-ll-) **1** change (a liquid) to vapour by heating, cool the vapour and collect the drops of liquid that condense from the vapour; purify (a liquid) this way: *Salt water can be ~led and made into drinking water.* **2** make (whisky, etc) by distilling.

dis-til-la-tion /dɪ'stɪləʃn/ *n* [C, U]

dis-til-ler /dɪ'stɪlə(r)/ *n* [C] person who distils (esp whisky).

dis-til-lery, place where liquids (eg gin, whisky) are distilled.

dis-tinct /dɪ'stɪŋkt/ *adj* **1** easily heard, seen, understood; clearly marked: *a ~ pronunciation.* *There is a ~ improvement in her typing.* **2** different in kind; separate: *Keep the two ideas ~, the one from the other.*

dis-tinct-ly *adv* in a clear manner: *I remember ~ly...* *He ~ly remembers* (= clearly, leaving no room for misunderstanding) *telling you not to do it.*

dis-tinc-tion /dɪ'stɪŋkʃn/ *n* **1** [U] being, keeping things, different or distinct (2); distinguishing, being distinguished, as different; [C] instance of this: *The President shook hands with everyone, without ~ of rank. It is difficult to make exact ~s between all the meanings of a word.* **2** [C] point of difference; that which makes one thing different from another: *The ~ between poetry and prose is obvious.* **3** [U] quality of being superior, excellent, distinguished: *a writer/novel of ~.* **4** [C] mark of honour; title; decoration; reward: *academic ~s*, eg a doctor's degree.

dis-tinc-tive /dɪ'stɪŋktɪv/ *adj* serving to mark a difference or make distinct: *Football teams wear ~ clothes.*

dis-tinc-tive-ly *adv*

dis-tin-guish /dɪ'stɪŋɡwɪʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** see, hear, recognize, understand well, the difference: *The twins were so alike that it was impossible to ~ one from the other.* **2** make out by looking, listening, etc: *A person with good eyesight can ~ distant objects.* **3** be a mark of character, difference: *Speech ~es man from the animals.* **4** behave so as to bring credit to oneself: *to ~ oneself in an examination.*

dis-tin-guish-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be distinguished between: *Tom is hardly ~able from his twin brother.*

dis-tin-guished /dɪ'stɪŋɡwɪʃt/ *adj* famous; well known; remarkable; showing distinction (3): *He is ~ for his good knowledge of economics/~ as an economist.*

dis-tort /dɪ'stɔ:t/ *vt* **1** pull, twist, out of the usual shape: *a face ~ed by pain.* **2** give a false account of: *Newspaper accounts of international affairs are sometimes ~ed.*

distorted *adj* with the mind confused or bewildered: *to be ~ed with/by anxiety/grief.*

dis-tor-tion /dɪ'stɔ:ʃn/ *n* [C, U]

dis-tract /dɪ'strækt/ *vt* take away a person's attention, concentration, etc: *The noise in the street ~ed me from my reading.*

dis-trac-tion /dɪ'strækʃn/ *n* **1** [U] distracting or being distracted. **2** [C] something (annoying and unwelcome) that distracts: *Noise is a ~ when you are trying to study.* **3** [C] something that holds the attention and gives pleasure: *He complained that there were not enough ~s in the village.* **4** [U] wildness or confusion of mind: *He loves her to ~. You'll drive me to ~ with your silly questions.*

dis-traught /dɪ'strɔ:t/ *adj* distracted; extremely upset: *~ with grief.*

dis-tress /dɪ'stres/ *n* [U] **1** (cause of) great pain, discomfort or sorrow: *He was a great ~ to his mother.* **2** (suffering caused by) want of money or other necessary things. **3** serious danger or difficulty: *a ship in ~; a ~ signal.*

dis-tress /dɪ'stres/ *vt* cause distress (2) to: *What are you looking so ~ed about?*

dis-tress-ing *adj* causing or experiencing distress.

dis-trib-ute /dɪ'stribju:t/ *vt* **1** give or send out: *The teacher ~d the books to the class.* **2** spread out (over a larger area): *to ~ manure over a field.* **3** put into groups or classes.

dis-tribu-tion /dɪ'stribju:ʃn/ *n* [U] distributing or being distributed; manner of being distributed; [C] instance or occasion of distributing: *They could not agree about the ~ of the profits. Is the ~ of wealth uneven in Great Britain?*

dis-trib-u-tive /dɪ'stribjutɪv/ *adj* **1** of distribution: *the ~ trades*, eg shopkeeping. **2** (gram) of each individual, each member of a class: *'Each', 'every', 'either' and 'neither' are ~ pronouns.*

dis-trib-u-tive-ly *adv*

dis-tri-bu-tor /dɪ'stribjutə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who distributes. **2** part of the engine (in a motor-vehicle) that sends electricity to the sparking plugs.

dis-trict /dɪ'strɪkt/ *n* [C] **1** part of a country: *a mountainous ~; the 'Lake District', in England.* **2** part of a town or country marked out for a special purpose: *the London postal ~s*, eg NW5, EC4.

district 'nurse, nurse who visits people at home, not in hospitals.

dis-trust /dɪ'strʌst/ *n* [U] doubt or suspicion; want of trust or confidence: *The child looked at the stranger with ~.* *□ vt* have no trust in; be doubtful about: *He ~ed his own father.*

dis-trust-ful /-fl/ *adj* suspicious (the usual word).

dis-trust-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

dis-turb /dɪ'stɜ:b/ *vt* break the quiet, calm, peace or order of; put out of the right or usual position: *She opened the door quietly so as not to ~ the baby. He was ~ed to hear of your illness/* by the news of your illness.

dis-turb-ance /dɪ'stɜ:bəns/ *n* [U] disturbing

or being disturbed; [C] instance of this; something that disturbs; disorder (esp social or political): *Were there any political ~s in the country last year?*

dis-unity /dis'ju:nəti/ *n* [U] lack of unity.

dis-use /dis'ju:z/ *n* [U] state of no longer being used: *rusty from ~; a machine that has fallen into (= become) ~.*

dis-used /dis'ju:zd/ *adj* no longer used: *a ~d railway-line.*

ditch /dɪtʃ/ *n* [C] narrow channel dug in or between fields, or at the sides of a road, etc to hold or carry off water. **as dull as 'ditch water**, very dull (3). □ *vt, vi* **1** send or throw into a ditch. **2** (fig) abandon: *The pilot had to ~ his plane, make a forced landing on the sea. He's ~ed his girlfriend, (informal) suddenly stopped seeing her.*

dither /'dɪðə(r)/ *vi* (informal) hesitate about what to do; be unable to decide.

ditto /'dɪtəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) the same (used in lists to avoid writing words again): *One hat at £2.25; ~ at £4.50.*

ditty /'dɪti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) short, simple song.

di-van /dɪ'væn/ *US*: /daɪvæn/ *n* [C] long, low, soft, backless seat or bed.

dive /daɪv/ *n* [C] **1** act of diving into water: *a graceful ~.* **2** disreputable place for the sale of drink, or for gambling.

dive /daɪv/ *vi* **1** go head first into water: *He ~d from the bridge and rescued the drowning child.* **2** (of a submarine, divers) go under water. **3** go quickly to a lower level: *The aircraft was diving steeply.* **4** move (eg the hand) quickly and suddenly downwards (into something): *He ~d into his pocket and pulled out a handful of coins.*

'diving-board, from which to dive (eg into a swimming pool).

'diving-suit, suit with heavy boots and a helmet worn when diving.

diver, person who dives, esp a person who works under water in a diving-suit.

di-verge /daɪ'vɜ:dʒ/ *vi* (of lines, opinions, roads, etc) get farther apart from a point or from each other as they progress; turn or branch away from: *to ~ from the path/truth.*

di-ver-gence /daɪ'vɜ:dʒəns/, **-gency** /-nsɪ/ *n* [U] diverging; [C] (*pl* ~s, -cies) instance of this.

di-ver-gent /-dʒənt/ *adj*

di-vers /'daɪvɜ:z/ *adj* (old use) several; more than one.

di-verse /daɪ'vɜ:s/ *adj* of different kinds: *The wild life in Africa is extremely ~.*

di-verse-ly *adv*

di-ver-sify /daɪ'vɜ:sɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) make diverse; give variety to.

di-ver-si-fi-ca-tion /daɪ'vɜ:sɪfɪkeɪʃn/ *n* [U]

di-ver-sion /daɪ'vɜ:ʃn/ *US*: -ʒn/ *n* **1** [U] diverting; the act of turning something aside or giving it a different direction: *the ~ of a stream*; [C] instance of this: *traffic ~s*, eg when traffic is directed along different routes

because of road repairs. **2** [C] something amusing or which gives pleasure; hobby: *Chess and tennis are his favourite ~s.* **3** [C] method used to turn the attention from something that one does not wish to be noticed, as when, in war, the enemy's attention is drawn from one place by an unexpected attack at another place: *to create/make a ~.*

di-ver-sion-ary /daɪ'vɜ:ʃnəri/ *US*: -ʒnəri/ *adj*

di-ver-sity /daɪ'vɜ:səti/ *n* [U] the state of being diverse; variety.

di-vert /daɪ'vɜ:t/ *vt* **1** turn in another direction: *to ~ a river from its course.* **2** amuse; entertain: *Some people are easily ~ed.*

di-vest /daɪ'vest/ *vt* (formal) **1** take off (clothes): *to ~ a king of his robes.* **2** take away from: *to ~ an official of power and authority.*

di-vide /dɪ'vaɪd/ *vt, vi* **1** separate, be separated (into); split or break up: *We ~d the money equally. They ~d the cash between/among themselves. The road ~s at this point.* **2** find out how often one number is contained in another: *If you ~ 6 into 30/ ~ 30 by 6, the answer is 5.* **3** arrange in groups: *The teacher ~d the boys from the girls.* **4** cause disagreement; cause to disagree: *Opinions are ~d on the question.* **5** (in Parliament, at debates, etc) (cause to) part in order to vote: *After a long debate, the House ~d, voted on the question.*

di-vide /dɪ'vaɪd/ *n* [C] something that divides, eg a line of high land that separates two different river systems.

divi-dend /'dɪvɪdənd/ *n* [C] (usually monthly, annual, etc) payment of a share of profit, to shareholders in a business company, to a policy holder in a mutual insurance company, etc: *to pay a ~ of 10 per cent.*

di-vid-ers /dɪ'vaɪdəz/ *n pl* (also a pair of ~) measuring-compasses used for dividing lines or angles, measuring or marking distances, etc.

di-vine /dɪ'vaɪn/ *adj* **1** of, from, or like God or a god: *D~ Service*, the public worship of God. **2** (informal) excellent; very beautiful: *~ weather. She looks ~ in that new dress.*

di-vine-ly *adv*

di-vine /dɪ'vaɪn/ *vt, vi* discover or learn (something) about future events, hidden things, etc by means not based on reason: *to ~ what the future has in store.*

di-viner /dɪ'vaɪnə(r)/ *n* [C] person who divines, esp one who claims to have the power of finding water, metal, etc by using a Y-shaped stick or rod (called a *divining-rod*).

div-ing ⇨ *dive.*

di-vin-ity /dɪ'vɪnəti/ *n* **1** [U] the quality of being divine, ⇨ *divine*: *the ~ of Christ*; [C] (*pl* -ies) divine being. **2** [U] the study of theology: *a doctor of ~* (abbr = **DD**).

di-vis-ible /dɪ'vɪzəbl/ *adj* that can be divided without remainder: *8 is ~ by 2.*

divi-sion /dɪ'vɪʒn/ *n* **1** [U] dividing or being divided: *the ~ of time into months, weeks and days*; *a simple problem in ~* (eg 50 ÷ 5). **2** [C]

the effect of dividing; one of the parts into which something is divided: *Is that a fair ~ of the money?* *He plays in the Second D~ of the Football League.* **3** [C] unit of two or more brigades. **4** [C] line that divides: *A hedge forms the ~ between his land and mine.* **5** [C] disagreement; separation in thought, feeling, etc: *Agitators who stir up ~s in society are dangerous.* **6** [C] (in Parliament, etc) separation into two groups for the counting of votes: *The Bill was read for the second time without a ~.*

di-vorce¹ /di'vɔ:s/ **n** 1 [U] legal ending of a marriage so that husband and wife are free to marry again; [C] instance of this: *to sue for a ~*; *to take/start ~ proceedings*; *to obtain a ~ (from...)*. **2** [C] ending of a connection or relationship: *the ~ between religion and science*, as when science claims or seems to show that religious beliefs are not true.

di-vorce² /di'vɔ:s/ **vt** 1 put an end to a marriage by law: *Did Mr Hill ~ his wife or did she ~ him?* **2** (fig) separate (things usually together): *What happens to the soul when it is ~d from the body?*

di-vor-cee /di'vɔ:'si:/, divorced person.

di-vulge /daɪ'vʌldʒ/ **vt** make known (a secret).

dizzy /'dɪzi/ **adj** (-ier, -iest) **1** (of a person) feeling as if everything were turning round, as if unable to balance; mentally confused. **2** (of places, conditions) causing such a feeling: *a ~ height*. □ **vt** (pt, pp -ied) make dizzy.

diz-zily /-əli/ **adv**

diz-zi-ness **n** [U]

do¹ /də *strong form*: du:/ **auxiliary verb** (1st person sing. present tense negative **don't** /dɒnt/, 3rd person sing. present tense **does** /dəz, dɒz/, negative **doesn't** /'dɒznt/, pt **did** /dɪd/, negative **didn't** /'dɪdnt/, pp **done** /dʌn/) **1** (used with the main verb) (a) for negative sentences with *not*: *He didn't go. Don't go yet.* (b) for questions: *Does/Did he want it?* (c) (for emphasis): *That's exactly what he'd said.* **2** (a) (used in comparisons): *She plays the piano better now than she did* (ie played) *last year.* (b) (used in question phrases): *He lives in London, doesn't he?* (c) (used in answers, comments, etc): *'Who broke the window?' — 'I did!'*

do² /du:/ **vt, vi** (For pronunciations, etc ⇨ **do**¹) (For uses with adverbial particles and prepositions ⇨ **14** below.) **1** perform, carry out (an action): *What are you ~ing now? What does he ~ for a living? What is his job? I have nothing to ~.* *It's easier said than done*, easier to talk about than to do. **do it yourself**, (abbr **DIY**) (esp) do house decorating, etc oneself (instead of paying professional workers). **2** (used with nouns in many senses) (a) produce; make: *I have done* (ie made) *six copies.* (b) work at; be busy with: *She's ~ing her knitting.* (c) perform: *D~ your duty.* (d) study; learn: *Are you ~ing science at school?* (e) find the answer to: *I can't ~ this sum.* (f) put in order;

arrange: *Go and ~ your hair.* (g) clean, sweep, etc: *Have you done* (ie brushed) *your teeth?* (h) deal with, attend to: *I have a lot of correspondence to ~.* (i) use, exert: *~ one's best/all one can to help.* **3** (as a pp) bring to an end; finish: *It's done. I've done it.* *A woman's work is never done.* **4 do (for)**, be satisfactory or convenient, enough: *These shoes won't ~ for climbing.* *£5 will ~ as a deposit.* **make do**, ⇨ **make**¹ (13). **5** be fitting, suitable, tolerable: *This will never ~, cannot be accepted or allowed.* *It doesn't ~ to be rude to your father.* **6** (informal) happen: *He came to ask what was ~ing*, = being done, happening. **7** (a) get on well, badly, etc: *Everything in the garden is ~ing* (= growing) *well.* *He's ~ing well at school.* (b) (esp of health) make progress: *The patient is ~ing quite well.* **How do you do?** (formula used when people are formally introduced). **8** complete (a journey); travel (a distance); go (at a certain speed): *How many miles a day did you ~? We did the journey in six hours.* **9** play the part of: *He does Hamlet well.* **10** cheat, swindle, get the better of: *He once tried to ~ me out of my job.* **11** (informal) see the sights of: *Some tourists think they can ~ England in a fortnight.* **12** cook in the right degree: *How would you like your steak done?* **13** (with have) **have to do with**, be connected with: *I know he behaves badly — It all has to ~ with the way he was brought up.* **have sth/ nothing/not much/a great deal, etc to do with**, be/not be connected or concerned with: *Hard work had a great deal to ~ with* (= contributed greatly to) *his success.*

14 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

do away with, abolish, get rid of: *That department was done away with two years ago.* (be) **hard done by**, (be) treated unfairly: *He complains that he has been hard done by.* **do for**, (informal) (a) perform, esp domestic services for: *Old Mrs Green has been ~ing for me since my wife died.* (b) manage: *What! How will you ~ for water* (= manage to have supplies of water) *while you're crossing the desert?* (c) ruin; destroy; kill: *The country's done for, ruined.*

do sb in, (sf) kill him. **be done in**, exhausted: *The horse was done in after the race.*

do sb out of sth, ⇨ **10** above.

do sth out, sweep or clean out; put in order: *This room needs ~ing out.*

do sb over, (informal) fight and hurt badly.

do sth up, (a) restore, repair: *The house needs to be done up/needs ~ing up*, to be decorated. (b) change the shape of, put new trimmings, etc on: *She has been ~ing up her last summer's clothes.* (c) tie or wrap up; make into a bundle or parcel: *Please ~ up these books and post them to Mr Smith.* (d) fasten (clothing) with buttons, hooks and eyes, etc: *Please ~ your coat up.* (e) (of a dress, etc) fasten with buttons, etc: *This dress does up at the back.*

do with, (a) (meanings as in the examples): *What did you ~ with my umbrella?* Where did you put it, leave it, etc? *What are we to ~ with* (= How shall we deal with) *this naughty boy?* *She didn't know what to ~ with herself*, how to occupy her time. (b) get on with; live or work with: *I can't ~ with him and his temper.* (c) (with *can*, *could*) expressing a need or wish: *You look as if you could ~ with* (= as if you need) *a good night's sleep.*

do without, manage without: *We shall have to ~ without a holiday this summer.*

do³ /du:/ n [C] (pl dos or do's /du:z/) 1 (informal) entertainment; party: *We're going to a big ~ at the Green's this evening.* 2 customs, rules: *Some teachers have too many ~s and don'ts.* 3 **fair do's**, (GB sl) (as an exclamation) Let's be fair (eg in sharing something).

doc-ile /'dɒsəl/ US: 'dɒsəl/ adj easily trained or controlled: *a ~ child/horse.*

do-cil-ity /dɒ'sɪləti/ n [U] the quality of being docile.

dock¹ /dɒk/ n 1 [C] place in a harbour, river, etc with gates through which water may be let in and out, where ships are (un)loaded or repaired: *to be in ~.* 2 (pl) number or row of docks with the wharves, sheds, offices, etc round them.

docker, dockyard labourer.

'dock-yard, enclosure with docks and facilities for building and repairing ships.

dock² /dɒk/ vi, vt 1 (of a ship) come or go into a dock. 2 bring, take, (a ship) into a dock. 3 join together (two or more spacecraft) in space.

dock³ /dɒk/ n [C] enclosure in a criminal court for the prisoner: *to be in the ~.*

dock⁴ /dɒk/ vt (esp) make allowances, wages, supplies, less: *to ~ a workman's wages; to have one's salary ~ed.*

docket /'dɒkɪt/ n [C] 1 summary of the contents of a letter, document, etc. 2 list of goods delivered, jobs done, etc. 3 label on a package listing the contents, or giving information about use, method of assembly, etc. □ vt enter in or write on a docket.

doc-tor /'dɒktə(r)/ n [C] 1 person who has received the highest university degree: *D~ of Laws/Divinity.* 2 person who has been trained in medical science. ⇨ physician, surgeon. □ vt 1 (informal) give medical treatment to: *~ a cold/a child.* 2 (informal) neuter. 3 make (esp food, drink) inferior by adding something; add drugs to. 4 (fig) falsify accounts, evidence.

doc-tor-ate /'dɒktərət/ n [C] doctor's(1) degree.

doc-tri-naire /'dɒktri'neə(r)/ adj theoretic(al); dogmatic: *~ teachers.*

doc-tri-nal /'dɒktri'nəl/ US: 'dɒktri'nəl/ adj of doctrine(s).

doc-trine /'dɒktri'n/ n [C,U] body of teaching; beliefs and teachings of a church, political party, school of scientists, etc: *the ~ that the Pope is infallible.*

docu-ment /'dɒkjʊmənt/ n [C] something written or printed, to be used as a record or in evidence (eg birth, marriage and death certificate). □ vt prove by, supply with, documents: *to be well ~ed.*

docu-men-ta-tion /'dɒkjʊmənt'eɪʃn/ n [U] consisting of documents: *~ proof/evidence.* □ n [C] (pl -ies) (also ~ film) film (non-fiction) describing ideas, social topics, studies of the natural world, science, etc.

dod-der /'dɒdə(r)/ vi (informal) walk, move, in a shaky way, as from weakness or old age: *to ~ along.*

dod-der-er, person who dodders.

dod-der-ing (also **dod-dery**) adj weak, old or uncertain in movement.

doddle /'dɒdl/ n (sing with a) (informal) something done very easily: *It was a ~.*

dodge¹ /'dɒdʒ/ n [C] 1 quick movement to avoid something. 2 (informal) trick: *He's up to all the ~s*, knows them all. 3 (informal) clever way of doing something.

dodge² /'dɒdʒ/ vt, vi 1 move quickly to one side, change position or direction, in order to escape or avoid something: *I ~d behind a tree so that he could not see me.* 2 get round (difficulties), avoid (duties, etc) by cunning or trickery: *to ~ military service.*

dodger, artful or cunning person.

dodgy /'dɒdʒi/ adj (-ier, -iest) (informal) 1 artful. 2 involving risk or loss.

doe /dɒ/ n [C] female fallow-deer, rabbit or hare.

'doe skin, (esp) soft leather made from this skin.

doer /'dʊə(r)/ n [C] person who does things (contrasted with persons who merely talk, etc): *He's a ~, not a talker.* (Note: also used in compounds, as in *evil-~*).

does /daz/, **doesn't** /'dʌznt/ ⇨ do¹.

dog¹ /dɒg/ US: dɔ:g/ n [C] 1 common domestic animal which barks of which there are many breeds; male of this animal and of the wolf and the fox. ⇨ bitch. **go to the dogs**, be ruined.

lead a 'dog's life, be troubled all the time.

lead sb a 'dog's life, give him no peace; worry him all the time.

let sleeping dogs 'lie, leave something alone; not look for trouble.

not stand (even) a 'dog's chance, have no chance at all of beating a stronger enemy, surviving a disaster, etc.

be, 'top 'dog, be in a position where one rules.

be (the) 'underdog, be in a position where one must always submit.

2 (informal) the ~s, greyhound race-meetings. 3 (informal) person: *He's a dirty/sly/lucky ~.*

'dog-collar, (informal) clerical collar.

'dog-eared, (of a book) having the corners of the pages turned down with use.

'dog-fight, (sl) fight in which two or more aircraft are involved.

'dog-fish, small kind of shark.

'dog-house, (sl) disgrace or disfavour: *be in*

the ~house.

'dog-like *adj* like or as of a dog, esp ~like devotion, the kind of devotion given by a dog to its master.

'dog paddle, simple swimming stroke in which the arms and legs are moved in short, quick splashing movements.

'dogs-body, overworked person.

doggy /'dɒɡi/ *US*: 'dɒɡi/, (child's word for a) dog.

dog² /dɒɡ/ *US*: dɒɡ/ *vt* (-gg-) **1** keep close behind, in the footsteps of: ~ a suspected thief. **2** (fig) follow: ~ged by misfortune.

dog-ged /'dɒɡɪd/ *US*: 'dɒɡəd/ *adj* stubborn.

dog-ged-ly *adv*

dog-ged-ness *n* [U]

dogma /'dɒɡmə/ *US*: 'dɒɡ- / *n* (*pl* ~s) **1** [C] belief, system of beliefs, put forward by some authority (esp the Church) to be accepted as true without question. **2** [U] such beliefs collectively.

dog-matic /dɒɡ'mætɪk/ *US*: dɒɡ-/ *adj* **1** put forward as dogmas: ~ theology. **2** (of a person) giving opinions as if they were dogmas, esp in an arrogant way; (of statements) put in this way.

dog-mati-cally /-kli/ *adv*

dog-ma-tism /'dɒɡmətɪzəm/ *US*: 'dɒɡ-/ *n* [U] (the quality of) being dogmatic: His ~ was unbearable.

do-gooder /,du:'ɡʊdə(r)/ *n* [C] person who often works for charity, etc.

do-ings /'du:ɪŋz/ *n pl* (informal) things done or being done: Tell me about all your ~ in London.

dol-drums /'dɒldrəmz/ *n pl* in the **dol-drums**, (fig) miserable, depressed.

dole /dɒl/ *vt* **dole** (out), distribute food, money, etc in small amounts (eg to poor people). □ *n* [C] **1** something distributed. **2** (informal) weekly payment from the State to an unemployed worker. **be/go on the dole**, receive/begin to receive such payments.

dole-ful /'dɒlfl/ *adj* miserable, depressed.

dole-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

doll¹ /dɒl/ *n* [C] **1** model of a baby or person, usually for a child to play with. **2** (dated sl) pretty but empty-headed girl or woman.

doll² /dɒl/ *vt, vi* (informal) dress (oneself) up smartly: She was all ~ed up for the party.

dol-lar /'dɒlə(r)/ *n* [C] unit of money (symbol \$) in the US, Canada, Australia and other countries.

dol-lop /'dɒləp/ *n* [C] (informal) shapeless quantity of food, etc: a ~ of ice-cream.

dolly /'dɒli/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** child's word for a doll. **2** small wheeled frame or platform for moving heavy objects; mobile platform for a heavy camera.

dol-phin /'dɒlfɪn/ *n* [C] sea-animal like a porpoise.

dolt /dɒlt/ *n* [C] stupid person.

-dom /-dəm/ *suffix* (used to form a noun) **1** condition, state: boredom; freedom. **2** domain:

kingdom.

do-main /dəu'meɪn/ *n* [C] (formal) **1** lands under the rule of a government, ruler, etc. **2** (fig) area or topic of thought, knowledge, activity: in the ~ of science.

dome /dɒm/ *n* [C] rounded roof with a circular base; something shaped like a dome: the rounded ~ (= summit) of a hill.

domed *adj* rounded: a man with a ~ forehead.

do-mes-tic /dɒ'mestɪk/ *adj* **1** of the home, family, household: He has had a good many ~ troubles. **2** not foreign; native; of one's own country: This newspaper provides more foreign news than ~ news. **3** (of animals, etc) kept by, living with, man: Horses, cows and sheep are ~ animals. ⇨ wild. □ *n* [C] person who is employed in household work.

do-mes-ti-cate /dɒ'mestɪkeɪt/ *vt* **1** make able to do, interested in, household work and duties: She's not at all ~d, is not good at cooking, housekeeping, etc. **2** tame (animals).

do-mes-ti-ca-tion /dɒ'mestɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U]

do-mes-tic-ity /,dɒmə'stɪsəti/ *n* [U] home or family life.

domi-cile /'dɒmɪsaɪl/ *n* [C] (formal) home; (legal) place where a person lives permanently.

domi-nance /'dɒmɪnəns/ *n* [U] being dominant.

domi-nant /'dɒmɪnənt/ *adj* **1** having control or authority; dominating; most important or influential: the ~ partner in a business. **2** (of heights) overlooking others: a ~ cliff.

domi-nant-ly *adv*

domi-nate /'dɒmɪneɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** have control, authority or influence: The strong usually ~ (over) the weak. Mary ~d the conversation. **2** (of a place, esp a height) overlook: The whole valley is ~d by this mountain.

domi-na-tion /,dɒmɪ'neɪʃn/ *n* [U]

domi-neer /,dɒmɪ'niə(r)/ *vi* act, speak, in a dominating manner; be overbearing: Big boys sometimes ~ over their small sisters.

domi-neer-ing *adj*: He's a very ~ing man.

Dom-ini-can /dɒ'mɪnɪkən/ *adj* of St Dominic /'dɒmɪnɪk/ (1170–1221, a Spanish priest) or the order of friars he founded in 1212, under vows of poverty and chastity. □ *n* [C] one of these friars.

do-min-ion /dɒ'mɪniən/ *n* **1** [U] authority to rule; control (over). **2** [C] territory of a sovereign government. **3** [C] one of the self-governing territories of the British Commonwealth of Nations: the D ~ of Canada.

dom-ino /'dɒmɪnəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es or ~s) **1** small, flat, oblong piece of wood or bone, marked with spots. **2** (*pl*) (used with a *sing verb*) game played with 28 of these.

do-nate /dɒu'neɪt/ *US*: 'dɒneɪt/ *vt* give (eg money, to a charity, etc); contribute.

do-na-tion /dɒu'neɪʃn/ *n* [U] giving; [C] something given: donations to the refugee fund.

done /dʌn/ ⇨ do¹.

don-key /'dɒŋki/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) (the usual word for an) ass.

'donkey-work, work needing great (physical) effort.

do-nor /'dɒnə(r)/ *n* [C] person who gives something: a 'blood ~, person who gives his own blood for transfusion.

don't /daʊnt/ **1** = *do not*. ⇨ **do'**. **2** ⇨ **do³(2)**.

doodle /'duːdl/ *vi*, *n* [C] (*informal*) (make a) meaningless scrawl or scribble.

doom /'duːm/ *n* [U] ruin; death; something evil that is to come: *to send a man to his ~*.

doom² /'duːm/ *vt* condemn (esp used as a *pp*): ~ed to failure.

Dooms-day /'duːmzdeɪ/ *n* the day of Judgement; end of the world. **from now until Doomsday**, for ever.

door /dɔː(r)/ *n* [C] **1** that which closes the entrance to a building, room, cupboard, etc: *The ~ opened/was opened and a man came out*. **lay sth at sb's door**, say that he is responsible for it. **next door**, (in, to) the next house: *I'm going next ~ to see Mrs Jones*. *We're next ~ neighbours*. **out of doors**, in the open air: *It's cold out of ~s so put an overcoat on*. **at death's door**, dying. **2** (*fig*) means of obtaining or approaching something: *a ~ to success*.

'door-bell, bell operated by a button, etc used by somebody outside a building to call somebody who is inside.

'door-keeper, person on duty or on guard at a door or other entrance.

'door-man, uniformed attendant at the entrance to a hotel, cinema, etc.

'door-mat, rough mat by a door on which shoes may be wiped.

'door-step, step in front of a door.

'door-stopper, heavy object placed in a doorway to prevent the door from closing.

'door-to-door, visiting homes (eg to sell something): *a ~-to-~ 'salesman*.

'door-way, opening into which a door fits: *standing in the ~way*.

dope /dɒp/ *n* [U] **1** (*informal*) harmful drug (eg opium). **2** (*sf*) information (eg on the probable winners at a race meeting). ⇨ *vt* give dope(1) to.

dopey, **dopy** /'dɒpi/ *adj* (*sf*) (**a**) half asleep. (**b**) (as if) drugged. (**c**) stupid.

door-mant /'dɔːmənt/ *adj* in a state of inactivity but awaiting development or activity: *a ~ volcano*.

door-mi-tory /'dɔːmitri/ *US*: -tɔːri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) room for sleeping, with several beds, esp in a school or institution.

dor-mouse /'dɔːmaʊs/ *n* [C] (*pl* dormice /'dɔːmaɪs/) small animal (like a mouse) that sleeps during cold weather in winter.

dor-sal /'dɔːsl/ *adj* of, on, near, the back (1, 2): *the ~ fin*, eg of a shark.

dos-age /'dɔːsɪdʒ/ *n* [U] giving of medicines in doses; [C] quantity of a single dose.

dose /dɔːs/ *n* [C] **1** amount (of medicine) to be taken at one time: *The bottle contains six ~s*. **2** (*informal*, *fig*) something given or taken: *give her a ~ of her own medicine*, behave as she does, etc. ⇨ *vt* give dose(s) to: *to ~ oneself with aspirin*.

doss /dɒs/ *vi* (*GB* *sl*) **doss down**, make a (cheap) temporary bed and go to sleep.

'doss-house, cheap place to sleep.

dos-sier /'dɒsɪə/ *US*: 'dɔːs-/ *n* [C] set of papers giving information about a person or event, esp a personal record.

dot /dɒt/ *n* [C] **1** small round mark (as over the letters i and j); decimal point. **on the dot**, (*informal*) at the exact time (stated): *Be back by six o'clock on the ~*. **2** thing like a dot in appearance: *We watched the ship until it was a mere ~ on the horizon*. ⇨ *vt* (-tt-) **1** mark with a dot. **2** make with, cover with, dots: *a ~ed line*, eg on a document, for a signature. **dotted about**, scattered here and there.

do-tage /'dɔːtɪdʒ/ *n* [U] weakness of mind caused by old age: *He's in his ~*, is becoming unable to remember, notice, things.

dote /dɔːt/ *vi* show much or too much fondness: *She ~s on her grandson*. *He's a doting* (= very loving) husband.

dotty /'dɒti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (*informal*) **1** mad; idiotic; eccentric. **2** in love with: *I'm ~ about her*.

double /'dʌbl/ *adj* **1** twice as much, large, good, etc: *His income is ~ what it was two years ago*. **2** having two like things or parts: *a railway with a ~ track*; *a man with a ~ chin*, with a fold of loose flesh below the chin. **3** made for two persons or things: *a ~ bed*. **4** combining two things, qualities, etc: *a piece of furniture that serves a ~ purpose*, eg one that is a settee and can be opened out to make a bed.

'double-barrelled adj (**a**) (of a gun) having two barrels. (**b**) (*fig*) of a compliment, etc ambiguous. (**c**) (of a surname) hyphenated.

'double-bass, largest and lowest-pitched musical instrument in the violin family.

'double-breasted adj (of a coat or waistcoat) made so as to overlap across the front of the body.

'double-check vt check² (1) twice in order to be certain.

'double-cross vt (*informal*) cheat or betray (each of two parties, usually by pretended support for both). ⇨ *n* [C] act of this kind.

'double-dealer, person who says one thing and means another.

'double-dealing n, *adj* deceit(ful) (esp in business).

'double-decker, ⇨ -decker.

'double-Dutch, (*informal*) (of speech) unable to be understood.

'double-figures, any number from 10 to 99 inclusive.

'double-first, a first-class honours degree in two principal subjects gained at the same time.

double-glazing, two pieces of glass in a window (to reduce heat loss, sound).

double-jointed *adj* having joints that allow the fingers (or arms, legs) to move or bend in unusual ways.

double-quick *adj, adv* very quick(ly): in ~-quick time.

double-talk, kind of talk that really means the opposite of, or something quite different from, what it seems to mean.

double² /ˈdʌbl/ *adv* **1** twice (as much): *Many things now cost ~ what they did a year ago.* **2** in twos, in pairs or couples. *see double*, see two things when there is only one.

double³ /ˈdʌbl/ *n* [C] **1** twice the quantity: *Ten is the ~ of five.* **2** person or thing that looks exactly, or almost exactly, like another: *She's the ~ of her sister.* **3** slow run (about twice as fast as ordinary walking): *The troops advanced at the ~.* **4** game (eg tennis) played with two on each side: *mixed ~s*, a man and woman against another man and woman.

double⁴ /ˈdʌbl/ *vt, vi* **1** make or become twice as great: *to ~ one's income.* **2** bend or fold in two: *If you are cold, ~ the blanket (over).* **3** turn back sharply (when running to escape): *The fox ~d (back) on its tracks.* **4 double back**, turn or fold back. **double up**, (a) fold (something) up: *He ~d up his legs and kicked out*, eg when swimming. (b) be capable of folding up or rolling up: *This carpet is too thick to ~ up.* (c) (of persons) (cause to) bend the body with pain or in helpless laughter: *The stone struck him in the stomach and ~d him up.* *He ~d up with laughter.* **5** (of an actor) act two parts in the same play: *He's doubling the parts of a servant and a farm worker.*

double-let /ˈdʌblɪt/ *n* [C] type of close-fitting jacket, worn by men (about 1400–1600).

doubly /ˈdʌblɪ/ *adv* to twice the extent or amount: *to be ~ careful/sure.* (Note: used before an adjective.)

doubt¹ /daʊt/ *n* [U] uncertainty of thought; [C] feeling of uncertainty; uncertain state of things: *I have no ~ that you will succeed/no ~ of your ability.* *There is no ~ about it.* It is certain. *When in ~ (= uncertain) about the meaning of a word, consult a dictionary.* **throw/cast doubt on**, suggest that it is not true or reliable. **no doubt**, (a) certainly. (b) (informal) very probably: *He meant to help, no ~, but in fact he forgot to come.*

doubt² /daʊt/ *vt, vi* feel doubt about; question the truth of: *You cannot ~ your own existence.* *Do you ~ my word*, think I am not telling the truth? *I ~ whether he will come.*

doubt-ful /ˈdaʊtfl/ *adj* feeling doubt; causing doubt: *I am/feel ~ (about) what I ought to do.* *The future/weather looks very ~.*

doubt-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

doubt-less /ˈdaʊtlɪs/ *adv* **1** without doubt. **2** (informal) very probably.

dough /daʊ/ *n* [U] **1** mixture of flour, water, etc in a paste (for making bread, pastry, etc). **2**

(sl) money.

'dough-nut, piece of sweetened dough cooked in deep fat.

doughy *adj* of or like dough; soft.

dour /dʊə(r)/ *adj* gloomy; severe; stern: ~ looks/silence.

dour-ly *adv*

douse, dows /daʊs/ *vt* **1** put into water; throw water over. **2** (informal) put out (a light).

dove /dʌv/ *n* [C] **1** kind of pigeon; symbol of peace. **2** (informal) member of a group promoting peace. ⇨ hawk¹ (2).

'dove-cote, small shelter or house with nesting-boxes for doves.

dove-tail /ˈdʌvteɪl/ *n* [C] joint for two pieces of wood. □ *vt, vi* **1** join together with these joints. **2** (fig) fit (together): *My plans ~ed with his.*

dowager /ˈdaʊdʒə(r)/ *n* [C] woman with property or a title from her dead husband: *the ~ duchess.*

dowdy /ˈdaʊdi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (of clothes, etc) shabby or unfashionable; (of a person) dressed in such clothes.

dow-dily /-dli/ *adv*

dow-di-ness *n* [U]

dowel /ˈdaʊəl/ *n* [C] pin or peg for keeping two pieces of wood, metal, etc together.

down¹ /daʊn/ *n* [U] **1** first, soft feathers of young birds; soft feathers of birds (as used for pillows and cushions). **2** similar fine soft hair, eg on a boy's face, on some fruit.

down² /daʊn/ *adverbial particle* **1** (used with verbs of motion) (a) from a high(er) level to a low(er) level: *The sun went ~.* *If you can't jump ~, climb ~.* *Some kinds of food go ~ (= can be swallowed) more easily than others.* (b) from an upright position to a horizontal position: *He was knocked ~ by a bus.* *If you're tired, go and lie ~.* **2** (used with verbs of change of position but not because of movement in space) to or in a lower position or direction: *Sit ~, please.* *The tall man bent ~ to speak to me.* **3** (used with verbs of position or station): *Mary isn't ~ yet*, is not yet dressed and downstairs. *We can't use the telephone—the lines are all ~*, on the ground, eg after a storm. **4** from a more important place to a less important place; from an inland place to the coast; from the university: *We went ~ to Brighton* (eg from London) *for the weekend.* *The Bill was sent ~ (from the House of Lords) to the House of Commons.* *He has been sent ~*, expelled from the University for misbehaving, etc. **5** (used with verbs to show reduction to a smaller volume, a lower degree, a state of less activity, etc): *The heels of my shoes have worn ~.* *The wind died ~.* *One of the back tyres is ~*, is flat or getting flat. *The temperature has gone ~.* *The price of fruit is ~.* *The factory was closed ~ (= Work stopped) because of the steel shortage.* **6** (used with reference to writing): *to write something ~;* *Put me ~/Put my*

name ~ for 50p, eg as willing to give this amount. **7** from an earlier time (to a later time): *the history of Europe ~ to 1914*. **8** including the lower limit in a series: *everyone, from the Director ~*. **Down with**, Let us be rid of: *D~ with grammar!* **down under**, (informal) in the other side of the world. **be down and out**, (informal) (a) (boxing) be knocked out, unable to resume the fight. (b) (fig) be unemployed and without money. **get down to sth**, start work, etc in real earnest. **be down in the dumps/mouth**, (informal) be sad; depressed. **be down on one's luck**, (informal) having suffered misfortune. **come down in the world**, move to a lower social position.

down-to-earth, concerned with realities; practical (contrasted with impractical, vague, idealistic): *He's a ~-to-earth sort of man*.

down¹ /daʊn/ prep **1** from a high(er) to a low(er) level: *to run ~ a hill*. *The tears ran ~ her face*. **2** at a lower part of: *Oxford is farther ~ the river*. **3** along (not necessarily with reference to a lower level): *I was walking ~ the street*. **4** (of time) from a farther to a nearer period: *~ the ages*.

down⁴ /daʊn/ vt (informal) bring, put, knock, down: *to ~ a glass of beer*, drink it. **down tools**, (of workers) go on strike.

down⁵ /daʊn/ n **ups and downs**, changes in fortune, prosperity, etc: *have one's ups and ~s*. **have a down on sb**, feel angry, critical, towards him.

down-beat /'daʊnbɪt/ n [C] first beat of a bar in music (when the conductor's hand moves down).

down-cast /'daʊnkɑːst/ US: -kæst/ adj **1** (of a person) depressed; discouraged; sad. **2** (of eyes) looking downwards.

down-fall /'daʊnfɔːl/ n [C] **1** heavy fall (of rain, etc). **2** (fig) ruin; fall from fortune or power: *His ~ was caused by gambling and drink*.

down-grade /,daʊn'greɪd/ vt reduce to a lower grade or rank.

down-hearted /,daʊn'hɑːtɪd/ adj sad; depressed.

down-hill /,daʊn'hɪl/ adv in a downward direction. **go downhill**, (fig) go from bad to worse (in health, fortune, etc).

down-pour /'daʊnpɔː(r)/ n [C] heavy fall of rain.

down-right /'daʊnraɪt/ adj **1** honest; frank: *He is a ~ sort of person*. **2** thorough; nothing less than: *It's a ~ lie*. □ adv thoroughly: *He was ~ rude*.

downs /daʊnz/ n pl expanse of low hills, esp the chalk hills of S England: *Walking on the North/South Downs*.

down-stairs /,daʊn'steəz/ adv **1** to, at, on, of, a lower floor; down the stairs: *Our neighbours ~ (= on the lower floor) are very noisy*. *Your brother is waiting ~*. **2** (often without the final s) used as an adjective: *the ~(s) rooms*.

down-town /'daʊntaʊn/ adj, adv (esp US) towards or in the centre of a town or city: *~ New York; go ~*.

down-trod-den /'daʊntroʊdn/ adj kept down and treated badly.

down-ward /'daʊnwəd/ adj moving, leading, going, pointing, to what is lower: *a ~ slope; prices with a ~ tendency*.

down-wards /'daʊnwɔːdz/ adv towards what is lower: *He laid the picture face ~s (= with the picture facing the table) on the table*.

dowry /'daʊəri/ n [C] (pl -ies) property, money, brought by a bride to her husband.

dowse /daʊs/ vt ⇨ douse.

doze /daʊz/ vi sleep lightly; be half asleep: *He was dozing during the sermon*. □ n [C] short, light sleep.

dozen /'daʊzn/ n (pl unchanged) twelve: *Eggs are 50p a ~*. *I want three ~ of these*. **dozens of**, a large number of: *I've been there ~s of times*.

drab /dræb/ adj (fig) dull; uninteresting; monotonous: *~ colours; a ~ existence*.

drab-ly adv

drab-ness n [U]

draft¹ /draːft/ US: dræft/ n [C] **1** outline (usually in the form of rough notes or drawing) of something to be done: *a ~ for a speech; a ~ design*. **2** written order for payment of money by a bank; drawing of money by means of such an order: *a ~ for £500 on London*, eg one written by a Paris bank on its London branch. Hence, **'bank-draft'** n [C]. **3** (US) = draught. **4** group of men selected to do something esp to serve in the armed forces.

draft² /draːft/ US: dræft/ vt make a draft(1) of: *to ~ a speech*. **2** select (a man) for the armed forces.

drafting, the act, method, of drafting.

drafts-man /'draːftsmən/ US: 'dræfts-/ n [C] **1** person who prepares drafts(1), esp in engineering and architecture. **2** person responsible for the careful and exact wording of a legal document, or a (clause in a) parliamentary bill.

drafty /'draːfti/ US: 'dræfti/ adj (US) = draughty.

drag¹ /dræg/ n **1** [C] something that is dragged, eg a net pulled over the bottom of a river to catch fish. **2** [C] (informal) person or thing that slows down progress because dull, etc: *Do we have to take your sister with us? She's such a ~*. ⇨ drag²(3). **3** [U] (sl) woman's clothes worn by a man: *'As you Like It' performed in ~, with the women's parts acted by men dressed as women*. **4** [C] (sl) puff at a cigarette or cigar.

drag² /dræg/ vt, vi (-gg-) **1** pull along (esp with effort and difficulty): *to ~ a heavy box out of a cupboard*. **2** (allow to) move slowly and with effort; (allow to) trail: *He could scarcely ~ himself along*. **drag one's feet**, (fig) make slow progress: *We suspect the Government of ~ing their feet*. **3** (of time,

work, an entertainment) go on slowly in a dull manner: *Time seemed to ~*. **4** use nets, tools, etc to search the bottom of a river, lake, etc: *They ~ged the river for the missing child.*

dragon /'dræɡən/ *n* [C] **1** fictional creature like a crocodile or snake, but with wings and claws, able to breathe out fire. **2** elderly, strict woman.

drag-on-fly /'dræɡənflai/ *n* [C] (*pl* -flies) insect with a body like a stick and two pairs of large wings.

drain¹ /dreɪn/ *n* [C] **1** pipe, channel, etc for carrying away water, sewage and other unwanted liquids; (*pl*) system of such pipes, etc: *There's a bad smell; something wrong with the ~s, I suppose.* **2** (fig) something that continually uses up force, time, wealth, etc; cause of weakening or loss: *Defence costs have been a great ~ on the country's resources.* ⇨ **brain drain**.

'drain-pipe, pipe used in a system of drains.

drain² /dreɪn/ *vt, vi* **1** **drain away/off**, (of liquid) (cause to) run or flow away: *The water will soon ~ away/off.* **2** (of land, crockery etc) make, become, dry as water flows away: *Land must be well ~ed for some crops. Leave the dishes to ~.* **3** (fig) (cause to) lose (strength, wealth, etc) by degrees: *The country was ~ed of its manpower and wealth by war.*

'drain-ing-board, board at the side of a sink, on which dishes, etc are placed to drain.

drain-age /'dreɪndʒ/ *n* [U] **1** draining or being drained. **2** system of drains(1). **3** that which is drained away or off.

drake /dreɪk/ *n* [C] male duck.

dram /dræm/ *n* [C] **1** unit of weight. **2** (*Scot*) small drink of alcoholic spirits: *He's fond of a ~, eg of whisky.*

drama /'dra:mə/ *n* 1 [C] play for the theatre, radio or TV; [U] composition, presentation and performance of such plays: *a student of (the) ~; to be interested in ~.* **2** [C,U] series of exciting or disturbing events.

dra-matic /drə'mætɪk/ *adj* **1** of drama(1): *~ performances/criticism.* **2** sudden or exciting: *~ changes in the international situation.* **3** (of a person, his speech, behaviour) showing feelings or character in a lively way.

dra-mati-cally /-kli/ *adv*

dra-mat-ics, (a) dramatic works or performances: *Are you interested in amateur ~s?* (b) (*informal*) hysterical, excited behaviour.

drama-tist /'dræmətɪst/ *n* [C] writer of plays.

drama-tize (also **-ise**) /'dræmətaɪz/ *vt* **1** put a story, novel, etc into the form of a drama. **2** (*informal*) exaggerate, esp to cause excitement.

drama-tiz-ation (also **-isation**) /'dræmətaɪzeɪʃn *US*: -tɪz-/ *n* [C,U]

drank /dræŋk/ *pt* of drink².

drape /dreɪp/ *vt* **1** hang curtains, cloth, a cloak or other clothing round or over something: *to ~ a coat over a chair.* **2** **drape with**,

cover or decorate: *walls ~d with flags.* **3** allow to rest loosely: *He ~d his legs over the arms of his chair.* □ *n* [C] (*US*) curtain.

dra-per /'dreɪpə(r)/ *n* [C] (*GB*) shopkeeper who sells cloth, linen, clothing, etc.

dra-pery, materials used for making clothes, curtains, etc.

dras-tic /'dræstɪk/ *adj* (of actions, methods, medicines) having a strong or violent effect: *~ measures to cure inflation/an illness.*

dras-ti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

draught (*US* = **draft**) /dra:ft *US*: dræft/ *n* **1** [C,U] current of air in a room, chimney or other enclosed place: *You'll catch cold if you sit in a ~.* **2** [C] the pulling in of a two metres. **3** [U] depth of water needed to float a ship: *a ship with a ~ of two metres.* **4** [U] drawing of liquid from a container (eg a barrel): *~ beer.* **5** (amount drunk during) one continuous process of swallowing: *a ~ of water.* **6** (of animals) used for pulling: *a ~horse*, one that pulls heavy loads, **7** (*pl*) (*US* = *checkers*) board game for two players using twenty-four round pieces (called '*~smen*'). □ *vt* = **draft**².

draughts-man /'dra:ftsman *US*: 'dræ-/ *(a)* = draftsman. (b) ⇨ **7** above.

draughty (*US* = **drafty**) /'dra:fti *US*: 'dræfti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) with draughts(1) blowing through: *a ~ room.*

draw¹ /drɔ:/ *n* [C] **1** the act of drawing (in various senses): *the ~ for the fourth round of the tennis tournament. The game ended in a ~, neither side won.* **2** person or thing that attracts attention: *Mr A is always a great ~ at political meetings, is a popular speaker.* ⇨ **draw**²(6). **3** **be quick/slow on the draw**, quick/slow at pulling out a gun, etc.

draw² /drɔ:/ *vt, vi* (*pt* drew /dru:/, *pp* ~n /drɔ:n/) (For uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions* ⇨ **17** below.) **1** move by pulling: *to ~ a boat (up) out of the water/on to the beach; to ~ one's chair up to the table; to ~ a person aside*, eg to speak to him; *to ~ a curtain across a window. The fisherman drew in his net. When you shoot an arrow, you ~ the bow*, bend it by pulling the string. ⇨ **bow**¹(1). **2** (esp) move by pulling after or behind: *The wagon was being ~n by two horses.* ⇨ **draught**(6). **3** take or get out by pulling; extract. *to ~ a cork, out of a bottle; to ~ nails from a plank/a sword from its sheath; to ~ a chicken*, remove the entrails before cooking it; *to ~ cards from a pack; to ~ for partners*, eg when about to play a card-game, do this to decide the partners; *to ~ the winner*, get the winning ticket, etc when gambling; *to ~ a gun (on a person)*, take it from its holster, ready for use. **draw a blank**, find nothing. **draw lots**, ⇨ **lot**²(1). **4** (of gloves) pull on/off. **5** obtain from a source: *to ~ water from a well; to ~ beer from a barrel; to ~ one's salary; to ~ money from the bank/from one's account; to ~ inspiration from nature. What moral are we to ~ from this story?* **6** attract: *Street accidents always ~*

crowds. He drew (= called) my attention to a point I had overlooked. **7** take in: *to ~ a deep breath.* **8** (of a chimney, etc) allow a current of air to flow through: *This chimney/cigar does not ~ well.* **9** cause, persuade, (a person) to talk, show his feelings, etc: *He was not to be ~n.* He refused to say anything about the matter. **10** (cause to) move; come (in the direction shown by the adverb, etc): *Christmas is ~ing near. The day drew to its close. The two ships drew level.* **11** make with a pen, pencil, chalk, etc; (fig) describe in words: *to ~ a picture/a straight line/a circle. The characters in Jane Austen's novels are well ~n.* **draw the line (at)**, set limits; refuse to go as far as or beyond: *This noisy behaviour cannot be allowed; we must ~ the line somewhere.* **12** write out: *to ~ a bill/cheque/order (on a banker, etc, for a sum of money).* **13** (of a ship) require (a certain depth of water) in order to float, ⇨ draught(3): *The ship ~s six metres of water.* **14** end (a game, etc) without either winning or losing: *The teams drew two all, ie 2-2.* **15** extract the essence of: *Let the tea ~ for three minutes.* **16** (usually in *pp*) (of the features) pull out of shape: *a face ~n with pain/anxiety.* **17** (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

draw away, go ahead of: *The horse quickly drew away from the others.*

draw back, (a) move away from: *He drew back in horror from the accident.* (b) (fig) show unwillingness: *~ back from a proposal.* ⇨ drawback.

draw in, (a) (of a particular day) reach its end. (b) (of daylight) become shorter: *the days begin to ~ in after midsummer.*

draw on, take or use as a source: *Journalists sometimes ~ on their imaginations for stories. We mustn't ~ on our savings.*

draw out, (a) (of days) become longer: *After Christmas the days began to ~ out.* (b) persuade (a person) to talk, show feelings: *He has many interesting stories if you can ~ him out.* (c) (cause to) become longer: *a 'long-~ out discussion.*

draw up, (a) write out: *~ up a contract.* (b) (cause to) come near to: *The taxi drew up at the station.* (c) **draw oneself up**, stand up straight: *He drew himself up to his full height.*

draw-back /'drɔːbæk/ *n* [C] something which lessens one's satisfaction or makes progress or success less easy.

draw-bridge /'drɔːbrɪdʒ/ *n* [C] bridge that can be pulled up at the end(s) by chains (eg across the moat of a castle, or across a river or canal to allow ships to pass).

drawer /drɔː(r)/ *n* [C] 1 box-like container (with a handle or handles) which slides in and out of a piece of furniture, etc. ⇨ chest of drawers. 2 (pl) old-fashioned two-legged underwear for the lower part of the body; knickers. 3 (usually /'drɔː(r)/) person who draws pictures, who cashes a cheque, etc.

draw-ing /'drɔːɪŋ/ *n* [U] the art of representing objects, scenes, etc by lines, with a pencil, chalk, etc; [C] sketch, picture, plan, etc.

'drawing-board, flat board on which to fasten paper for drawing: *still on the ~-board*, (fig) in the planning stage.

'drawing-pin, flat-headed pin for fastening paper to a notice-board, etc.

draw-ing-room /'drɔːɪŋ rʊm *US*: rʊm/ *n* [C] room in which guests are received.

drawl /drɔːl/ *vi, vt* speak so that the sounds of the vowels are longer than usual: *The speaker ~ed on.* □ *n* [U] slow way of speaking.

drawn /drɔːn/ *pp* of draw². ⇨ esp 2, 9, 11 and 16.

dread /dred/ *n* [U] (or with *a*) great fear and anxiety: *to live in constant ~ of poverty. Cats have a ~ of water.* □ *vt, vi* fear greatly: *to ~ a visit to/ ~ having to visit the dentist.*

dreaded *adj* greatly feared.

dread-ful /-fl/ *adj* (a) causing anxiety: *a ~ful disaster.* (b) (informal) very unpleasant: *What ~ful weather!*

dread-fully /-fəli/ *adv* (esp) (informal) extremely: *I'm ~fully sorry!*

dream¹ /driːm/ *n* [C] 1 something which one seems to see or experience during sleep: *to have a ~ (about ...); to awake from a ~.* 2 state of mind in which things going on around one seem unreal: *to live/go about in a ~.* 3 mental picture(s) of the future: *to have ~s of wealth and happiness.* 4 beautiful or pleasing person, thing, experience, etc: *She looked a perfect ~.* **go like a dream**, (of a car, etc) perform well.

'dream-land/-world, region outside the laws of nature, as experienced in sleep or in the imagination.

dream-less *adj*

'dream-like *adj*

dream² /driːm/ *vi, vt* (pt, pp ~ed or ~t /dreɪmpt/) 1 have dreams; see, experience, in a dream; imagine; suppose: *The soldier often ~t of/about home. I wouldn't ~ of doing such a thing.* The idea would never occur to me. 2 ~ away one's time/the hours, etc, pass one's time idly. 3 **dream sth up**, (informal) imagine, think up (a plan, etc).

dreamer, (a) person who dreams. (b) person with impractical ideas, plans, etc.

dreamy /'driːmi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) 1 (of a person) with thoughts far away from his surroundings or work. 2 (of things, experiences) vague; unreal: *a ~ recollection of what happened.*

dream-ily /-əli/ *adv*

dreary /'driːəri/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) dull; gloomy; causing depression: *~ work/weather.*

dream-ily /-əli/ *adv*

dredge¹ /dredʒ/ *n* [C] apparatus for bringing up mud, specimens, etc from the bed of the sea, rivers, etc. □ *vt, vi* bring up, clean, clear: *to ~ (up) mud; to ~ a channel/harbour.*

dredger, boat carrying a dredge.

dredge² /dredʒ/ *vt* sprinkle or scatter: *to ~*

sugar over a cake.

dredger, box with holes in the lid for sprinkling sugar, etc on food.

dregs /dregz/ *n* **pl** **1** bits of worthless matter which sink to the bottom of liquid in a glass, bottle, barrel, etc. **2** (fig) worst or useless part: *the ~ of society/humanity.*

drench /drentʃ/ *vt* make wet all over or all through: *to be ~ed with rain/~ed to the skin.*

drenching, thorough wetting: *We got a ~ing.*

dress¹ /dres/ *n* **1** [C] article of clothing with a top part and skirt, worn by a woman or girl. **2** [U] clothing in general (for both men and women): *He doesn't care much about ~, is not much interested in clothes.* ⇨ evening dress.

'dress circle, lowest gallery in a theatre.

'dress coat, black coat with long tails worn by men for formal evenings.

'dress-maker, woman who makes dresses.

'dress rehearsal, final rehearsal of a play, at which actors wear the costumes to be worn during the performances.

dress² /dres/ *vt, vi* **1** put on (clothes): *Mary was ~ing her doll. Jim isn't old enough to ~ himself. Have you finished ~ing?* **dress up**, put on special clothes, as for a play, for fun, etc: *The children ~ed (themselves) up as pirates.* **2** put on evening dress: *We don't ~ for dinner nowadays.* **3** (of what is habitual) wear clothes: *He has to ~ well in his position.* **be dressed in**, be wearing: *She was ~ed in white.* **4** provide clothes for: *How much does it cost him to ~ his wife and daughters?* **5** make ready to use; prepare: *to ~ leather*, make it soft and smooth; *to ~ a salad*, ⇨ dressing(3). **6** brush and comb, arrange (one's hair). **dress sb down**, (fig) scold him severely. Hence, **'dressing-down** *n* [C]. **7** clean and bandage a wound, etc. **8** make cheerful and attractive: *to ~ a shop-window/Christmas tree.*

dress-age /'dresa:ʒ/ *n* [U] (Fr) training of horses (for show-jumping, etc).

dresser¹ /'dresa(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who helps a surgeon to dress wounds in a hospital. **2** person who helps actors and actresses to dress ready for the stage.

dresser² /'dresa(r)/ *n* [C] **1** piece of kitchen furniture with shelves for dishes, and cupboards below, often with drawers for cutlery, etc. **2** (US) dressing-table.

dress-ing /'dresɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] process of dressing (putting on clothes, cleaning and bandaging a wound, etc). **2** [C,U] something used for dressing wounds, eg an ointment, bandage, etc. **3** [C,U] mixture of oil, vinegar, etc used as a sauce for salads and other dishes.

'dressing-gown, loose gown worn over pyjamas, etc.

'dressing-table, one with a mirror, used in a bedroom.

drew /dru:/ *pt* of draw².

dribble /'dribl/ *vt, vi* **1** (of liquids) flow, allow to flow, drop by drop or slowly (esp from the

side of the mouth): *Babies often ~ on their bibs.* **2** (football) take (the ball) forward by means of quick, short kicks.

drib-bler, person who dribbles.

dried /draɪd/ *pt, pp* of dry².

drier /'draɪə(r)/ *adj* ⇨ dry¹, □ *n* ⇨ dryer.

drift¹ /drɪft/ *n* **1** [U] drifting movement; being carried along by currents: *the ~ of the tide.* **2** [C] something caused by drifting: *Big ~s of snow/snow ~s made progress slow and difficult.* **3** [U] general tendency or meaning: *Did you get/catch the ~ of the argument?* **4** [U] the way in which events, etc tend to move: *The general ~ of affairs was towards war.* **5** [U] the state of being inactive and waiting for things to happen: *Is the government's policy one of ~?*

'drift-age /-ɪdʒ/, (of a ship) general movement off course due to currents, winds, tides, etc.

'drift-ice, broken ice carried along on the surface of the sea, etc by currents or winds.

'drift-net, large net into which fish drift with the tide.

'drift-wood, wood carried along by currents and washed up on beaches.

drift² /drɪft/ *vi, vt* **1** be carried along by, or as by, a current or wind: *The boat ~ed out to sea.* **2** (fig) (of persons, etc) be without aim, purpose or self-control: *Is the government/the country ~ing towards bankruptcy? She ~s from one job to another.* **3** cause to drift: *The logs were ~ed down the stream to the saw-mills.*

drifter, (a) boat used in drift-net fishing and, during war, for mine-sweeping. (b) person who drifts(2) or moves from place to place.

drill¹ /drɪl/ *n* [C] instrument that turns quickly for making holes in hard substances: *a dentist's ~*. □ *vt, vi* make a hole with a drill.

drill² /drɪl/ *n* [C,U] **1** army training in the handling of weapons; formal movements, eg marching, turning, etc: *The soldiers were at ~ in the barracks.* **2** thorough training by practical experiences, usually with much repetition: *~s in the English vowel sounds.* **3** routine procedure to be followed, eg in an emergency: *'fire-~', 'lifeboat ~*. □ *vt, vi* train, be trained, by means of drills: *to ~ troops.*

drill³ /drɪl/ *n* [C] long channel where seeds are to be sown; machine for making these, sowing seeds in them, and covering the seeds; row of seeds sown in this way. □ *vt* sow (seeds) in drills.

drily /'draɪli/ *adv* ⇨ dry¹.

drink¹ /drɪŋk/ *n* [C,U] **1** liquid for drinking: *We have plenty of bottled ~s, lemonade, beer, etc in bottles.* **2** alcoholic liquor: *He's too fond of ~.* **3** the ~, (sl) the sea.

drink² /drɪŋk/ *vi, vt* (*pt* drank /dræŋk/, *pp* drunk /drʌŋk/) **1** take (liquid) into the mouth and swallow: *to ~ a pint of milk. D~ (up) your coffee.* **2** (of plants, the soil, etc) take in, absorb (liquid): *The thirsty plants drank (up)*

the water I gave them. **3** take alcoholic liquors, beer, wine, etc, esp too much: *He'll ~ himself to death.* **4** wish good (to a person) while raising one's glass: *to ~ a person's health; to ~ to her success/health.*

drink-able /-əbl/ *adj* suitable, fit, for drinking: *Is this water ~able?*

drinker, (esp) person who drinks **(3)** too often or too much: *He's a heavy ~er.*

drink-ing, process or habit of taking liquid(s), esp alcoholic liquor: *He's too fond of ~ing.*

drip /drɪp/ *vi, vt* (-pp-) (of a liquid) fall, allow to fall, in drops: *The tap was ~ping. His hand was ~ping blood.* **drizzling** ¹*wet*, very wet. □ *n* [C] **1** the drop-by-drop falling of a liquid: *the ~s of the rain.* **2** (sl) dull, foolish person.

drīp ¹*dry* *n* [U] drying of shirts, sheets, etc (of special texture) by allowing them to drip until they are dry (so that they do not need to be ironed): (used as an adjective) *~dry* ¹*shirts*. □ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) dry in this way.

drip-ping /'drɪpɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] (esp) fat from roasted meat. **2** (pl) liquid that drips or has dripped: *the ~s from the roof.*

drive ¹ /draɪv/ *n* **1** [C] journey (in a car, etc not in a public bus, etc): *to go for a ~.* *The station is an hour's ~ away.* **2** [C] (also ¹~way) private road through a garden or park to a house; approach from a public road to a garage. **3** (in games played with a ball, eg golf) [U] force given to a ball when it is struck; [C] stroke or hit: *a ~ to the boundary.* **4** [U] energy; capacity to get things done: *The new headteacher has no ~.* **5** motivation: *the ~sex-~.* **6** [C] organized effort or campaign: *the ~export ~, to increase exports.* **7** [C] tournament: *a ~whist-~.* **8** (mechanics) apparatus for driving: *a four-wheel ~, with four wheels connected to the source of power.*

drive ² /draɪv/ *vt, vi* (pt drove /drəʊv/, pp ~n /'drɪvn/) **1** cause animals, people to move in some direction by using cries, blows, threats or other means: *to ~ cattle to market.* **drive sb into a corner**, (fig) force him (eg during an argument) into a position from which escape will be difficult. **2** operate, direct the course of a motor-car or other vehicle; control, direct the course of an animal or animals drawing a cart, plough, etc: *to ~ a taxi; to take ~ing lessons.* **3** travel or go in a car, etc: *Shall we ~ home or walk?* (Note: ride is used of buses, trains, etc.) **4** carry, convey, (a person) in a car, etc (not a public vehicle): *He drove me to the station.* **5** (of steam, electricity or other kind of power) set or keep going; be the power to operate: *The machinery is ~n by steam.* **6** (of wind, water) send, throw, (lifeless things) in some direction: *The gale drove the ship on to the rocks. The wind was driving the rain against the window-panes.* **7** go or move along fast or violently: *The ship drove on the rocks.* **8** force a nail, screw, etc into something: *With one blow he drove the nail into the plank.* **9** hit or strike

with force: *to ~ a ball to the boundary.* **drive sth home**, (fig) use great force or effort to be believed or understood. **10** cause or force (a person) to be (in a certain state): *Failure drove him to despair to drink. You'll ~ me mad.* **11** (cause to) work very hard: *He ~s himself very hard.* **12** bore (a tunnel); make (a horizontal excavation): *to ~ a tunnel through a hill.* **13** carry on: *to ~ a roaring trade*, sell a lot of things very fast. **drive a hard bargain**, not give way easily to another person in a business deal. **14** mean, intend: *What's he driving at?* What's he trying to do, explain, etc?

drivel /'drɪvl/ *vt* (-ll-, US -l-) talk nonsense; talk childishly: *What's he ~ling (on) about?* □ *n* [U] silly nonsense; foolish talk.

drīvel-er, (US) **drīveler**, person who drives.

driven /'drɪvn/ *pp* of drive².

driver /'draɪvə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who drives (vehicles): *a taxi-~; a bus-~.* ⇨ chauffeur. **2** person who drives animals. ⇨ drover.

drizzle /'drɪzl/ *vt* rain (in many small fine drops): *It ~d all day.* □ *n* [U] fine rain.

driz-zly /'drɪzli/ *adj* drizzling: *drizzly weather.*

drom-edary /'drɒmədəri/ *US*: -dəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) fast camel with one hump.

drone /drəʊn/ *n* **1** [C] male bee. **2** [C] person who does no work and lives on others. **3** [U] low humming sound (as) made by bees: *the ~ of distant motorway traffic.* **4** [C] monotonous speech, sermon, speaker: *He's a boring old ~.* □ *vi, vt* **1** make a drone **(3)**. **2** talk or sing in a low, boring way: *droning on about his misfortunes.*

drool /dru:l/ *vi* be very excited, enthusiastic.

droop /dru:p/ *vi, vt* **1** bend or hang downwards (through tiredness or weakness): *The flowers were ~ing for want of water. His spirits ~ed.* He became sad. **2** let (the head, face, eyes) move forward or down. □ *n* [C] bending position.

drop ¹ /drɒp/ *n* **1** [C] very small quantity of liquid: *½ rain-~s.* **2** (pl) liquid medicine taken in drops: *ear/eye/nose ~s.* **3** very small quantity: *There isn't a ~ of milk left.* **a drop in the ocean**, a negligible or unimportant quantity. **4** (glass of) intoxicating liquor: *He has had a ~ too much*, is drunk. **5** something like a drop in shape or appearance. **6** movement from a higher to a lower level, esp distance of a fall: *a sudden ~ in the temperature*, eg from 30°C to 20°C; *a ~ in the price of meat.* **at the drop of a hat**, (a) as soon as a signal is given. (b) at once; readily or willingly. **7** thing that drops or is dropped **(1)**.

'drop-kick, (Rugby) one in which the ball is dropped and kicked as it rises.

drop ² /drɒp/ *vt, vi* (-pp-) (For uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 12 below.) **1** (of liquids), fall, cause to fall, in drops. ⇨ drip. **2** (allow to) fall (by the force of gravity, by not being held, etc): *The apple blossom is beginning to ~.* *She ~ped the teapot.* **drop**

anchor, lower the anchor. **drop a stitch**, (knitting) let it slip off the needle. **3** (allow to) become weaker or lower: *The wind/temperature has ~ped. His voice ~ped/He ~ped his voice to a whisper.* **4** (cause to) fall or sink to the ground, etc: *They were ~ping ~ with fatigue. He ~ped (on) to his knees, knelt down. Supplies were ~ped by parachute.* **5** express; send casually: *to ~ him a hint, give him one; to ~ a word in her ear; to ~ her a postcard/a few lines/a short note.* **6** omit; fail to pronounce, write or insert: *He ~s his h's, eg by saying 'at for hat.* **7** stop (a car, etc) to allow a person to get out: *Please ~ me at the post office.* **8** stop associating with: *He seems to have ~ped most of his friends, no longer meets them.* **9** give up: *to ~ a bad habit.* **10** (cause to) come to an end; no longer deal with or discuss: *Let's ~ the subject.* **11** (Rugby): *~ a goal, score one by a drop-kick.*

12 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

drop away, = drop off (a).

drop back/behind, come to a position behind: *They ~ped behind the rest of the group.*

drop in (on sb); drop by, pay a casual visit to: *Some friends ~ped in to tea/~ped by to see me.*

drop off, (a) (also ~ away) become fewer or less: *The doctor's practice has ~ped off. He now has fewer patients.* (b) fall asleep: *He ~ped off during the sermon.*

drop out, (a) (of persons, horses, etc taking part in a contest, etc) stop competing: *Three of the runners ~ped out.* (b) (of persons doing, or about to do, something) not take part; give up the idea: *Smith has ~ped out of the team.* (c) withdraw from conventional social activities, attitudes. Hence, **'drop-out**, (a) person who drops out, eg one who withdraws from a course of instruction: *the ~out rate in a language course.* (b) person who deliberately lives in an unconventional style.

drop-pings /'drɒpɪŋz/ *n pl* dung of animals.

drought /draʊt/ *n* [C,U] continuous (period of) dry weather causing distress.

drove /drəʊv/ *pt* of drive².

drove² /drəʊv/ *n* [C] **1** large number of animals (sheep, cattle) being moved together. **2** crowd of people moving together: *~s of sight-seers; visitors in ~s.*

drover, man who drives (1) cattle, sheep, etc to market.

drown /draʊn/ *vt, vi* **1** (cause a person, animal, to) die in water because unable to breathe: *a ~ing man. He ~ed the kittens.* **2** (fig) soak: *~ed in tears.* **3** (of sound) be strong enough to prevent another sound from being heard: *The noises in the street ~ed the teacher's voice.* **be drowned out**, (a) be flooded out. (b) (fig) be stopped from being heard.

drowse /draʊz/ *vi, vt* be half asleep: *drowsing away a hot Sunday afternoon.* *n* sleepy

condition: *in a ~.*

drowsy /'draʊzi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) feeling sleepy; making one feel sleepy.

drowsily /-li/ *adv*

drown-si-ness *n* [U]

drudge /'drʌdʒ/ *n* [C] person who must work hard and long at unpleasant tasks. *vi* work as a drudge does.

drudg-ery, hard, unpleasant, uninteresting work.

drug /drʌg/ *n* [C] **1** substance used for medical purposes, either alone or in a mixture. **2** substance that changes the state or function of cells, organs or organisms. **3** substance (often habit-forming) inducing sleep or producing stupor or insensibility, eg opium: *a ~ addict; ~ addiction.* *vi* (-gg-) **1** add harmful drugs to (food and drink): *His wine had been ~ged.* **2** give drugs to, esp in order to make unconscious: *They ~ged the caretaker and then robbed the bank.*

'drug-store, (US) place where a wide variety of articles is sold, where prescriptions can be made up, and where food and drink may be bought and eaten.

drug-gist /'drʌgɪst/ *n* [C] **1** (GB) tradesman who sells drugs. **2** (US) person who sells medicines, toilet articles and other goods, and usually food and drinks. *vi* **drug-store**.

drum¹ /drʌm/ *n* [C] **1** musical instrument usually made of a hollow cylinder or hemisphere with parchment stretched over the open side(s); sound (as) of a drum or drums. **2** thing shaped like a drum, eg a container for oil. *vi* also eardrum.

'drum-stick, (a) stick for beating a drum. (b) lower part of the leg of a cooked chicken, turkey, etc.

drum² /drʌm/ *vt, vi* (-mm-) **1** play a drum by beating it with the hand or a stick. **2** beat or tap continuously on something: *to ~ on the table with one's fingers.* **3** (fig) encourage support for a cause: *to ~ up support.* **4** cause a person to remember something by using repetition: *~ the spelling into his head.*

drum-mer, person who plays a drum.

drunk /drʌŋk/ *adj* (pp of drink³) **be/get drunk**, be/become affected by drinking alcoholic liquor: *He was ~[dead]/[blind]/half ~.* *It's easy to get ~ on brandy.* (b) (fig) become greatly excited: *He was ~ with joy/success.* *n* [C] person who is drunk.

drunk-ard /'drʌŋkəd/ *n* [C] person who often gets drunk.

drunken /'drʌŋkən/ *adj* **1** in the habit of drinking; often drunk: *a ~ and destitute man.* **2** caused by drinking; showing the effects of drinking: *a ~ fight.*

drunken-ly *adv*

drunken-ness *n*

dry¹ /draɪ/ *adj* (drier, driest) **1** not wet; free from moisture: *Is this wood ~ enough to burn?* **dry as a bone; bone-~dry**, completely dry. **2** not rainy: *~ weather; having a small rain-*

fall: a ~ *climate*. **3** not supplying water: a ~ *well*; not supplying milk: *The cows are ~*. **4** solid, not liquid: ~ *goods* (contrasted with meat, groceries, etc). **5** without butter, etc: ~ *bread/toast*. **6** (of drink) not sweet, not fruity in flavour: ~ *wines*. **7** (informal) thirsty; causing thirst: *to feel ~*. **8** uninteresting; dull: a ~ *lecture*. **9** plain; undisguised: ~ *facts*. **10** not connected with liquid: a ~ *cough*. **11** (of a State, country, its legislation) prohibiting or restricting the sale of alcoholic liquor: *Will the country go ~?* Will it pass and accept legislation against alcoholic liquor?

dry-clean *vt* clean (clothes, etc) by using spirits (eg petrol) instead of water. Hence **dry-cleaners**, **dry-cleaning**.

dry-dock, one from which water can be pumped out.

dry-rot, decay of wood (causing it to become powder), occurring when there is no movement of air over its surface.

drily /'draɪli/ *adv*

dry-ness *n* [U]

dry² /draɪ/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp *dried*) **1** make or become dry: ~ *your hands on this towel*. *The stream dries up during the hot summer*. **2** (usually the *pp*) preserve by extracting moisture: *dried eggs/milk*. **3** (fig) come to an end: *My thoughts have dried up*. *I've dried up*, have no more ideas, have forgotten my speech, etc.

dryer, **drier** /'draɪə(r)/ *n* **1** [C] thing that dries: a ~ *hair-~*; a ~ *spin-~*. **2** thing on or in which clothes, etc are placed to dry: a ~ *clothes-~*.

dual /'dju:əl/ *US*: /'du:əl/ *adj* of two; double; divided in two: ~ *ownership*; (~)-*purpose*, adapted so as to, intended to, serve two purposes.

dual-carriageway, road divided down the centre (by a barrier, strip of grass) with two lanes in each direction.

dub /dʌb/ *vt* (-bb-) **1** make (a person) a knight by touching him on the shoulder with a sword. **2** give (a person) a petname: *They ~bed him 'Shorty' because he was so tall*. **3** replace or add to the sound-track of a film or magnetic tape, esp in a different language.

du-bi-ous /'dju:biəs/ *US*: /'du:-/ *adj* **1** (of persons) feeling doubt: *I feel ~ of/about his honesty*. **2** (of persons) causing doubt (because probably not very good or reliable): *He's a ~ character*. **3** (of things, actions, etc) causing doubt; of which the value, truth, etc is doubtful: a ~ *compliment*.

duch-ess /'dʌtʃɪs/ *n* [C] wife or widow of a duke; woman whose rank is equal to that of a duke.

duchy /'dʌtʃɪ/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (also *dukedom*) land ruled by a duke or duchess.

duck¹ /dʌk/ *n* (pl ~s, but often unchanged when collective) **1** [C] common water-bird, both wild and domestic; female of this, ♀ *drake*; [U] its flesh as food. (*take to sth*) *like a duck to water*, naturally, without

fear, hesitation or difficulty. *like water off a duck's back*, without producing any effect. **2** batsman's score of nought, 0, in cricket: *to be out for a ~*.

lame-duck, ⇨ *lame*.

duck² /dʌk/ *vt, vi* **1** move, bend, quickly down (to avoid being seen or hit): *to ~ one's head*. **2** go, push (a person), quickly under water for a short time: *The big boy ~ed all the small boys in the swimming-pool*. □ *n* [C] **1** quick downward or sideways movement of the head or body. **2** quick dip below water (when bathing in the sea, etc).

duck-ing, thorough wetting.

duck-billed platypus /'dʌkbɪld 'plætɪpəs/ *n* [C] small Australian egg-laying water mammal with webbed feet and a beak like a duck.

duck-ling /'dʌklɪŋ/ *n* [C] **1** young duck. **2** ugly ~, plain or stupid child who grows up to be attractive or brilliant.

duct /dʌkt/ *n* [C] **1** tube or canal through which liquid in the body flows. **2** metal tube and outlet for air (eg in an aircraft): *The ~air ~ immediately above your seat can be adjusted to your convenience*.

dud /dʌd/ *n* [C], *adj* (sl) (thing or person) of no use, eg a shell or bomb that fails to explode or a banknote or cheque of no value.

due¹ /dju:/ *US*: /du:/ *adj* **1** owing; to be paid: *When is the rent ~?* *The wages ~ to him will be paid tomorrow*. **2** suitable; right; proper: *after ~ consideration*. *in due course*, at the right and proper time. **3** (to be) expected; appointed or agreed (for a certain time or date): *The train is ~ (in) at 1.30*. **4** *due to*, that may be attributed to: *The accident was ~ to careless driving*. (Note: compare 'owing to': *Owing to (= Because of) his careless driving, we had a bad accident*.) □ *adv* (of points of the compass) exactly: ~ *east/north*.

due² /dju:/ *US*: /du:/ *n* **1** (sing only) that which must be given to a person because it is right or owing: *give the man his ~*. **2** (pl) sums of money to be paid, eg for membership of a club.

duel /'dju:əl/ *US*: /'du:əl/ *n* [C] **1** (illegal) fight (usually with swords or pistols) agreed between two persons, esp to decide a point of honour, at a meeting arranged and conducted according to rules, in the presence of two other persons called *seconds*. **2** any two-sided contest: a ~ *of wits*. □ *vi* (-ll-, *US* also -l-) fight a duel.

duel-list, (*US*) **duel-ist**, person who fights a duel.

duet /dju:'et/ *US*: /du:-/ *n* [C] piece of music for two voices or for two players.

duffle (also **duf-fel**) /'dʌfl/ *n* [U] coarse thick woollen cloth: a ~ *coat*, one of this material, with toggles instead of buttons.

dug /dʌg/ *pt, pp* of dig.

duke /dju:k/ *US*: /du:k/ *n* [C] **1** nobleman of high rank (next below a prince). **2** (in some

parts of Europe) independent sovereign ruler of a small State.

'duke-dom, (a) position, duties, rank, of a duke. (b) (= *duchy*) land ruled by a duke (2).

dul-cet /'dʌlsɪt/ *adj* (of sounds) sweet; pleasing.

dull /dʌl/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** not clear or bright: *a ~ colour/sound/mirror/day/sky*; *~ weather*. **2** slow in understanding: *~ pupils*; *a ~ mind*. **3** monotonous; not exciting or appealing: *a ~ book/speech/sermon/play*. **4** not sharp: *a ~ knife*. **5** (of pain) not felt distinctly: *a ~ ache*. **6** (of trade) not active; (of goods) not in demand. □ *vt, vi* make or become dull: *to ~ the edge of a razor*; *drugs that ~ pain*.

dull-ness *n* [U]

duly /'dju:li/ *US*: 'du:-/ *adv* in a right or suitable manner; at the right time.

dumb /dʌm/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** unable to speak: *~ from birth*; *~ animals*, animals other than human beings. **2** temporarily silent: *The class remained ~ when the teacher asked a difficult question*. **strike dumb**, make unable to talk because of surprise, fear, etc: *He was struck ~ with horror*. **3** (informal) stupid; dull.

dumb-ly *adv*

dumb-ness *n* [U]

dumb-bell /'dʌmbəl/ *n* [C] short bar of wood or iron with a metal ball at each end for exercising the muscles of the arms and shoulders.

dumb-found (*US* also **dum-found**) /dʌm'faʊnd/ *vt* astonish; strike dumb with surprise.

dummy /'dʌmɪ/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** object made to look like and serve the purpose of the real person or thing: *a tailor's ~*, for fitting clothes; *a baby's ~*, sucked like the nipple of a mother's breast (*US* = *comforter*). **2** (in card-games, esp bridge) player whose cards are placed upwards on the table and played by his partner; the cards so placed. **3** person who is present at an event, etc but who takes no real part, because he is acting for another person.

'dummy 'run, trial or practice attack, shoot, performance, etc.

dump /dʌmp/ *n* [C] **1** place where rubbish, etc may be unloaded and left; heap of rubbish, etc. **2** (place where there is a) temporary store of military supplies: *an ammunition ~*. **3** (sl) poorly cared for, dirty or ugly place (eg a village or town): *I should hate to live in a ~ like this*. □ *vt* **1** put on or into a dump (1); put or throw down carelessly; let fall with a bump or thud: *Where can I ~ this rubbish? They ~ed the coal outside the shed instead of putting it inside*. **2** (commerce) sell abroad at low prices goods which are unwanted in the home market.

dumper, (also ~ *truck*) vehicle with a bin that can be tilted, for carrying and emptying soil, rubble, etc.

dump-ling /'dʌmplɪŋ/ *n* [C] **1** small round mass of dough steamed or boiled with meat and vegetables. **2** baked pudding made of

dough with an apple or other fruit inside it.

dumps /dʌmps/ *n* pl (**down**) *in the dumps*, (informal) depressed; feeling gloomy.

dummy /'dʌmpɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) short and fat.

dunce /dʌns/ *n* [C] slow learner (esp a child at school); stupid person.

dune /dju:n/ *US*: 'du:n/ *n* [C] low stretch of loose, dry sand formed by the wind, esp near the coast.

dung /dʌŋ/ *n* [U] waste matter dropped by animals (esp cattle), used as manure.

dunga-rees /dʌŋgə'ri:z/ *n* pl strong cotton trousers with a front flap attached by straps over the shoulders.

dun-geon /'dʌndʒən/ *n* [C] dark underground cell used (in olden times) as a prison.

duo-denal /dju:ə'di:nəl/ *US*: 'du:ə-/ *adj* of the duodenum: *a ~ ulcer*.

duo-denum /dju:ə'di:nəm/ *US*: 'du:ə-/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) (anat) first part of the small intestine immediately below the stomach.

duo-logue /'dju:əlɒg/ *US*: 'du:əlɒ:g/ *n* [C] conversation between two persons.

dupe /dju:p/ *US*: 'du:p/ *vt* cheat; make a fool of. □ *n* [C] person who is duped.

du-pli-cate¹ /'dju:plɪkət/ *US*: 'du:-/ *adj* **1** exactly like: *~ keys*. **2** with two corresponding parts; doubled; twofold. □ *n* [C] thing that is exactly like another. *in duplicate*, (of documents, etc) with a copy.

du-pli-cate² /'dju:plɪkət/ *US*: 'du:-/ *vt* **1** make an exact copy of (a letter, etc); produce copies of. **2** multiply by two.

du-pli-ca-tion /'dju:plɪ'keɪʃn/ *US*: 'du:-/ *n* [U] duplicating or being duplicated; [C] copy.

du-pli-ca-tor /-tə(r)/, machine, etc that copies something written or typed.

du-plic-ity /dju:'plɪsɪti/ *US*: 'du:-/ *n* [U] (formal) deliberate deception.

dur-able /'dʒʊərəbl/ *US*: 'du:ə-/ *adj* likely to last for a long time: *a ~ pair of shoes*. □ *n* pl goods bought and expected to last a long time (eg vacuum cleaners).

dura-bil-ity /'dʒʊərə'bɪləti/ *US*: 'du:ə-/ *n* [U]

duration /dʒʊ'reɪʃn/ *US*: 'du:-/ *n* [U] time during which something lasts or exists: *for the ~ of the war*; *of short ~*.

dur-ess (also -*esse*) /dʒʊ'res/ *US*: 'du:-/ *n* [U] threats, imprisonment or violence, used to compel a person to do something: *a confession signed under ~*.

dur-ing /'dʒʊərɪŋ/ *US*: 'du:ə-/ *prep* **1** throughout the continuance of: *The sun gives us light ~ the day*. **2** at some point of time in the continuance of: *He called to see me ~ my absence*.

dusk /dʌsk/ *n* [U] time just before it is dark.

dusky /'dʌskɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) a little dark; dark-coloured; dim.

dust¹ /dʌst/ *n* [U] dry earth or other matter in the form of fine powder, lying on the ground or the surface of objects, or blown about by the wind: *The ~ was blowing in the streets*.

dust-bin, receptacle for household rubbish (US = *trashcan*).

dust-bowl, area that has no vegetation because of drought, poor farming, etc.

dust-cart, vehicle into which dustbins are emptied.

dust-jacket/wrapper, loose paper cover to protect the binding of a book.

dust-man, man employed (by city authorities, etc) to empty dustbins and take away refuse.

dust-pan, pan into which dust is swept from the floor.

dust-sheet, one for covering furniture not in use.

dust² /dʌst/ *vt* **1** remove dust from by wiping, brushing, etc. **2** sprinkle with powder: *to ~ a cake with sugar*.

duster, cloth for removing dust from furniture, etc.

dust-up, (*informal*) fight; noisy argument.

dusty /ˈdʌsti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) covered with dust; full of dust; like dust; dry as dust.

Dutch /dʌtʃ/ *adj* **go Dutch (with sb)**, share expenses. ⇨ **double Dutch**.

Dutch auction, sale at which the price is reduced by the auctioneer until a buyer is found.

Dutch courage, that obtained by drinking (spirits, etc).

Dutch-man, native of Holland.

duti-able /ˈdjuːtiəbl/ US: ˈduː-/ *adj* on which customs duties must be paid: *~ goods*. ⇨ **duty**(3).

duti-ful /ˈdjuːtɪfʊl/ US: ˈduː-/ *adj* doing one's duty well; showing respect and obedience (to): *a ~ son*.

duti-fully /-fʊli/ *adv*

duty /ˈdjuːti/ US: ˈduːti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [C,U] what one is obliged to do by morality, law, a trade, calling, conscience, etc: *Do not forget your ~ to your parents*. *His sense of ~ is strong*. **on/off duty**, engaged/not engaged in one's regular work: *He goes on ~ at 8 am and comes off ~ at 5 pm*. **2** (used as an *adjective*) moral obligation: *a ~ call*, a visit one makes from a sense of duty, not because one expects to enjoy it. **3** [C,U] payment demanded by the government on certain goods exported or imported (*'customs duties*), or manufactured in the country (*'excise duties*), or when property, etc is transferred to a new owner by sale (*'stamp duties*) or death (*'estate ~*).

duty-free, (of goods) allowed to enter without the payment of customs duties.

duvet /ˈdjuːvet/ US: duːˈvet/ *n* [C] bed quilt (filled with feathers or an artificial substitute) used in place of blankets.

dwarf /dwɔːf/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** person, animal or plant much below the usual size. **2** (in fairy tales) small being with magic powers. □ *vt* **1** prevent from growing to full size. **2** cause to appear small by contrast or distance: *The big liner ~ed their little launch*.

dwell /dwel/ *vt* (*pt* dwelt /dwelt/) **1** live, have

as one's home. **2** think, speak or write at length about: *She ~s too much on her past*.

dwel-ler, (in compounds) inhabitant: *'city-~ers*.

dwel-ling, place of residence (a house, flat, etc).

dwindle /ˈdwɪndl/ *vt* become less or smaller by degrees.

dye¹ /daɪ/ *vt, vi* (3rd person sing, present tense, ~s, *pt, pp* ~d, present participle ~ing) **1** colour, usually by dipping in a liquid: *to ~ a white dress blue*; *to have her hair ~d*. **2** give colour to: *Deep blushes ~d her cheeks*. **3** have colour from dyeing: *This material does not ~ well*.

dyed-in-the-wool, (fig) complete, deep-rooted: *a ~d-in-the-wool Tory*.

dye² /daɪ/ *n* [C,U] substance used for dyeing cloth; colour given by dyeing.

dyer, person who dyes cloth.

dy-ing ⇨ **die**².

dyke *n* = dike.

dy-namic /daɪˈnæmɪk/ *adj* **1** of physical power and forces producing motion. ⇨ **static**. **2** (of a person) having great energy, force of character. □ *n* **1** (*pl*) (used with a *sing verb*) branch of physics dealing with matter in motion. **2** moral force that produces activity or change: *driven by an inner ~*.

dy-nami-cally /-kli/ *adv*

dyna-mite /ˈdaɪnəmaɪt/ *n* [U] powerful explosive (as used in mining and quarrying). □ *vt* blow up with dynamite.

dy-namo /ˈdaɪnəməʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) machine for changing steam-power, water-power, etc into electrical energy.

dyn-astic /dɪˈnæstɪk/ US: daɪ-/ *adj* of a dynasty.

dyn-asty /ˈdɪnəsti/ US: ˈdaɪ-/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) succession of rulers belonging to one family: *the Tudor ~* (in England).

dys-en-tery /ˈdɪsəntri/ US: -teri/ *n* [U] painful disease of the bowels, with discharge of mucus and blood.

dys-lexia /ˈdɪsˈleksiə/ *n* [U] inability or difficulty in reading due to brain disease.

dys-lexic *adj*

dys-pep-sia /ˈdɪsˈpepsɪə/ *n* [U] indigestion (the usual word).

dys-pep-tic /ˈdɪsˈpeptɪk/ *adj* of indigestion. □ *n* [C] person suffering from indigestion.

Ee

E, e /iː/ (*pl* E's, e's /iːz/), the fifth letter of the English alphabet.

each /iːtʃ/ *adj* (of two or more) every one, thing, group, person, etc taken separately or individually: *He was sitting with a child on ~*

side of him. □ *pron* **1** every thing, person, group, etc: *E~ of them wants to try.* **2** all; both: *We ~ took a big risk. Tom and Harry ~ put forward a different scheme.* **3** to, for, every one of a group: *He gave the boys 50p ~.* **4** *each other*: *We see ~ other (= each of us sees the other) at the office every day.* (Note: *one another* is often used when referring to more than one.)

eager /'i:ɡə(r)/ *adj* full of, showing, strong desire: ~ for success/to succeed.

eager-ly *adv*

eager-ness *n* [U]

eagle /'i:ɡl/ *n* [C] **1** large, strong bird of prey of the falcon family. **2** score in golf that is two below the number of strokes allowed as the average for the hole (except where the number allowed is three).

eag-let /-lɪt/, young eagle(1).

ear¹ /ɪə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** organ of hearing. *be all ears*, be listening eagerly. *fall on deaf ears*, pass unnoticed; be ignored. *go in (at) one ear and out (at) the other*, said of something that makes no impression. *have an ear to the ground*, be well informed about something that is or may be happening. *(have) a word in sb's ear*, say something in confidence. *lend an ear (to)*, listen. *prick up one's ears*, (fig) pay attention, listen. *turn a deaf ear (to)*, refuse to listen or help. *up to one's ears in work*, extremely busy. *walls have ears*, someone (in another room) may be listening. *wet behind the ears*, naïve; immature. **2** sense of hearing. *have a good ear for music*, be able to discriminate sound. *(play sth) by ear*, (a) (play music) without printed music, or without having memorized it. (b) (fig) do something without planning or preparing in advance.

'ear-ache, pain in the inner ear.

'ear-drum, thin membrane (in the inner ear) which vibrates when sound-waves strike it.

'ear-mark *vt* (fig) set aside for a special purpose: ~mark a sum of money for research.

'ear-ring, ornament worn in or on the lobe of the ear.

'ear-shot, hearing distance: *within/out of ~shot*.

'ear-splitting *adj* very loud.

ear² /ɪə(r)/ *n* [C] seed-bearing part of corn, barley, etc.

earl /ɜ:l/ *n* [C] title of a British nobleman of high rank (feminine = *countess*).

'earl-dom /-dəm/, rank, lands, of an earl.

early /'ɜ:li/ (-ier, -iest) *adj, adv* near to the beginning of a period of time, sooner than usual or than others: *in the ~ part of this century; in ~ spring; ~-closing day*, on which shops, etc are closed during the afternoon. *He's an ~ riser*, gets up early. *earlier on*, at an earlier time. ⇨ *later on* at late²(1).

early bird, person who gets up earlier or who arrives before others.

early-¹warning *adj* (of radar) giving early indication of the approach of enemy aircraft, missiles, etc: *an ~warning system*.

earn /ɜ:n/ *vt* get in return for work, as a reward for one's qualities or in payment for a loan: *to ~ £6000 a year. His achievements ~ed him respect and admiration. I had a ~well-~ed 'rest.* ⇨ *make*¹(9).

earn-ings *n pl* money earned: *He has spent all his ~ings.*

ear-nest /'ɜ:nɪst/ *adj* serious; determined: *an ~ worker/pupil.* □ *n in earnest*, in a determined manner; serious(ly): *I'm perfectly in ~, am not joking.*

earn-est-ly *adv* in an earnest manner: *We ~ly hope that...*

earth /ɜ:θ/ *n* **1** this world; the planet on which we live: *The ~ goes round the sun. Who do you think was the greatest man on ~?* **2** [U] land surface of the world; land contrasted with the sky. *come down/back to earth*, return to practical realities. *move heaven and earth*, ⇨ *heaven*(4). **3** [U] soil: *to cover the roots of a plant with ~.* **4** [C] hole of a fox, badger or other wild animal. *run sth/sb to earth*, (fig) discover by searching. **5** [C,U] (means of) electrical contact with the ground as the completion of a circuit. □ *vt* **1** cover with earth: *to ~ up the roots of a newly-planted shrub.* **2** connect (an apparatus, etc) with the earth(5).

earth-ling, inhabitant of earth; mortal.

earth satellite, one which orbits the earth.

'earth-worm, common kind of worm that lives in the soil.

earthy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) of or like soil: *an ~y smell.* (b) (fig) coarse, unrefined; strong and healthy.

earthen-ware /'ɜ:θənweə(r)/ *n* [U] dish, etc made of baked clay: *an ~ casserole.*

earth-ly /'ɜ:θli/ *adj* **1** of this world, not of heaven: ~ joys/possessions. **2** (informal) possible; conceivable: *You haven't an ~ (chance), no chance at all. no earthy use*, quite useless, pointless.

earth-quake /'ɜ:θkweɪk/ *n* [C] sudden, violent movements of the earth's surface.

ear-wig /'ɪəwɪɡ/ *n* [C] small insect with pincers at the rear end.

ease¹ /i:z/ *n* [U] freedom from work, discomfort, trouble, difficulty, anxiety: *a life of ~; to do something with ~, without difficulty.* (be/feel) *ill at ease*, anxious or embarrassed.

put sb at ease, allow him to feel relaxed, untroubled. *stand at ease*, (as a military command) stand with the legs apart and the hands behind the back.

ease² /i:z/ *vt, vi* **1** give relief to (the body or mind) from pain, discomfort, anxiety: ~ his anxiety: ~ him of his pain/trouble. **2** make looser, less tight; lessen speed, efforts: ~ a coat under the armpits. *E~ off a bit (= slow down), we're going too fast. E~ up (= Stop working so hard) or you'll be ill.* **3** become less

tense or troublesome: *the easing of tension between the two countries. The situation has ~d (off).*

easel /'i:zl/ *n* [C] wooden frame to support a blackboard or a picture.

easily /'i:zli/ *adv* **1** without difficulty. **2** without doubt: *~ the best TV programme.* **3** possibly: *That may ~ be the case.*

east /i:st/ *n* **1** the ~, point of the horizon where the sun rises. **2** that part of a country, the world, etc in this direction: *living in the ~ of France.* **3** (used as an adjective): *an ~ wind, one blowing from the east; towards, at, in the direction of the east: on the ~ coast.* □ *adv* towards the east: *to travel/fly ~.* **east of**, farther east than. ⇨ also the Far East, Middle East, Near East.

the East, (a) the Orient. (b) the eastern side of the USA.

east-ward /'i:stwəd/ *adj* towards the east: *in an ~ direction.*

east-ward(s) *adv*: *to travel ~(s).*

Easter /'i:stə(r)/ *n* anniversary of the Resurrection of Christ, observed on the first Sunday (~ Day/Sunday) after a full moon on or after 21 March: *the ~ holidays.*

'Easter egg, egg with a painted or dyed shell, or an egg made of chocolate, used as a gift.

east-er-ly /'i:stəli/ *adj, adv* in an eastern direction or position; (of the wind) coming from the east.

east-ern /'i:stən/ *adj* of, from, living in, the east part of the world: *~ religions.*

the Eastern Church, the Greek Orthodox Church.

the Eastern Hemisphere, ⇨ hemisphere.

Eastern time, one of 4 standard time zones in USA.

east-ern-most /-məʊst/ *adj* farthest east.

easy /'i:zi/ (-ier, -iest) *adj* **1** not difficult: *an ~ book. The place is ~ to reach.* **2** free, from pain, discomfort, anxiety, trouble, etc: *to lead an ~ life; an ~ chair, one that is soft and restful. She is ~ to get on with, relaxed, informal, pleasant.* □ *adv* in an easy manner. **take it/ things easy**, don't work too hard or too energetically. **Easy does it**, (informal) be careful (eg when helping an injured person). **go easy on**, (informal) be careful or moderate with: *Go ~ on the wine—it's the last bottle!* **easier said than done**, easier to say one would do it than to do it.

easy-going, (of persons) pleasant; tolerant; relaxed.

eat /i:t/ *vt, vi* (pt ate /eit/ pp ~en /'i:tn/) **1** take (solid food, also soup) into the mouth and swallow it: *to ~ one's dinner; to ~ up (= finish eating) one's food. eat one's heart out*, suffer in silence; be very sad. **eat one's words**, ⇨ word(2). **2** destroy as if by eating: *Acids ~ into metals. He is ~en up with pride. The river had ~en away the banks.*

eat-able /-əbl/ *adj* edible (the usual word). □ *n* (usually pl) food.

eater, (a) person who eats: *He's a big ~er, eats large quantities.* (b) apple, pear, etc for dessert, good when eaten uncooked.

eats *n pl* (sl) food: *There were plenty of ~, but not enough drinks.*

eau de Cologne /əʊ də kə'lɒn/ *n* [U] (Fr) perfumed toilet water.

eaves /i:vz/ *n pl* overhanging edges of a roof: *icicles hanging from the ~.*

'eaves-drop *vi* (-pp-) listen secretly to private conversation.

'eaves-drop-per, person who eavesdrops.

ebb /eb/ *vi* **1** (of the tide) flow back from the land to the sea. **2** (fig) grow less; become weak or faint: *His fortune's beginning to ~.* □ *n* [C] (usually sing only) **1** the flowing out of the tide: *the ~ and flow of the sea/the tide.* **2** (fig) low state; decline or decay: *at a low ~.*

'ebb-tide *n* = ebb(1).

eb-ony /'ebəni/ *n* [U] hard, black wood. □ *adj* made of, black as, ebony.

ebul-lience /i'bʌliəns/ *n* [U] (formal) (outburst of) excitement, enthusiasm.

ebul-lient /i'bʌliənt/ *adj* (formal) very excited, enthusiastic.

ec-cen-tric /ik'sentrik/ *adj* **1** (of a person or his behaviour) odd; not normal. **2** (of circles) not having the same centre; (of orbits) not circular; (of planets, etc) moving in an eccentric orbit. □ *n* [C] (esp) eccentric person.

ec-cen-tric-ity /'eksen'trisəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] quality of being eccentric; strangeness of behaviour, etc: *~ in dress.* **2** [C] instance of this; strange or unusual act or habit: *One of his eccentricities is wearing bright red socks with his black suit.*

ec-clesi-as-tic /i'kli:zi:æstik/ *n* [C] clergyman.

ec-clesi-as-ti-cal /-kl/ *adj* of the Christian Church; of clergymen.

ec-clesi-as-ti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

echo /'ekəʊ/ *n* (pl ~es) **1** [C,U] sound reflected or sent back (eg from a wall).

echo /'ekəʊ/ *vi, vt* **1** (of places) send back an echo: *The valley ~ed as he sang.* **2** (of sounds) be sent back as an echo: *The shot ~ed through the woods.* **3** repeat the words, actions etc of another: *They were ~ing every word of their leader.*

éclair /ei'kleə(r)/ *n* [C] pastry iced on top and filled with cream: *chocolate ~s.*

eclipse /'klips/ *n* [C] **1** total or partial cutting off of the light of the sun (when the moon is between it and the earth), or of the reflected light of the moon (when the earth's shadow falls on it). **2** (fig) loss of brilliance, power, reputation, etc: *After suffering an ~ he is famous again.* □ *vi* **1** (of a planet, etc) cause an eclipse; cut off the light from. **2** (fig) make (a person or thing) appear dull by comparison: *She was so beautiful that she ~ed every other woman in the room.*

eco-logi-cal /i:kə'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* of ecology: the ~ effects of industry, e.g. the pollution of the atmosphere, of rivers, etc.

eco-logi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

ecol-ogy /i:'kɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] branch of biology that deals with the habits of living things, esp their relation to their environment.

econ-omic /i:kə'nɒmɪk/ *adj* **1** of economics (⇒ below): *the government's ~ policy*. **2** connected with commerce, systems of production, etc: ~ geography, studied chiefly in connection with industry. **3** designed to give a profit. **4** (informal) cheap: *an ~ rent*. **5** (informal) = economical.

econ-omi-cal /i:kə'nɒmɪkl/ *adj* careful in the spending of money, time, etc and in the use of goods: *an ~ system for heating water*.

econ-omi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

econ-omics /i:kə'nɒmɪks/ *n* [U] (used with a *sing verb*) science of the production, distribution and using up of goods; condition of a country's material prosperity.

econ-om-ist /i:'kɒnəmɪst/ *n* [C] **1** expert in, student of, economics or political economy. **2** person who is economical.

econ-om-ize (also **-ise**) /i:'kɒnəmaɪz/ *vt, vi* use or spend less than before: *He ~d by taking buses instead of taxis*.

econ-omy /i:'kɒnəmi/ *n* (pl **-ies**) **1** [C,U] (instance of) avoidance of waste of money, strength or anything else of value: *By various little economies, she managed to save enough money for a holiday*. **2** [U] control and management of the money, goods and other resources of a community, society or household. **3** [C] system for the management and use of economic resources.

economy class, cheapest class of travel (esp by air).

ec-static /ɪk'stætɪk/ *adj* of, concerning, causing, ecstasy.

ec-static-ally /-kli/ *adv*

ec-stasy /'ekstəsi/ *n* [C,U] (pl **-ies**) (feeling of) great joy and emotional uplift: *in an ~ of delight; to be in/go into ecstasies (over something)*.

ecu-meni-cal /i:kju'menɪkl/ *adj* **1** of or representing the whole Christian world or universal Church: *an ~ Council*, eg as summoned by the Pope. **2** seeking to reunite the Christian churches: *the ~ movement*.

ec-zema /'eksɪmə/ *n* [U] itching skin disease.

eddy /'edi/ *n* [C] (pl **-ies**) (of wind, smoke, fog, mist, dust, water) circular or spiral movement: *Eddies of mist rose from the valleys*. □ *vi* (pt, pp **-ied**) move in small circles; whirl.

edge¹ /edʒ/ *n* [C] **1** sharp, cutting part of a knife, sword or other tool or weapon: *a knife with a sharp ~*. **be on edge**, be excited or worried because unsure. **have the edge on sb**, (informal) have an advantage over him. **set sb's/one's teeth on edge**, upset his/her nerves (as when hearing a scraping sound). **2** (line marking the) outer limit or

boundary of a (flat) surface: *a cottage on the ~ of a forest/a lake*. *He fell off the ~ of the cliff*. **push sb over the edge**, (fig) make him mad, very angry, etc.

edgy /'edʒi/ *adj* (**-ier**, **-iest**) nervous.

edge² /edʒ/ *vt, vi* **1** supply with a border: *to ~ a garden path with plants*; form a border to: *a road ~d with grass*. **2** (cause to) move slowly forward or along: *edging one's way through a crowd*.

edge-ways, **edge-wise** /'edʒweɪz, -waɪz/ *adv* with the edge outwards or forwards. **not get a word in edgeways**, be unable to say anything when a very talkative person is speaking.

edg-ing /'edʒɪŋ/ *n* [C] narrow border: *an ~ of lace on a dress*.

ed-ible /'edəbl/ *adj* fit to be eaten. □ *n* [C] (usually pl) things fit to be eaten.

edict /'i:dɪkt/ *n* [C] order or proclamation issued by authority; decree.

edi-fi-ca-tion /'edɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U] (formal) mental or moral improvement.

edi-fice /'edɪfɪs/ *n* [C] (formal) **1** building (esp a large or imposing one). **2** (fig) something built up in the mind: *The whole ~ of his hopes was destroyed*.

edify /'edɪfaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp **-ied**) improve in morals or mind: *~ing books*.

edit /'edit/ *vt* **1** prepare (another person's writing) for publication: *~ a newspaper*. **2** do the work of planning and directing the publication of a newspaper, magazine, book, etc. **3** prepare a film, tape, etc by putting parts together.

edi-tion /'ɪdɪʃn/ *n* [C] **1** form in which a book is published: *a paperback ~*. **2** total number of copies (of a book, newspaper, etc) issued from the same types: *the first/a revised ~*. ⇒ impression (2).

edi-tor /'edɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] person who edits (eg a newspaper, a book or a TV or radio programme) or who is in charge of part of a newspaper: *the sports/fi'nancial ~*.

edi-tor-ial /'edɪtəriəl/ *adj* of an editor: *~ work*. □ *n* [C] special article in a newspaper, etc usually written by the editor.

edu-cate /'edʒukeɪt/ *vt* give intellectual and moral training to: *You should ~ your children to behave well*. **an educated guess**, one using experience.

edu-ca-tion /'edʒu'keɪʃn/ *n* [U] **1** systematic training and instruction: *No country can afford to neglect ~*. **2** knowledge and abilities, development of character and mental powers, resulting from such training.

edu-ca-tional /-ʃnəl/ *adj* of, connected with, education: *~al books/toys*.

eel /i:l/ *n* [C] long fish like a snake.

eerie, **eery** /'ɪəri/ *adj* (**-ier**, **-iest**) causing a feeling of mystery and fear: *an ~ shriek*.

eer-ily /-əli/ *adv*

ee-ri-ness *n* [U]

ef-face /'ɪfeɪs/ *vt* **1** rub or wipe out; make in-

distinct: ~ *an inscription*. **2** (fig) obliterate: ~ *unpleasant memories of the past*. **3** **efface oneself**, keep in the background in order to escape being noticed; make oneself appear to be unimportant. ⇨ *self-effacing*.

efface-ment *n* [U]

effect /ɪˈfekt/ *n* 1 [C, U] result; outcome: *the ~ of heat on metals*. *The children were suffering from the ~s of the hot weather*. *Did the medicine have any ~|a good ~?* **of no effect**, not doing what was intended or hoped for. **in effect**, (a) in fact, really. (b) in operation: *The rule|law is still in ~*. **take effect**, (a) produce the result intended or required. (b) come into force; operate; become active. **2** [C] impression produced on the mind of a spectator, hearer, reader, etc: *'sound ~s*, (in broadcasting, etc) sounds characteristic of a scene, or incidental to an event, eg the noise of a train. *Everything he says and does is calculated for ~*, done to impress. **3** [U] meaning: *That is what he said, or words to that ~*, words with the same general meaning. **4** (pl) goods; property: *The hotel manager seized her personal ~s because she could not pay her bill*. □ *vt* bring about, cause: ~ *a cure*.

effec-tive /ɪˈfektɪv/ *adj* **1** having an effect; able to bring about the result intended: ~ *measures to reduce unemployment*. **2** making a striking impression: *an ~ scheme of decoration*. **3** actual or existing: *the ~ strength of the army*.

effec-tive-ly *adv*

effec-tual /ɪˈfektʃʊəl/ *adj* (formal) (not used of persons) bringing about the result required; answering its purpose: *an ~ remedy|punishment*.

effemi-nate /ɪˈfemɪnət/ *adj* like, of, a woman.

eff-er-vesce /ɪˈfɛvəs/ *vi* **1** give off bubbles of gas; (of gas) issue in bubbles. **2** (fig) (of persons) be gay and excited.

eff-er-vescence /-sɪs/ *n* [U]

eff-er-vescent /-snt/ *adj*

eff-fi-ciency /ɪˈfɪfɪnsi/ *n* [U] state or quality of being efficient.

eff-fi-cient /ɪˈfɪfɪnt/ *adj* **1** (of persons) capable; organized and able to perform duties well: *an ~ secretary|staff of teachers*. **2** producing a desired or satisfactory result: ~ *methods of teaching*.

eff-fi-cient-ly *adv*

eff-fig-y /ɪˈfɪdʒi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) representation of a person (in wood, stone, etc).

eff-flu-ent /ɪˈfluənt/ *n* [C] **1** stream flowing from a larger stream or from a lake. **2** discharge of waste liquid matter, sewage, etc, eg from a factory.

eff-fort /ɪˈfɒt/ *n* 1 [C, U] (attempt at) trying hard; use of strength and energy (to do something): *Please make an ~ to arrive early*. *I will make every ~ (= do all I can) to help you*. **2** [C] result of, something done with, effort: *That's a pretty good ~*.

eff-fort-less *adj* making no effort; easy: *done with ~less skill*.

ef-front-ery /ɪˈfrʌntəri/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] insolent behaviour without showing any fear, humility, etc. **2** [C] instance of this: *How can you have the ~ to ask for another loan?*

ef-fu-sion /ɪˈfjuːʒn/ *n* (formal) **1** [U] sending or pouring out (of liquid, eg blood); [C] quantity poured out. **2** [C] (esp unrestrained) outpouring of thought or feeling: ~s *in love letters*.

ef-fu-sive /ɪˈfjuːsɪv/ *adj* (formal) (of the feelings, signs of pleasure, gratitude, etc) expressed (too) freely: ~ *thanks*.

ef-fu-sive-ly *adv*

egali-tar-ian /ɪˈgæliˈteəriən/ *n* [C], *adj* (person) favouring equal rights, benefits and opportunities for all citizens. ⇨ *elite, elitist*.

egg ¹/eg/ *n* **1** [C] embryo enclosed in a shell, eg of a hen, used as food: *Birds, reptiles and insects come from ~s*. *Will you have your ~ boiled or fried?* [U] *You've got some ~* (ie a bit of a cooked egg) *on your chin*. **put all one's eggs in one basket**, risk everything one has in a single venture, eg by investing all one's money in one business. **teach one's grandmother to suck eggs**, give advice to a person who has much more experience than oneself. **2** [C] female reproducing cell.

'egg-cup, small cup for a boiled egg.

'egg-head, intellectual person.

'egg-plant, (esp US) = aubergine.

'egg-shell, shell of an egg.

'egg-whisk, utensil for beating eggs.

egg ²/eg/ *vt* **egg sb on**, urge him (to do something, usually bad).

ego /ˈegəʊ/ *US*: ˈiːgəʊ/ *n* [C] individual's perception or experience of himself; individual's capacity to think, feel and act.

'ego-trip, selfish activity for personal interest.

ego-cen-tric /ˈegəʊˈsentrɪk/ *US*: ˈiːg-/ *adj* interested chiefly in oneself.

ego-ism /ˈegəʊɪzəm/ *US*: ˈiːg-/ *n* [U] **1** theory that our actions are always caused by the desire to benefit ourselves. **2** state of mind in which one is always thinking of oneself.

ego-ist /ˈegəʊɪst/ *US*: ˈiːg-/ *n* [C] believer, practitioner, in egoism.

ego-istic /ˈegəʊɪstɪk/ *US*: ˈiːg-/ *adj*, **ego-isti-cal** /-kl/ *adj* of egoism or an egoist.

ego-tism /ˈegəʊtɪzəm/ *US*: ˈiːg-/ *n* [U] practice of talking too often or too much about oneself; selfishness.

ego-tist /ˈegəʊtɪst/ *US*: ˈiːg-/ *n* [C] selfish person.

ego-tis-tic /ˈegəʊtɪstɪk/ *US*: ˈiːg-/ *adj* of egotism or an egotist.

eh /eɪ/ *int* (used to express surprise or doubt, or to invite agreement).

eider-down /ˈaɪdədaʊn/ *n* [C] (quilted bed-covering filled with) soft feathers of a large, wild duck (called an 'eider').

eight /eɪt/ *adj, n* [C] **1** (of) 8. **2** crew of eight in

a rowing-boat; race between these.

eight-een /eɪ'ti:n/ *adj*, *n* [C] (of) 18.

eight-eenth /-ti:nθ/ *adj*, *n* [C] (abbr 18th) (of) one of 18 parts or the next after 17.

eighth /eɪtθ/ *adj*, *n* [C] (abbr 8th) (of) one of 8 parts or the next after 7.

eight-ieth /'eɪtəθ/ *adj*, *n* [C] (abbr 80th) (of) one of 80 parts or the next after 79.

eighty /'eɪti/ *adj*, *n* [C] (of) 80. **in the eighties**, (a) (of a person's age, temperature, speed, etc) between 79 and 90. (b) between '79 and '90 in a century.

eis-tedd-fod /aɪs'tedvɒd/ *n* [C] (in Wales) annual gathering of poets and musicians for competitions.

either /'aɪðə(r) *US*: /i:ðər/ *adj*, *pron* **1** one or the other (of): *E~ is capable of winning. Take ~ half; they're exactly the same. E~ of them/ E~ one will be satisfactory.* (Note: any (one of) is used when the number is greater than two.) **2** one and the other (of two): *There was an armchair at ~ end of the long table.* (Note: both and each are more usual.) □ *adv*, *conj* **1** (used in statements after *not*): *I don't like the red one, and I don't like the pink one, ~.* □ **2** **either ... or**, (used to introduce the first of two or more alternatives): *He must be ~ mad or drunk.*

ejacu-late /ɪ'dʒækjuleɪt/ *vi* **1** (formal) say suddenly and briefly. **2** eject (fluid, eg semen) from the body.

ejacu-la-tion /ɪ'dʒækjʊ'leɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

eject /ɪ'dʒekt/ *vt*, *vi* **1** compel (a person) to leave (a place); expel: *They were ~ed from the meeting by the police.* **2** send out (liquid, etc): *lava ~ed from a volcano.* **3** make an emergency exit, eg with a parachute from an aircraft.

ejec-tion /ɪ'dʒekʃn/ *n* [C, U]

ejec-tor /-tə(r)/, person who, that which, ejects.

ejector-seat, one in an aircraft for ejecting a pilot so that he may descend by parachute.

eke¹ /i:k/ *vi* make (supplies) enough for one's needs by adding what is not there; make a living, make something last in this way: *eking out one's grant by walking to college.*

elab-or-ate /ɪ'læbəreɪt/ *adj* **1** worked out with much care and in great detail: *~ designs.* **2** carefully prepared and finished: *~ plans.* □ *vi*, *vt* /ɪ'læbəreɪt/ explain, describe, in detail: *Please ~ (on your proposals) a little.*

elab-or-ation /ɪ'læbə'reɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

elapse /ɪ'læps/ *vi* (of time) pass.

elas-tic /ɪ'læstɪk/ *adj* **1** having the tendency to go back to the normal or previous size or shape after being pulled or pressed: *~ bands. Rubber is ~.* **2** (fig) not firm, fixed or unalterable; able to be adapted: *~ rules.* □ *n* [U] cord or material made elastic by weaving rubber into it: *a piece of ~.*

elas-tic-ity /ɪ'læ'stɪsəti *US*: /ɪ-læ-/ *n* [U] the quality of being elastic.

elate /ɪ'leɪt/ *vi* stimulate; make happy,

pleased, etc: *He was ~d at the news/~d by his success/~d to find that he had won.*

ela-tion /ɪ'leɪʃn/ *n* [U] great happiness, etc: *be filled with elation.*

el-bow /'elbəʊ/ *n* [C] **1** (outer part of the) joint in the middle of the arm; corresponding part of a sleeve (in a jacket, etc). **at one's elbow**, close to; near by. **2** elbow bend; corner or joint (eg in a pipe or chimney) shaped like an elbow. □ *vt* push or force (one's way through, forward, etc): *to ~ one's way through a crowd.*

elbow grease, (informal) hard work.

elbow room, space to move freely.

el-der¹ /'eldə(r)/ *adj* **1** (of members of a family, esp closely related members, or of two named members) senior: *My ~ brother is in India.* □ old. **2** (used before or after a person's name to distinguish that person from another of the same name): *the ~ Pitt.* □ *n* [C] **1** older of two persons: *He is my ~ by several years.* **2** (pl) persons of greater age: *Should we always follow the advice of our ~s?* **3** official in some Christian churches.

elder **'statesman**, one whose unofficial advice is sought and valued because of his long experience.

el-der² /'eldə(r)/ *n* [C] (kinds of) bush or small tree with clusters of white flowers and red or black berries.

el-der-ly /'eldəli/ *adj* (of a person) old.

el-dest /'eldɪst/ *adj* first-born or oldest surviving (member of a family): *my ~ son/ brother.*

elect¹ /ɪ'lekt/ *adj* (used after the *noun*) chosen, selected: *the bishop ~, not yet in office.* □ *n* **the ~**, those persons specially chosen or considered to be the best.

elect² /ɪ'lekt/ *vi* **1** choose by vote: *to ~ a president.* **2** choose; decide: *He had ~ed to become a lawyer.*

elec-tion /ɪ'lekʃn/ *n* [U] choosing or selection (of candidates for an office, etc) by vote; [C] instance of this: *~ results.* □ *by-/general/ local election.*

elec-tion-eer-ing /ɪ,lekʃə'nɪərɪŋ/ *n* [U] working in elections, eg by canvassing, making speeches.

elec-tive /ɪ'lektɪv/ *adj* **1** having the power to elect: *an ~ assembly.* **2** chosen or filled by election: *an ~ office.*

elec-tor /ɪ'lektə(r)/ *n* [C] person having the right to elect (esp by voting at a local or general election).

elec-toral /ɪ'lektərəl/ *adj* of an election: *the ~al register, the list of voters.*

elec-tor-ate /-ət/, whole body of qualified electors.

elec-tric /ɪ'lektɪk/ *adj* **1** of, worked by, charged with, capable of developing, electricity: *an ~ current/torch/iron/shock; playing an ~ guitar, one with amplifiers for the sound.* **2** (fig) (eg of news) causing strong and sudden emotion.

elec-tri-cal /ɪˈlektɪkəl/ *adj* relating to electricity: ~ engineering.

elec-tri-cally /-kli/ *adv*

elec-tri-cian /ɪˈlektɪtʃiən/ *n* [C] expert in setting up, repairing and operating electrical apparatus.

elec-tric-ity /ɪˈlektɪtɪsəti/ *n* [U] **1** all of the phenomena associated with electrons (negative charge) and protons (positive charge); the study of these phenomena. **2** supply of electric current (for heating, lighting, etc).

elec-trify /ɪˈlektɪfaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) **1** charge with electricity. **2** equip (a railway, etc) for the use of electric power. **3** (fig) excite, shock, as if by electricity: *to ~ an audience by making an unexpected announcement.*

elec-tri-fi-ca-tion /ɪˈlektɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/ *n* [U] electrifying, eg of a steam railway to an electric railway.

elec-tro- /ɪˈlektɹəʊ/ *prefix* concerned with, caused by, electricity: *electro-magnet.*

elec-tro-ˈcar-dio-gram /-ˈkɑːdiəgrəm/, graphic pictures from an electrocardiograph, used in the diagnosis of heart disease.

elec-tro-ˈcar-dio-graph, apparatus which detects and records activity in the muscles of the heart.

elec-tro-ˈmag-net, piece of soft iron that becomes magnetic when an electric current is passed through wire coiled round it.

elec-tro-cute /ɪˈlektɹəkjuːt/ *vt* kill accidentally, execute, by means of an electrical current.

elec-tro-cu-tion /ɪˈlektɹəˈkjuːʃn/ *n* [C, U]

elec-trode /ɪˈlektɹəʊd/ *n* [C] solid conductor by which an electric current enters or leaves a vacuum tube, etc. ⇨ anode, cathode.

elec-tron /ɪˈlektɹɒn/ *n* [C] particle of matter, smaller than an atom, having a negative electric charge.

elec-tronic /ɪˈlektɹɒnɪk/ *adj* (a) of, using, devices such as transistors. (b) of, operated by, based on, electrons: ~ic music, produced by changing natural sounds using electric currents, etc.

elec-tron-ics *n* (used with a *sing verb*) the science and technology of electrons and electronic devices and systems, as in radio, TV, tape recorders, calculators, computers, etc.

el-e-gance /ˈelɪɡəns/ *n* [U] elegant quality or style.

el-e-gant /ˈelɪɡənt/ *adj* showing, having, done with, good taste; graceful: *looking ~ in a long dress; ~ manners.*

el-e-gant-ly *adv*

el-egy /ˈelɪdʒi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) poem or song of sorrow, esp for the dead.

el-e-ment /ˈelɪmənt/ *n* [C] **1** (science) substance which has not so far been split up into a simpler form by ordinary chemical methods: *Water is a compound containing the ~s hydrogen and oxygen.* **2** (according to the ancient philosophers): *the four ~s, earth, air, fire and water (out of which the material*

universe was thought to be composed). **in/out of one's element**, in/not in suitable, preferred, etc surroundings: *He's in his ~ when they start talking about economics.* **3 the ~s**, the forces of nature, the weather, etc: *exposed to the ~s, to the winds, storms, etc.* **4** (pl) beginnings or outlines of a subject of study; parts that must be learnt first: *the ~s of geometry.* **5** necessary or characteristic feature: *Justice is an important ~ in good government.* **6** suggestion, indication, trace: *There's an ~ of truth in his statement.* ⇨ atom (2). **7** resistance wire in an electrical appliance (eg a heater).

ele-men-tary /ˈelɪˈmentɪ/ *US: -teri/ adj* of, at or in the beginning stage(s); not developed; simple: *an ~ course; ~ arithmetic.*

el-eph-ant /ˈelɪfənt/ *n* [C] largest four-footed animal now living, with curved ivory tusks and a long trunk. ⇨ white elephant.

el-ev-ate /ˈelɪveɪt/ *vt* **1** send, promote, to a higher or more important position: *~d to the House of Lords.* **2** (fig) make (the mind, morals) higher and better: *an elevating book/sermon.*

el-ev-ation /ˈelɪˈveɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] elevating or being elevated: *~ to the House of Lords;* [C] instance of this. **2** [U] (formal) nobility or dignity: *~ of thought/style/language.* **3** [C] height (esp above sea-level); hill or high place: *an ~ of 2000 metres.* **4** [C] plan (drawn to scale) of one side of a building. ⇨ plan (1).

el-ev-ator /ˈelɪveɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** machine like a continuous belt with buckets at intervals, used for raising grain, etc. **2** store-house for grain. **3** person or thing that elevates, eg part of an aircraft that is used to gain or lose altitude. **4** (US) = lift *n* (2).

eleven /ɪˈlevn/ *adj, n* [C] **1** (of) the number 11. **2** team of eleven players for football, hockey or cricket.

el-ev-enth /ɪˈlevənθ/ *adj, n* [C] (abbr 11th) (of) one of 11 parts or the next after 10. **at the eleventh hour**, at the latest possible time.

elf /elf/ *n* [C] (pl elves /elvz/) small fairy; mischievous little creature.

elfin /ˈelfɪn/ *adj* of elves: *~in dances/laughter.*

elf-ish /ˈelfɪʃ/ *adj* mischievous.

elicit /ɪˈlɪsɪt/ *vt* cause to come out: *to ~ the truth/a reply.*

el-i-gible /ˈelɪdʒəbl/ *adj* fit, suitable, to be chosen; having the right qualifications: *~ for promotion/a pension/membership in a society; an ~ young man*, eg one who would be a satisfactory choice as a husband.

el-igi-bil-ity /ˈelɪdʒəˈbɪləti/ *n* [U]

elim-in-ate /ɪˈlɪmɪneɪt/ *vt* remove; take or put away, get rid of (because unnecessary or unwanted): *~ suspects by interviewing them.*

elim-in-ation /ɪˈlɪmɪˈneɪʃn/ *n* [U]

élite /ˈelɪt/ *n* [C] group in society considered to be superior because of the power, privileges, etc of its members: *the diplomatic ~.* ⇨ egalitarian.

élit-ist /i'lɪtɪst/ *adj* supporting, relying on, superiority or dominance of a group.

elixir /i'lɪksə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** preparation by which medieval scientists hoped to change metals into gold or (~ of life) to prolong life indefinitely. **2** remedy that cures all ills.

Eliza-bethan /ɪlɪzə'bi:θn/ *adj* of the time of Queen Elizabeth I of England: *the ~ age*; ~ *drama*. □ *n* [C] person who lived during her reign, eg Shakespeare.

elk /elk/ *n* [C] one of the largest kinds of living deer, found in the Rocky Mountains, N America (where it is called a 'moose').

el-lipse /i'lɪps/ *n* [C] regular oval.

el-lip-tic /i'lɪptɪk/, **el-lip-ti-cal** /-kl/ *adj* shaped like an ellipse: *an elliptical orbit*.

elm /elm/ *n* [C] common deciduous tree that grows to a great size and height; [U] its hard, heavy wood.

elo-cu-tion /elə'kju:ʃn/ *n* [U] art or style of speaking well, esp in public.

elon-gate /i:lɒŋgeɪt/ *US*: /i:lɒŋ- / *vt, vi* make or become long(er).

elope /i'ləʊp/ *vi* (of a woman) run away from home or a husband (with a lover).

elope-ment *n* [C, U]

elo-quence /'eləkwəns/ *n* [U] skilful use of language to persuade or to appeal; fluent speaking.

elo-quent /-ənt/ *adj*

elo-quent-ly *adv*

else /els/ *adv* besides; in addition: *Did you see anybody ~, any other person(s)? Have you anything ~ to do? Ask somebody ~ to help you. Nothing ~ (= Nothing more), thank you. We went nowhere ~, to no other place. How ~ (= In what other way) would you do it? or else, ⚡ or (1).*

else-where /els'weə(r) *US*: -'hwɛər/ *adv* somewhere else; in, at or to some other place.

eluci-date /i'lʊsɪdeɪt/ *vt* (formal) make clear; explain (a problem, difficulty).

eluci-da-tion /i'lʊsɪ'deɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

elude /i'lʊd/ *vt* (formal) escape capture (esp by means of a trick); avoid: ~ *one's enemies*.

elu-sive /i'lʊsɪv/ *adj* **1** tending to elude: *an ~ criminal*. **2** not easy to recall: *an ~ word*.

elves /elvz/ *pl* of elf.

'em /əm/ *pron* (informal) = them.

em-aci-ate /i'meɪʃieɪt/ *vt* (formal) make thin or lean: ~ *d by long illness*.

emaciation /i'meɪʃi'eɪʃn/ *n* [U]

ema-nate /'eməneɪt/ *vi* (formal) come, flow, proceed, from.

ema-na-tion /'eməneɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

eman-ci-pate /i'mænsɪpeɪt/ *vt* set free (esp from legal, political or moral restraint): *an ~d young woman*, one who has freed herself from the conventions or restrictions of the community to which she belongs.

eman-ci-pa-tion /i'mænsɪ'peɪʃn/ *n* [U] emancipating or being emancipated: ~ *from the authority of one's parents*.

em-balm /ɪm'ba:m/ *vt* preserve (a dead

body) from decay by using spices or chemicals.

em-balmer, person who embalms.

em-bank-ment /ɪm'bæŋkmənt/ *n* [C] wall or mound of earth, stone, etc to hold back water or support a raised road or railway; roadway supported by such a wall: *the Thames E~*.

em-bargo /ɪm'ba:gəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) order that forbids trade, movement of ships, etc; stoppage of commerce, or of a branch of commerce: *lift/raise/remove an ~ (from something)*. □ *vt* (*pt, pp* ~ed) seize (ships or goods) by government authority, for the service of the State.

em-bark /ɪm'ba:k/ *vi, vt* **1** go, put or take on board a ship: *The soldiers ~ed for Malta. The ship ~ed passengers and cargo.* **2** (formal) start, take part in: ~ *on/upon a new business undertaking*.

em-bar-ka-tion /emba:'keɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

em-bar-rass /ɪm'bærəs/ *vt* make a person feel uncomfortable, ashamed, etc: ~ *ing questions*; ~ *d by having no money*.

em-bar-rass-ing-ly *adv*

em-bar-rass-ment *n* [C, U]

em-bassy /'embəsi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) duty and mission of an ambassador; his official residence; ambassador and his staff: *the French ~ in London*; ~ *officials*.

em-bed /ɪm'bed/ *vt* (-dd-) **1** fix firmly (in a surrounding mass): *stones ~ed in rock.* **2** (fig) fix: *facts ~ed in one's memory*.

em-bel-ish /ɪm'belɪʃ/ *vt* make beautiful; add ornaments or details to: ~ *a story*, eg by adding amusing but perhaps untrue details.

em-bel-ish-ment *n* [C, U]

em-ber /'emba(r)/ *n* [C] (usually *pl*) small piece of burning wood or coal in a dying fire; ashes of a dying fire.

em-bezzle /ɪm'bezl/ *vt* use (money or property placed in one's care) deceitfully and illegally for one's own benefit.

em-bezzle-ment *n* [C, U]

em-bit-ter /ɪm'bitə(r)/ *vt* make (even more) bitter (2): ~ *d by repeated failures*.

em-bit-ter-ment *n*

em-blem /'embləm/ *n* [C] symbol; device that represents something: *an ~ of peace*, eg a dove.

em-blem-atic /emblem'ætɪk/ *adj*

em-body /ɪm'bɒdi/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) (formal) **1** give form to ideas, feelings, etc: ~ *one's ideas in a speech*. **2** include: *The latest cameras ~ many new features*.

em-bodi-ment /ɪm'bɒdɪmənt/ *n* [C] (formal) expression of an idea: *She is the embodiment of kindness*.

em-boss /ɪm'bɒs *US*: -'bɒs/ *vt* cause a pattern, writing, etc to stand out on (the surface of something); raise the surface of something into a pattern: ~ *d notepaper*; *a silver vase ~ed with a design of flowers*.

em-brace /ɪm'breɪs/ *vt, vi* **1** take (a person,

etc) into one's arms, as a sign of affection: *em-bracing a child. They ~d.* **2** (formal) accept; make use of: *~ an offer/opportunity.* **3** (formal) (of things) include: *~ many colours in a single design.* □ **n** [C] act of embracing: *He held her to him in a warm ~.*

em-bro-ca-tion /ˌembɹəˈkeɪʃn/ **n** [U] oily liquid (a liniment) for rubbing a bruised or aching part of the body.

em-broider /ɪmˈbrɔɪdə(r)/ **vt, vi** **1** sew (cloth) with a design: *a dress ~ed with flowers; a de-sign ~ed in gold thread.* **2** (fig) add untrue details to a story for a better effect.

em-broid-ery **n** [U] embroidered needle-work; art of embroidering.

em-bryo /ˈembriəʊ/ **n** [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** offspring of an animal in the early stage of its development before birth (or before coming out of an egg). **2** (fig) something in its very early stage of development.

em-bry-onic /ˌembriˈɒnɪk/ **adj**

emend /ɪˈmend/ **vt** take out errors from: *~ a passage in a book.*

em-er-ald /ˈemərəld/ **n** **1** [C] bright green precious stone. **2** [U] colour of this.

emerge /ɪˈmɜːdʒ/ **vi** **1** come into view; (esp) come out (from water, etc): *The moon was emerging from behind the clouds.* **2** (of facts, ideas) appear; become known: *No new ideas ~d during the talks.*

emerg-ence /-dʒəns/ **n** [U] emerging.

emerg-ent /-dʒənt/ **adj**

emerg-ency /ɪˈmɜːdʒənsi/ **n** (*pl* -ies) **1** [C] serious happening or situation needing quick action: *This door is to be used only in an ~.* **2** (used as an adjective): *an ~ exit.*

em-ery /ˈeməri/ **n** [U] hard metal used (esp in powdered form) for grinding and polishing: *~ paper.*

emi-grant /ˈemɪgrənt/ **n** [C] person who emigrates: *~s to Canada.*

emi-grate /ˈemɪɡreɪt/ **vi** go away (from one's own country to another to settle there).

emi-gra-tion /ˈemɪɡreɪʃn/ **n** [C, U]

émi-gré /ˈemɪɡreɪ/ **US**; /ˈemɪɡreɪ/ **n** [C] person who has left his own country, usually for political reasons.

emi-nence /ˈemɪnəns/ **n** **1** [U] state of being famous or distinguished; superiority of position: *win ~ as a scientist.* **2** [C] area of high or rising ground. **3** *His/Your E~*, title used of (or to) a cardinal.

emi-nent /ˈemɪnənt/ **adj** (formal) **1** (of a person) distinguished: *~ as a sculptor.* **2** (of qualities) remarkable in degree: *a man of ~ goodness.*

emi-nent-ly **adv**

emir /ˈemɪə(r)/ **n** [C] Muslim ruler; male descendant of Muhammad.

emir-ate /ˈemɪəreɪt/ **n** [C] rank, lands, etc of an emir: *the great ~ates of Northern Nigeria.*

emis-sion /ɪˈmɪʃn/ **n** **1** [U] sending out or giving off: *an ~ of light/heat.* **2** [C] that which is sent out or given off.

emit /ɪˈmɪt/ **vt** (-tt-) give or send out: *A volcano ~s smoke and ashes.*

emo-tion /ɪˈməʊʃn/ **n** **1** [U] stirring up, excitement, of the mind or (more usually) the feelings; excited state of the mind or feelings: *He thought of his dead child with deep ~.* **2** [C] strong feeling of any kind: *Love, joy, hate, fear and grief are ~s.*

emo-tional /-ʃənl/ **adj** (**a**) of, directed to, the emotions: *an ~al appeal.* (**b**) easily excited; capable of expressing strong feelings: *an ~al woman/actor/nature.*

emo-tion-ally /-əli/ **adv**

emo-tion-less **adj** without (showing) emotion.

emot-ive /ɪˈməʊtɪv/ **adj** of, tending to excite, the emotions: *~ language.*

em-pale /ɪmˈpeɪl/ **vt** = impale.

em-pa-thy /ˈempəθi/ **n** [U] (power of) entering into (and so fully understanding, and losing one's identity in) the spirit of a person, a work of art, etc.

em-peror /ˈempərə(r)/ **n** [C] ruler of an empire.

em-pha-sis /ˈemfəsis/ **n** [C, U] (*pl* ~es) **1** force or stress laid on a word or words to make the significance clear, or to show importance. **2** (the placing of) special value or importance: *Some schools lay/put special ~ on grammar.*

em-pha-size (also -ise) /ˈemfəsaɪz/ **vt** give emphasis to: *He ~d the importance of careful driving.*

em-phatic /ɪmˈfætɪk/ **adj** having, showing, using, emphasis: *an ~ opinion/person.*

em-phati-cally /-kli/ **adv**

em-pire /ˈempəɪə(r)/ **n** **1** [C] group of countries under a single supreme authority: *the Roman E~.* **2** [U] supreme political power: *the responsibilities of ~.*

em-piric, em-piri-cal /ɪmˈpɪrɪk(l)/ **n** [C], **adj** (person) relying on observation and experiment, not on theory.

em-piri-cally /-kli/ **adv**

em-piri-cism /ɪmˈpɪrɪsɪzəm/ **n** [U] (theory which supports the) use of empirical evidence to decide the truth of something.

em-pir-i-cist /-sɪst/ **n** [C] supporter of empiricism.

em-ploy /ɪmˈplɔɪ/ **vt** **1** give work to, usually for payment: *He is ~ed in a bank.* **2** (formal) make use of: *How do you ~ your spare time?*

em-ploy-able /-əbl/ **adj** that can be employed.

em-ployee /ˈemplɔɪˈiː/ **n** person who is employed.

em-ployer, person who employs others.

em-ploy-ment /ɪmˈplɔɪmənt/ **n** [U] **1** employing or being employed. **2** one's regular work or occupation.

employment agency, business establishment which helps a person (for a fee) to find a job.

em-por-ium /ɪmˈpɔːrɪəm/ **n** [C] (*pl* ~s) centre of commerce; market; large (food

shop).

em-power /ɪm'paʊə(r)/ *vt* give power or authority to act.

em-press /'emprɪs/ *n* [C] **1** woman governing an empire. **2** wife, widow, of an emperor.

empty¹ /'empti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) having nothing inside; containing nothing: *an ~ box*; ~ promises/words, not carried out, not meaning anything. □ *n* [C] *pl* -ies (usually *pl*) box, bottle, crate, etc that has been emptied.

empty-handed *adj* bringing back nothing; carrying nothing away.

empty-headed *adj* not having common sense.

emp-ti-ness /'emptɪnəs/ *n* [U]

empty² /'empti/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) make or become empty, remove what is inside: ~ one's glass, drink everything in it; ~ (out) a drawer; ~ the rubbish into the dustbin; ~ one's pockets. The *cistern empties* (= becomes empty) in five minutes.

emu /'i:mju:/ *n* [C] large flightless Australian bird that runs well.

emulate /'emjuleɪt/ *vt* try to do as well as or better than.

emulation /'emju'leɪʃn/ *n* [U] emulating: in ~ of each other.

emulsion /'ɪmlʃn/ *n* [C,U] (kinds of) creamy liquid in which particles of oil or fat are suspended: ~ paint.

en- /ɪn, en-/ (also **em-**) *prefix* **1** (~ + *noun/verb* = *verb*) put in or on: *encase*. **2** (~ + *noun/adjective* = *verb*) make into, cause to be: *enlarge*; *empower*.

-en /-ən/ *suffix* **1** (used to form the *pp* of some verbs): *broken*; *hidden*. **2** (used to form an adjective): *wooden*. **3** (used to form a verb): *sadden*.

en-able /ɪ'neɪbl/ *vt* make able, give authority or means: The end of the bus strike ~d people to get to work.

en-act /ɪ'nækt/ *vt* **1** make (a law); decree; ordain. **2** perform on, or as though on, the stage of a theatre (*act* is more usual).

en-act-ment *n* [U] enacting or being enacted; [C] law.

en-amel /ɪ'næml/ *n* [U] **1** glass-like substance used for coating metal, porcelain, etc, for decoration or as a protection: ~ paint, paint which dries to make a hard, glossy surface. **2** hard outer covering of teeth. □ *vt* (-ll-, US also -l-) cover, decorate, with enamel (esp with designs or decorations).

en-amour (US = -amor) /ɪ'næmə(r)/ *vt* (usually *passive*) **be enamoured of**, fond of, delighted with: ~ed of one's own voice.

en-case /ɪn'keɪs/ *vt* **1** put into a case. **2** surround or cover as with a case: *an ice-cream ~d in chocolate*.

-ence /-əns/ *suffix* ⇨ -ance.

en-chant /ɪn'tʃənt/ US: -tʃænt/ *vt* **1** charm; delight: She was ~ed with/by the flowers you sent her. **2** use magic on; put under a magic spell: the ~ed palace, eg in a fairy tale.

en-chanter, man who enchants.

en-chant-ress, woman who enchants.

en-chant-ing *adj* charming; bewitching.

en-chant-ing-ly *adv*

en-chant-ment, (a) being enchanted. (b) [C] something which enchants; magic spell. (c) [U] charm; delight: the ~ment of moonlight.

en-circle /ɪn'sɜːkl/ *vt* surround; form a circle round: a lake ~d by trees.

en-circle-ment *n* [C,U]

en-clave /'enklerv/ *n* [C] territory wholly within the boundaries of another.

en-close /ɪn'kləʊz/ *vt* **1** put a wall, fence, etc round; shut in on all sides: ~ a garden with a wall. **2** put in an envelope, parcel, etc: A cheque for £5 is ~d.

en-clos-ure /ɪn'kləʊʒə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] enclosing: ~ of common land; [C] instance of this. **2** [C] something enclosed (esp with a letter).

en-com-pass /ɪn'kæmpəs/ *vt* encircle; envelop; consist of.

en-core /'ɒŋkɔː(r)/ *int* Repeat! Again! □ *vt, n* [C] (call for a) repetition (of a song, etc) or further performance by the same person(s): The singer gave three ~s.

en-coun-ter /ɪn'kaʊntə(r)/ *vt* find oneself faced by (danger, difficulties, etc); meet (an enemy or enemies); meet (a friend, etc) unexpectedly. □ *n* [C] sudden or unexpected (esp hostile) meeting: *an ~ with the bank manager*.

en-cour-age /ɪn'kʌrɪdʒ/ US: -kər-/ *vt* give hope, courage or confidence to; support: ~ a man to work harder; ~ a boy in his studies.

en-cour-age-ment, (a) [U] encouraging: words of ~ment. (b) [C] something that encourages: *Praise is an ~ment to the young*.

en-croach /ɪn'krəʊtʃ/ *vi* go beyond what is right or natural: ~ on/upon his rights/time/land.

en-croach-ment *n* [C,U]

en-crust /ɪn'krʌst/ *vt, vi* **1** cover with a crust; put on (a surface) a layer of ornamental or costly material: a gold vase ~ed with precious stones. **2** form into a crust.

en-cum-ber /ɪn'kʌmbə(r)/ *vt* **1** get in the way of, be a burden to: *be ~ed with a large family*. **2** crowd; fill up: a room ~ed with old and useless furniture.

en-cum-brance /ɪn'kʌmbəns/ *n* [C] thing that encumbers; burden: *An idle grown-up daughter may be an ~ to her parents*.

en-cyc-li-cal /ɛn'sɪklɪk/ *n* [C], *adj* (letter written by the Pope) for wide circulation.

en-cy-clo-pedia (also -paedia) /ɪn,sar-klə'piːdiə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) book, or set of books, giving information about every branch of knowledge, or on one subject, with articles in ABC order.

en-cy-clo-pedic (also -paedic) /ɪn,sar-klə'piːdɪk/ *adj*

end¹ /end/ *n* [C] **1** farthest or last part: *the ~ of a road/stick/line*; *the house at the ~ of the street*; *the west/east ~ of a town*, the parts in

the west/east. **begin/start at the wrong end**, in the wrong way, at a wrong point. **go off the deep end**, express uncontrolled anger. **make (both) ends meet**, live within one's income. **at a loose end**, having nothing important or interesting to do. **on end**, (a) upright: *Place the barrel/box on (its) ~. His hair stood on ~.* (b) continuously: *for two hours on ~.* **end on**, with the ends meeting: *The two ships collided ~ on*, the stern (or bows) of one struck the stern (or bows) of the other. **end to end**, in a line with the ends touching: *Arrange the tables ~ to ~.* **2** small piece that remains: *a cigarette ~*; odds and ~s. **3** finish; conclusion: *at the ~ of the day/the century. We shall never hear the ~ of it/the matter*, It will be talked about for a long time to come. **(be) at an end**, finished: *The war was at an ~.* **(be) at the end of**, have no: *She was at the ~ of her patience.* **come to an end**, finish: *The meeting came to an ~ at last.* **put an end to sth**, finish it, get rid of it (according to context): *You must put an ~ to your bad behaviour.* **in the end**, finally, at last: *He tried many ways of earning a living; in the ~ he became a farm labourer.* **no end of**, (informal) very many or much, very great, etc: *We met no ~ of interesting people.* **without end**, never reaching an end: *We had trouble without ~.* **4** death: *He's nearing his ~*, is dying. **5** purpose, aim: *gain/win/achieve one's ~(s); with this ~ in view; for/to this ~.*

end² /end/ vi, vt (cause to) come to an end; reach an end: *The road ~s here. How does the story ~? Let's ~ with some slow music.* **end up**, finish: *If you steal, you'll ~ up in prison*, will one day be sent to prison. *We started with soup, and had fruit to ~ up with.* **end it all**, (informal) kill oneself.

ending, last part, esp of a word or a story.

en-dan-ger /'mdeɪndʒə(r)/ vt put in danger; cause danger to: *~ one's chances of success.*

en-dear /'ɪndɪə(r)/ vt make dear or precious: *~ oneself to everyone; an ~ing smile.*

en-dear-ing-ly adv

en-dear-ment n [C,U] act, word, expression, of affection: *a term of ~ment, eg darling.*

en-deav-our (US = -vor) /'ɪndevə(r)/ n [C] (formal) effort (the usual word): *Please make every ~ to be early.* □ vi try (the usual word): *~ to please one's wife.*

en-demic /'ɛndemɪk/ n [C], adj (disease) often recurring in a country or area, or among a particular class of people, eg miners. □ epidemic.

en-dive /'endɪv/ US: -darv/ n [C] kind of curly-leaved chicory, used as salad.

end-less /'ɛndlɪs/ adj having no end; never stopping: *a woman with ~ patience.*

end-less-ly adv

en-dorse /'ɪndɔ:s/ vt **1** write one's name on the back of (a cheque). **2** write comments, etc in, on the back of, (a document): *His driving licence has been ~d, a record of a motoring of-*

fence has been entered in it. **3** approve, support, a claim, statement, etc.

en-dorse-ment n [C,U]

en-dow /'ɪndəʊ/ vt **1** give money, property, etc to provide a regular income for (eg a college). **2** be endowed with, be born with (qualities, etc): *be ~ed by nature with great talents.*

en-dow-ment /'ɪndəʊmənt/ n **1** [U] endowing. **2** [C] money, property, etc given to (a college, etc) provide an income. **3** [C] (formal) talent.

en-dur-ance /'ɪndʒʊərəns/ US: -duə- / n [U] ability to endure: *He showed remarkable powers of ~.* **past/beyond endurance**, to an extent that can no longer be endured.

en-durance test, test of how long a person or thing can put up with suffering, working hard, loneliness, etc.

en-dure /'ɪndʒʊə(r)/ US: -duə- / vt, vi **1** suffer pain, hardship, etc: *If help does not come, we must ~ to the end*, suffer until death comes. **2** = bear² (6) (which is more usual.) **3** last; continue in existence: *fame that will ~ for ever.*

en-dur-able /-əbl/ adj able to endure.

en-dur-ing adj lasting: *an enduring peace.*

en-dur-ing-ly adv

end-ways /'ɛndweɪz/ (also -wise /-waɪz/) adv with the end towards the spectator; end forward; end to end.

en-ema /'ɛnəmə/ n [C] (syringe used for an injection of liquid into the rectum.

en-emy /'ɛnəmi/ n [C] (pl -ies) **1** person who feels hatred and tries or wishes to harm or attack: *A successful man often has many enemies.*

2 the ~, armed forces of a nation with which one's country is at war; *The ~ were forced to retreat.* **3** (used as an adjective) of the enemy: *~ aircraft/ships.* **4** anything that harms or injures: *Laziness is his chief ~.*

en-er-getic /'ɛnədʒetɪk/ adj having, done with, energy (1).

en-er-geti-cally /-kli/ adv

en-ergy /'ɛnədʒi/ n (pl -ies) **1** [U] force, strength; capacity to do things and get things done: *He had so much ~ that he did the work of three men.* He's full of ~. **2** (pl) (person's) powers available for working, or as used in working: *apply/devote all one's energies to a task.* **3** [U] capacity for, power of, doing work: *electrical ~.*

en-er-vate /'ɛnəveɪt/ vt (formal) cause to lose physical or moral strength: *a country with an enervating climate.*

en-fold /'ɪnfəʊld/ vt enclose (in one's arms).

en-force /'ɪnfɔ:s/ vt **1** compel obedience to; impose: *~ discipline/silence.* **2** give strength to: *Have you any statistics that would ~ your argument?*

en-force-able /-əbl/ adj capable of being enforced.

en-force-ment n [U]

en-fran-chise /'ɪfræntʃaɪz/ vt **1** give political rights to (esp, the right to vote at par-

liamentary elections): *In Great Britain women were ~d in 1918.* **2** set free (slaves).

en-gage /ɪn'geɪdʒ/ *vt, vi* **1** obtain the right to marry: ~ him as a guide/an interpreter. **2** **en-gage in**, take part in; busy oneself with: ~ in politics. **be engaged (in)**, be busy (with), be occupied; take part in: *be ~d in business/in writing a novel.* **3** promise, agree, to marry: *Tom and Anne are ~d. Tom is ~d to Anne.* **4** (formal) attract: *Nothing ~s his attention for long.* **5** attack; begin fighting with: *The general did not ~ the enemy.* **6** (of parts of a machine) lock together; (cause to) fit into: *The teeth of one wheel ~ with those of the other.*

en-gaged *adj* (of a telephone line) in use: *The ~d tone you can hear means that someone else is using the line.*

en-gag-ing *adj* attractive; charming: *an en-gaging smile/manner.*

en-gag-ingly *adv*

en-gage-ment /ɪn'geɪdʒmənt/ *n* [C] **1** agreement to marry: *Their ~ was announced in the papers.* **2** arrangement to go somewhere, meet someone or do something, at a fixed time: *I can't come because of another ~.* **3** battle: *The admiral tried to bring about an ~, to make the enemy fight.* **4** [C, U] engaging (of part of a machine, etc): ~ of first gear.

engagement ring, one given by a man to a woman when they agree to marry.

en-gen-der /ɪn'dʒendə(r)/ *vt* (formal) be the cause of: *Crime is often ~ed by poverty.*

en-gine /'endʒɪn/ *n* [C] machine that converts energy into power or motion: *a 'steam-~; a new ~ for a motor-vehicle.*

'engine-driver, (esp) man who drives a railway engine.

en-gin-eer /'endʒɪniə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who designs machines, bridges, railways, docks, etc: *a civil/electrical ~.* **2** skilled and trained person in control of an engine or engines: *the chief ~ of a ship.* **3** member of the branch of an army (called the *E~s*) that builds roads and bridges, controls communications, etc. □ *vt, vi* **1** act, construct or control as an engineer. **2** (formal) arrange or bring about skilfully: ~ a scheme/plot.

en-gin-eer-ing, the technology, work or profession of an engineer.

Eng-lish /'ɪŋɡlɪʃ/ *n* **1** the English language. **2** the ~, English people. □ *adj* **1** of England. **2** of, written in, spoken in, the English language.

Eng-lish-man, man born in England.

Eng-lish-woman, woman born in England.

en-grave /ɪn'greɪv/ *vt* **1** cut or carve (lines, words, designs, on) a hard surface: *a name ~d on a tombstone.* **2** **engrave with**, mark such surfaces with (an inscription, etc). **3** (fig) impress deeply (on the memory or mind).

en-graver, person who engraves designs, etc on stone, metal, etc.

en-grav-ing, (a) [U] art of cutting or carving designs on metal, stone, etc. (b) [C] copy of a picture, design, etc printed from an engraved

plate.

en-gross /ɪn'grəʊs/ *vt* take up all the time or attention of: *He's ~ed in his work/a book.*

en-gulf /ɪn'ɡʌlf/ *vt* swallow up (as in a gulf): *a boat ~ed in the sea/waves.*

en-hance /ɪn'hɑːns/ *US: -hæns/ vt* add to (the value, attraction, powers, price, etc).

enigma /ɪ'nɪgmə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) question, person, thing, circumstance, that is puzzling.

enig-matic /ɪ'nɪgmætɪk/ *adj* difficult to understand; mysterious.

enig-mati-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

en-joy /ɪn'dʒɔɪ/ *vt* **1** get pleasure from; take delight in: ~ one's dinner. **2** have as an advantage or benefit: ~ good health/a good income. **3** **enjoy oneself**, experience pleasure; be happy.

en-joy-able /-əbl/ *adj* giving joy; pleasant: *an ~able meal/evening.*

en-joy-ably /-əblɪ/ *adv*

en-joy-ment /ɪn'dʒɔɪmənt/ *n* **1** [U] pleasure; joy; satisfaction: *to think only of/life for ~.* **2** [U] (formal) possession and use: *be in the ~ of good health.* **3** [C] something that gives joy and pleasure.

en-large /ɪn'lɑːdʒ/ *vt, vi* **1** make or become larger: ~ a photograph/one's house. **2** (formal) say or write more about: *I need not ~ on this matter; you all know my views.*

en-large-ment *n* [C, U]

en-light-en /ɪn'laitn/ *vt* give more knowledge to; free from ignorance, misunderstanding or false beliefs: *Can you ~ me on this subject, help me to understand it better?*

en-light-ened *adj* free from ignorance, prejudice, superstition, etc: *in these ~ed days.*

en-light-en-ment *n* [U] enlightening or being enlightened: *for the ~ment of mankind.*

en-list /ɪn'lɪst/ *vt, vi* **1** take into, enter, the armed forces: ~ a recruit; ~ as a volunteer in the army. **2** (formal) obtain; get the support of: *Can I ~ your help in a charitable cause?*

en-list-ment *n* [C, U]

en-liven /ɪn'laɪvn/ *vt* make (more) lively: *How can we ~ the party?*

en-mity /ɪn'mɪti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] hatred. **2** [C] particular feeling of hatred.

enor-mity /ɪ'nɔːməti/ *n* (pl -ies) (formal) **1** [U] great wickedness: *Does he realize the ~ of his offence?* **2** [C] serious crime. **3** immense size: *the ~ of the problem of feeding the world's population in 2000 AD.*

enor-mous /ɪ'nɔːməs/ *adj* very great; immense: *an ~ sum of money.*

enor-mous-ly *adv* to a great extent: *The town has changed ~ly. I'm ~ly grateful.*

enough /ɪ'nʌf/ *n, adj, adv* (quantity or numbers) as great as is needed; as much or as many as necessary: *There's ~ food/food ~ for everybody. Will £5 be ~ for you/ to meet your needs? (Note: as an adjective 'enough' may either precede or follow a noun; as a noun it occurs in the pattern: ~ (of the/this/that)/his, etc + noun.)* ⇒ fair². □ *adj* **1** to the right or

necessary degree; sufficiently: *The meat is not cooked ~. You're old ~ to know better.* **2** adequate (but sometimes used to suggest something could be better, etc): *She sings well ~, but ~ oddly/curiously/strangely ~, in a way that is odd, etc.* ⇨ *sure adv* (1).

enquire, enquiry /ɪn'kwaɪə(r), ɪn'kwaɪəri/ *v*, *n* ⇨ *inquire, inquiry*.

enrage /ɪn'reɪdʒ/ *vt* fill with rage: *~d at/by his stupidity.*

en-rap-ture /ɪn'ræptʃə(r)/ *vt* (formal) fill with great delight or joy.

en-rich /ɪn'ri:tʃ/ *vt* make rich; improve in quality, flavour, etc: *~ the mind (with knowledge); soil ~ed with manure.*

en-rich-ment *n* [C,U]

en-roll, en-rol /ɪn'raʊl/ *vt, vi* (cause to) become a member of a society or institute: *to ~ in evening classes; to ~ (a person) as a member of a society/club.*

en-roll-ment *n* [C,U]: *a school with an ~ment of 800 pupils.*

en route /ə:n 'ru:t/ *US: ɔn 'raʊt/ adv* on the way: *We stopped at Paris ~ from Rome to London.*

en-semble /ə:n'sɑ:mbəl *US: ɔn'sɒmbəl/ n* [C] **1** something viewed as a whole; general effect.

2 (music) passage of music in which all the performers unite; group of musicians who play together regularly (smaller than an orchestra).

en-shrine /ɪn'ʃraɪn/ *vt* (formal) place or keep in, or as in, a shrine; serve as a shrine for: *basic human rights ~d in the constitution.*

en-sign /'ɛnsaɪn/ *n* [C] **1** naval flag or banner. **2** badge or symbol (of office, authority).

en-slave /ɪn'sleɪv/ *vt* make a slave of.

en-slave-ment *n* [U]

en-snare /ɪn'sneə(r)/ *vt* catch in, or as in, a snare or trap.

en-sue /ɪn'sju:/ *US: -'su:/ vi* happen later; follow, happen as a result: *in the ensuing (= next) year.*

en-sure (*US = in-sure*) /ɪn'ʃʊə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** make sure; guarantee: *I can't ~ that he will be there in time.* **2** make safe: *We ~d (ourselves) against possible disappointment.* **3** secure; assure: *These documents ~ to you the authority you need.*

-ent /-ənt/ *suffix* ⇨ -ant.

en-tail /ɪn'teɪl/ *vt* **1** make necessary: *That will ~ an early start.* **2** (legal) leave (land) to a line of heirs so that none of them can give it away or sell it. *n* [U] settlement of landed property in this way; [C] the property.

en-tangle /ɪn'tæŋgl/ *vt* **1** catch in a snare or among obstacles: *My fishing line got ~d in weeds.* **2** (fig) put or get into difficulties, in unfavourable circumstances: *entangling oneself with money-lenders.*

en-tangle-ment, (a) [U] entangling or being entangled; [C] situation that entangles: *emotional ~ments.* (b) (pl) barrier of stakes and barbed wire to prevent an enemy's advance.

en-tente /ə:n'tɑ:nt *US: ɔn'tɒnt/ n* [C] (group of States with a) friendly understanding.

en-tente, cordi-ale /kɔ:di'ɑ:l/, one between two governments.

en-ter /'entə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** come or go into: *The train ~ed a tunnel.* **2** become a member of; join: *~ university.* **3 enter into sth (with sb)**, begin, open: *~ into negotiations with a business firm.* **4** (esp) make a start on: *~ on/upon a new career/another term of office.* **5** write, record names, details, etc in a book, etc: *~ (up) an item in the accounts.* **6** give the name of a person, etc for a competition, race, etc: *~ oneself for an examination; ~ a horse for the Derby.*

en-ter-prise /'entəpraɪz/ *n* **1** [C] undertaking, esp one that needs courage or boldness or that offers difficulty. **2** [U] courage and willingness to engage in such projects: *He is a man of great ~.* **3** [U] carrying on of commercial projects: *Do you prefer private ~ to nationalization of major industries?*

en-ter-pris-ing *adj* having, showing, enterprise(2).

en-ter-tain /'entəteɪn/ *vt* **1** receive (people) as guests; give food and drink to: *The Smiths ~ a great deal/do a great deal of ~ing*, often give parties, etc. **2** amuse, interest: *We were all ~ed by his tricks.* **3** be ready to consider: *~ a proposal; have in the mind: ~ ideas, doubts.*

en-ter-tainer, person who entertains(2), eg a singer, comedian.

en-ter-tain-ing *adj* pleasing; amusing.

en-ter-tain-ment /'entəteɪnmənt/ *n* **1** [U] entertaining or being entertained(1,2): *a hotel famous for its ~. He fell into the water, much to the ~ of the onlookers.* **2** [C] performance (at a theatre, circus, etc).

en-thral (also, esp *US en-thrall*) /ɪn'θrəl/ *vt* (-ll-) **1** take the whole attention of; please greatly: *~led by an exciting story.* **2** greatly attract: *~led by a woman's beauty.*

en-throne /ɪn'θraʊn/ *vt* place a king or bishop on a throne.

en-throne-ment *n* [C,U]

en-thuse /ɪn'θju:z *US: -'θu:z/ vi* (informal) show great enthusiasm for: *enthusing over the new carpets.*

en-thusi-asm /ɪn'θju:zɪæzəm *US: -'θu:z/ n* [U] strong feeling of admiration or interest: *arouse ~ in him; feel no ~ for/about the play; an outburst of ~.*

en-thusi-ast /ɪn'θju:zɪəst *US: -'θu:z/ n* [C] person filled with enthusiasm: *a ~ sports ~/~ for sports.*

en-thusi-astic /ɪn'θju:zɪ'æstɪk *US: -'θu:z/ adj* full of enthusiasm: *~ fans of a pop star.*

en-thusi-asti-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

en-tice /ɪn'taɪs/ *vt* tempt or persuade: *~ her into doing something/to do something wrong.*

en-tice-ment *n* [C,U]

en-tire /ɪn'taɪə(r)/ *adj* whole, complete; unbroken: *She was in ~ ignorance of what was being done.*

en-tire-ly *adv* completely: *~ly wrong/different.*

en-tire-ty /ɪn'taɪərti/ *n* [U] completeness: *We must examine the question in its ~ty, as a whole, not in parts only.*

en-title /ɪn'taɪtl/ *vt* **1** have as a title: *a book ~d 'Adam Bede'.* **2** (of conditions, circumstances, qualities, etc) give a right (to): *If you fail three times, you are not ~d to try any more.*

en-title-ment *n* [U]

en-tity /'entəti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [C] something that has real existence; a thing's existence (contrasted with its qualities, relations, etc). **2** [U] being; existence.

en-to-mo-logi-cal /ɛntəmə'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* of entomology.

en-to-mol-ogist /ɛntə'mɒlədʒɪst/ *n* [C] student of, expert in, entomology.

ento-mol-ogy /ɛntə'mɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] the study of insects.

en-tour-age /ɒntu'rɑ:ʒ/ *n* [C] all those accompanying and attending on an important or high-ranking person: *the Emir and his ~.*

en-trails /'entreɪlz/ *n pl* bowels; intestines.

en-trance¹ /'entræns/ *n* **1** [C] opening, gate, door, passage, etc by which one enters: *The ~ to the cave had been blocked up.* **2** [C, U] coming or going in; coming of an actor on to the stage: *the university ~ examination. Actors must learn their ~s and exits, when to come on and leave the stage.* **3** [C, U] right of entering: *to be refused ~.*

en-trance² /ɪn'træns/ *US: -træns/ vt* overcome, carry away, as in a dream, with pleasure: *~d with the music. She stood ~d at the sight.*

en-trant /'entrænt/ *n* [C] person who enters to a profession, for a competition, race, etc.

en-treat /ɪn'treɪt/ *vt* ask earnestly: *I ~ you to show mercy.*

en-treaty /ɪn'treɪti/ *n* [C, U] (*pl* -ies) earnest request(ing): *He was deaf to all entreaties.*

en-trée /'ɑ:ntreɪ/ *US: 'ɒntreɪ/ n* **1** [U] right or privilege of admission. **2** [C] dish served between the fish and the meat course.

en-trench /ɪn'trentʃ/ *vt* **1** surround or protect with a trench or trenches. **2** establish firmly: *customs ~ed by tradition.*

entre-pre-neur /ɑ:ntɹəprə'nɜ:(r)/ *n* [C] person who organizes and manages a commercial undertaking.

en-trust /ɪn'trʌst/ *vt* (*formal*) trust a person to complete or look after something: *Can I ~ the task to you/ ~ you with the task?*

en-try /'entri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** coming or going in: *Thieves had forced an ~ into the building.* **2** (place of) entrance; right of entering. **3** item in, section of, a list; item noted in an account book: *dictionary entries; make an ~ in the accounts.* **4** (list, number, of) persons, etc entering for a competition: *a large ~ for the examination/for the race.*

enu-mer-ate /'ɛnju:məreɪt/ *US: 'ɪnu:-/ vt* count, go through, (a list of articles) naming

them one by one.

enu-mer-ation /ɪnju:mə'reɪʃn/ *US: 'ɪnu:-/ n* [U] enumerating; [C] list.

enun-ci-ate /ɪ'nʌnsiət/ *vt, vi* **1** say, pronounce, (words): *He ~s (his words) clearly.* **2** express a theory, etc clearly or definitely.

enun-ci-ation /ɪ'nʌnsi'eɪʃn/ *n* [U]

en-vel-op /ɛn'veləp/ *vt* wrap up, cover, on all sides: *hills ~ed in mist.*

en-vel-op-ment *n* [U]

en-vel-ope /'envələʊp/ *n* [C] paper wrapper or covering for a letter, etc.

en-vi-able /'enviəbl/ *adj* likely to cause envy (used both of the object and the person, etc, possessing it): *an ~ school record, one of great success, etc.*

en-vi-ous /'enviəs/ *adj* full of, feeling, expressing, envy: *~ of her success; ~ looks; looking at it with ~ eyes.*

en-vi-ous-ly *adv*

en-vi-ron-ment /ɪn'vaɪərənmənt/ *n* (*collective sing*) surroundings, circumstances, influences: *suffer from a bad home ~.*

Department of the En-vironment, (in GB) department responsible for land planning, construction industries, transport, preservation of public amenities, control of air and water pollution, the protection of the coast and the countryside.

en-vi-ron-mental /ɪn'vaɪərənmentl/ *adj*

en-virons /ɪn'vaɪənz/ *n pl* districts surrounding a town, etc: *Berlin and its ~.*

en-vis-age /ɪn'vɪzɪdʒ/ *vt* face danger, facts, etc; picture in the mind (esp a particular aspect); expect: *He had not ~d seeing her again.*

en-voy /'envɔɪ/ *n* [C] **1** messenger, esp one sent on a special mission. **2** diplomatic agent next in rank below an ambassador.

envy¹ /'envɪ/ *n* [U] **1** feeling of jealous resentment (at another's better fortune): *He was filled with ~ at my success.* **2** object of such feeling: *His splendid new car was the ~ of all his friends/an object of ~ to all his friends.*

envy² /'envɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) feel envy of: *I ~ you. I ~ your good fortune.*

en-zy-me /'enzaim/ *n* [C] organic chemical substance formed in living cells, able to cause changes in other substances without being changed itself.

ep-aulet (also **ep-aulet-ette**) /'epaʊlɛt/ *n* [C] ornamental strip of cloth on the shoulder of a military officer's uniform.

épée /'eɪpeɪ/ *n* [C] sharp-pointed slender sword used in fencing.

ephe-mer-al /ɪ'femərəl/ *adj* living, lasting, for a very short time.

epic /'epɪk/ *n* [C], *adj* **1** (poetic account) of the deeds of one or more great heroes, or of a nation's past history, eg Homer's *Iliad*. **2** (of a) film made using large crowds and many locations.

epi-demic /'epɪdemɪk/ *n* [C], *adj* (disease) spreading rapidly among many people in the same place for a time: *a flu ~. ⇨ endemic.*

epi-der-mis /'epɪdɜːmɪs/ *n* [U] (*anat*) outer layer of the skin.

epi-glot-tis /'epɪ'glɒtɪs/ *n* [C] (*anat*) structure of tissue at the root of the tongue, lowered during swallowing to prevent food, etc from entering the windpipe.

epi-gram /'epɪgræm/ *n* [C] short poem or saying expressing an idea in a clever and amusing way.

epi-gram-matic /'epɪgrə'mætɪk/ *adj*

epi-lepsy /'epɪlepsi/ *n* [U] nervous disease causing a person to fall unconscious (often with violent involuntary movements).

epi-lep-tic /'epɪleptɪk/ *adj* of epilepsy: *an ~ fit*. □ *n* [C] person suffering from epilepsy.

epi-logue (US = **-log**) /'epɪlɒg/ *n* [C] last part of a literary work, esp a poem spoken by an actor at the end of a play.

epi-sode /'epɪsəʊd/ *n* [C] (description of) one event in a chain of events.

epi-sodic /'epɪsɒdɪk/ *adj*

epistle /'ɪpɪsl/ *n* [C] (*old use*) letter. **the E~s**, letters included in the New Testament, written by the Apostles.

epi-taph /'epɪtəf/ *n* [C] words (describing a dead person), usually cut on a tombstone.

epi-thet /'epɪθet/ *n* [C] adjective or phrase used to describe the character of a person or thing, as in 'Alfred the Great'.

epit-ome /'ɪpɪtəmi/ *n* [C] **1** short summary of a book, speech, etc. **2** something which shows, on a small scale, the characteristics of a much larger thing.

epit-om-ize (also **-ise**) /'ɪpɪtəmaɪz/ *vt* make or be an epitome of.

ep-och /'ɪpɒk/ *US*: /'epək/ *n* [C] (beginning of) a period of time in history, life, etc marked by special events or characteristics: *Einstein's theory marked a new ~ in mathematics.*

equal /'iːkwəl/ *adj* **1** the same in size, amount, number, degree, value, etc: *~ pay for ~ work*; *~ opportunity*; *divide it into two ~ parts*; *two boys of ~ height*. **2 equal to**, having strength, courage, ability, etc for: *She was ~ to the occasion*, was able to deal with it. □ *n* [C] person or thing equal to another: *Is he your ~ in strength?* □ *vt* (-ll-, US also -l-) *be equal to*: *He ~s me in strength but not in intelligence.*

equally /'iːkwəli/ *adv* in an equal manner; in equal shares: *~ly clever*. *Divide it ~ly.*

equal-ity /'iːkwələti/ *n* [U] the state of being equal: *social/sexual ~ity*.

equal-ize (also **-ise**) /'iːkwəlaɪz/ *vt* make equal: *Liverpool were losing by one goal to nil but ~d (= scored) in the last minute*. Hence, **equal-izer** (also **-iser**) *n* the goal scored.

equal-iz-ation (also **-isation**) /'iːkwəlaɪzɪʃn/ *US*: /-lɪz-ɪʃn/ *n* [U]

equa-nim-ity /'ekwə'nɪməti/ *n* [U] (*formal*) calmness of mind or temper: *bear misfortune with ~.*

equate /'iːkwet/ *vt* consider, treat (one thing as being equal): *I ~ happiness with health.*

equa-tion /'iːkweɪʃn/ *n* **1** [C] statement of equality between two expressions by the sign (=) as in: $2x + 5 = 11$. **2** [U] making equal, balancing, eg of demand and supply.

equa-tor /'iːkwetə(r)/ *n* (often **the E~**) (region near an) imaginary line around the Earth, or drawn on maps, at an equal distance from the north and south poles.

equa-tor-ial /'ekwətəːriəl/ *adj* of or near the equator: *equatorial Africa.*

equerry /'ekwəri/ *n* [C] (*pl -ies*) **1** officer in the court of a ruler. **2** officer in attendance on a member of the royal family.

eques-trian /'iːkwestriən/ *adj* of horse-riding: *~ skill*. □ *n* [C] person clever at horse-riding: *an ~ performer.*

equi- /'iːkwɪ-/ *prefix* equal, the same: *equi-valent.*

equi-dis-tant /'iːkwɪ'dɪstənt/ *adj* separated by equal distance(s) (*from*).

equi-lat-eral /'iːkwɪ'lætərəl/ *adj* having all sides equal: *an ~ triangle.*

equi-lib-rium /'iːkwɪ'libriəm/ *n* [U] state of being balanced: *maintain/lose one's ~.*

equine /'ekwaɪn/ *adj* of, like, a horse; of horses.

equi-nox /'iːkwɪnɒks/ *n* [C] time of the year at which the sun crosses the equator and when day and night are of equal length: *the spring (= vernal) ~, 20 Mar; the autumnal ~, 22 or 23 Sept.*

equip /'iːkwɪp/ *vt* (-pp-) supply (a person, oneself, a ship, etc) (with what is needed, for a purpose): *~ oneself for a task*; *~ a ship for a voyage*; *~ soldiers with uniforms and weapons.*

equip-ment, (**a**) equipping or being equipped: *The ~ment of his laboratory took time and money.* (**b**) (collective noun) things needed for a particular purpose: *'radar ~ment.*

equi-table /'ekwɪtəbl/ *adj* fair; just; reasonable.

equi-tably /'əbli/ *adv*

equity /'ekwəti/ *n* **1** [U] fairness; right judgement. **2** [U] (esp, English law) principles of justice outside common law or Statute law, used to correct laws when these would apply unfairly in special circumstances. **3** (*pl*) (-ies) ordinary stocks and shares not bearing fixed interest.

equiv-al-ent /'iːkwɪvələnt/ *adj* equal in value, amount, meaning: *What is \$5 ~ to in French francs?* □ *n* [C] thing that is equivalent: *Is there a French word that is the exact ~ of the English word 'home'?*

equiv-o-cal /'iːkwɪvəkl/ *adj* having a double or doubtful meaning; open to doubt: *an ~ reply.*

-er /-ə(r)/ *suffix* **1** (*verb* + ~ = *noun*) person carrying out the action: *runner*. **2** (*noun* + ~ = *noun*) practiser of: *philosopher*. **3** (also **-r**) (used to form a comparative): *stronger*; *rarer*.

era /'ɪərə/ *n* [C] period in history, starting from a particular time or event: *the Christian ~.*

eradi-cate /'rædikeɪt/ *vt* **1** pull up by the roots. **2** destroy or put an end to: ~ *crime/typhoid fever*.

eradi-ca-tion /ɪ'rædɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U]

erase /'reɪz *US*: 'reɪs/ *vt* rub or scrape out: ~ *pencil marks*.

eraser, thing used to erase.

erect¹ /'rekt/ *adj* upright; standing on end: *stand ~*.

erect-ly *adv*

erect-ness *n* [U]

erect² /'rekt/ *vt* **1** build, set up; establish: ~ *a statue (to somebody)*; ~ *a tent*. **2** set upright: ~ *a flagstaff/a mast*.

erec-tion /'rekʃn/ *n* **1** [U] act of erecting; state of being erected. **2** [C] building or other structure erected.

er-mine /'ɜ:mɪn/ *n* **1** [C] small animal whose fur is brown in summer and white (except for its black-pointed tail) in winter. **2** [U] its fur; clothing made of this fur: *dressed in ~*; *a gown trimmed with ~*.

erode /'rəʊd/ *vt* (of acids, rain, etc) wear away; eat into: *Metals are ~d by acids*.

ero-sion /'rəʊʒn/ *n*, eroding or being eroded: *soil erosion*, by wind and rain.

ero-sive /'rəʊsɪv/ *adj*

erotic /'rəʊtɪk/ *adj* of sexual love or desire.

err /ɜ:(r) *US*: eər/ *vi* make mistakes; do or be wrong: *It is better to ~ on the side of mercy*, to be too merciful than too severe.

er-rand /'erənd/ *n* [C] **1** short journey to take or get something, eg a message, goods from a shop: *to go on/run ~s for him*. **2** purpose of such a journey.

er-ratic /'ɪrætɪk/ *adj* **1** (of a person or his behaviour) likely to do unusual or unexpected things. **2** (of things) uncertain in movement; irregular.

er-rati-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

er-roneous /'ɪrəniəs/ *adj* incorrect; mistaken.

er-roneous-ly *adv*

er-ror /'ɛrə(r)/ *n* **1** [C] mistake: *spelling ~s*; *an ~ of judgement*. **2** [U] condition of being wrong in belief or conduct: *do something in ~*, by mistake.

eru-dite /'erədaɪt/ *adj* (formal) having, showing, great learning; scholarly.

eru-dite-ly *adv*

erupt /'ɪrʌpt/ *vi* **1** (of a volcano) burst or break out (suddenly) (with hot lava, etc). **2** break out suddenly or violently: ~ *with anger/cheering/into a painful rash*.

erup-tion /'ɪrʌpʃn/, (a) outbreak of a volcano: ~ions of *ashes* and *lava*. (b) (fig) outbreak (of war, disease, anger, etc).

es-ca-late /'eskəleɪt/ *vt, vi* increase in intensity or extent (eg a war).

es-ca-la-tion /'eskə'leɪʃn/ *n* [U]

es-ca-la-tor /'eskəleɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] moving stairway carrying people up or down between floors or different levels.

es-ca-pade /'eskəpeɪd/ *n* [C] daring, mis-

chievous or adventurous act, often one causing gossip or trouble.

es-cape¹ /'ɪskeɪp/ *n* **1** [C, U] (act of) escaping; fact of having escaped: *There have been very few successful ~s from this prison*. **2** [C] means of escape: *a ~ fire-~*. **3** [C] (something that provides) temporary distraction from reality or dull routine (eg through music, reading).

es-cap-ism /-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] avoidance of unpleasant realities by escaping into a more pleasant world of imagination.

es-cap-ist /-ɪst/, person, thing, doing this: *escapist literature*.

es-cape² /'ɪskeɪp/ *vi, vt* **1** get free; get away; (of steam, fluids, etc) find a way out: *Two of the prisoners have ~d. Gas is escaping from this hole*. **2** avoid; keep free or safe from: *You were lucky to ~ punishment/to ~ being punished*. **3** be forgotten or unnoticed by: *His name ~s me for the moment*.

escape road, (eg at the bottom of a steep hill) road for a vehicle which is out of control.

es-carp-ment /'ɪska:pment/ *n* [C] steep slope or cliff separating two areas of different levels.

es-chew /'ɪstʃu:/ *vt* (formal) avoid (the usual word): ~ *wine/evil*.

es-cort¹ /'ɛskɔ:t/ *n* [C] **1** one or more persons going with another or others, or with valuable goods, to protect them, or as an honour: *an ~ of soldiers*; *under police ~*. **2** one or more ships, aircraft, etc giving protection or honour: *an ~ of ten destroyers and fifty aircraft*.

es-cort² /'ɪskɔ:t/ *vt* go with as an escort: *a convoy of merchant ships ~ed by destroyers*. *Who will ~ this young lady home?*

esopha-gus (also **oesopha-gus**) /ɪ:'sɒfəgəs/ *n* [C] (pl *-es* or *-gi* /-gaɪ/) passage from the pharynx to the stomach; gullet.

eso-teric /ɪ'sə'terɪk/ *adj* understood by, intended for, only a small circle of disciples or followers.

es-pec-ially /'ɪspeʃli/ *adv* to an exceptional degree; in particular: *She likes the country, ~ in spring*.

espion-age /'ɛspɪənə:ʒ/ *n* [U] practice of spying or using spies.

es-pouse /'ɪspaʊz/ *vt* (formal) **1** give one's support to (a cause, theory, etc). **2** (old use) (of a man) marry.

Es-quire /'ɪskwaɪə(r) *US*: 'es-/ *n* [C] (dated) title of courtesy (used in GB and written *Esq.* esp in the address of a letter after a man's family name instead of *Mr* before it).

-ess /-ɪs, -es/ suffix female: *actress*; *lioness*.

es-say¹ /'eseɪ/ *n* [C] **1** piece of writing on any one subject. **2** testing or trial of the value or nature of something. **3** (formal) attempt.

es-say-ist, writer of essays (1).

es-say² /'ɪseɪ/ *vt, vi* (formal) try; attempt: ~ *a task*.

es-sence /'esns/ *n* **1** [U] that which makes a thing what it is; the inner nature or most important quality of a thing: *Caution is the ~ of*

that man's character. **2** [C,U] extract obtained from a substance by taking out as much of the mass as possible, leaving all its important qualities in concentrated form: *meat ~s*.

es-sen-tial /ɪ'senʃl/ *adj* **1** necessary; most important: *Is wealth ~ to happiness?* **2** of an essence(2): *~ oils*. **3** fundamental: *Being reserved is said to be an ~ part of the English character*. **4** *n* [C] fundamental element: *the ~s of English grammar*.

es-sen-tially /ɪ'senʃli/ *adv* in an essential(3) manner: *We are an ~ly peace-loving people*.

-est /-ɪst/ *suffix* (also **-st**) (used to form a superlative): *fastest; bravest*.

es-tab-lish /ɪ'stæblɪʃ/ *vt* **1** set up, put on a firm foundation: *~ a new state/government/business*. **2** settle, place, a person or oneself in a position, office, place, etc: *We are now comfortably ~ed in our new house*. **3** cause people to accept a belief, claim, custom, etc: *He succeeded in ~ing a claim to the title*. **4** make (a church) national by law.

es-tab-lish-ment /ɪ'stæblɪʃmənt/ *n* **1** [U] establishing or being established: *the ~ of a new state*. **2** [C] that which is established, eg a large organized body of persons (in the army or navy, a civil service, a business firm, with many employees, a hotel and the staff in it). **3** Church E~, the E~, church system established by law. **4** the E~, (GB) those persons in positions of power and authority, whose opinions, way of life, influence public life, etc.

es-tate /ɪ'steɪt/ *n* **1** [C] piece of property in the form of land, esp in the country: *He owns large ~s in Scotland*. ⇨ council estate, housing estate, industrial estate. **2** [U] (legal) a person's whole property. **3** [C] political or social group or class. **4** (old use) condition; stage in life: *the ~ of matrimony*. ⇨ real estate.

e-state agent, person who buys and sells buildings and land for others.

e-state car, saloon-type motor-vehicle with removable or collapsible rear seats and door(s) at the back, for easy loading of luggage, etc.

es-teem /ɪ'sti:m/ *vt* (formal) **1** have a high opinion of; respect greatly: *No one can ~ your father more than I do*. **2** consider; regard: *I shall ~ it a favour if...* **4** *n* [U] (high) regard: *We all hold him in great ~, have a very high opinion of him*.

es-thetic /es'θetik/ ⇨ aesthetic.

es-ti-mable /ɪ'stɪməbl/ *adj* (formal) worthy of great respect.

es-ti-mate¹ /ɪ'stɪmət/ *n* [C] judgement; approximate calculation (of size, cost, etc): *I hope the builders don't exceed their ~. I don't know enough about him to form a true ~ of his abilities*.

es-ti-mate² /ɪ'stɪmət/ *vt, vi* form a judgement about; calculate the cost, value, size, etc of: *They ~d the cost at £8000. We ~ that it would take a month to do it*.

es-ti-ma-tion /ɪ'stɪmeɪʃn/ *n* [U] judgement;

regard; opinion: *in/by my ~; in the ~ of most people*.

es-trange /ɪ'streɪndʒ/ *vt* (formal) bring about a separation in feeling and sympathy: *foolish behaviour that ~d all his friends*.

es-trange-ment *n* [C,U]

es-tu-ary /ɪ'stʃuəri/ *US: -uəri/ n* [C] (pl -ies) (usually long) mouth of a river into which the tide flows: *the Thames ~*.

et cet-era /ɪ't'setərə/ *US: et/ (Latin)* (usually shortened to **etc**) and other things; and so on.

etch /etʃ/ *vt, vi* use a needle and acid to make a picture, etc on a metal plate from which copies may be printed; make (pictures, etc) in this way.

etcher, person who etches.

etch-ing *n* [U] the art of the etcher; [C] etched picture.

eter-nal /ɪ't:nl/ *adj* **1** without beginning or end; lasting for ever: *The Christian religion promises ~ life*. **2** (informal) too frequent: *Stop this ~ chatter*.

eter-nally /-əlɪ/ *adv* (a) throughout all time; for ever. (b) (informal) (too) frequently.

eter-nity /ɪ't:nlɪ/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] time without end; the future life: *send a man to ~, to his death*. **2** [U] (used with a, an) period of time that seems endless: *It seemed an ~ before news of his safety reached her*.

ethic /'eθɪk/ *n* (with a, an) system of moral principles, rules of conduct: *Is thinking only of oneself a good ~ for living?*

ethi-cal /-kl/ *adj*

ethi-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

eth-ics *n pl* (a) (used with a sing verb) science of morals: *E~s is a branch of philosophy*. (b) (used with a pl verb) moral soundness: *The ~s of his decision are doubtful*.

eth-nic /'eθnɪk/, **eth-ni-cal** /-kl/ *adj* of race or the races of mankind.

eth-ni-cally /-ɪklɪ/ *adv*

eth-nogra-pher /eθ'nɒgrəfə(r)/ *n* [C] student of, expert in, ethnography.

eth-no-graphic /eθnə'græfɪk/ *adj* of ethnography.

eth-nogra-phy /eθ'nɒgrəfi/ *n* [U] scientific description of the races of mankind.

eth-no-logi-cal /eθnə'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* of ethnology.

eth-nol-ogist /eθ'nɒlədʒɪst/ *n* [C] student of, expert in, ethnology.

eth-nol-ogy /eθ'nɒlədʒɪ/ *n* [U] science of the races of mankind, their relations to one another, etc.

eti-quette /'etɪket/ *n* [U] rules for formal behaviour among people, or in a class of society or a profession: *medical/legal ~*.

-ette /-et/ *suffix* **1** small: *kitchenette*. **2** female: *usherette*. **3** imitation: *leatherette*.

ety-mol-ogi-cal /ɪ'tɪmə'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* of etymology.

ety-mol-ogist /ɪ'tɪmələdʒɪst/ *n* [C] student of, expert in, etymology.

ety-mol-ogy /ɪ'tɪmələdʒɪ/ *n* [U] science of

the origin and history of words. **2** [C] account of the origin and history of a word.

euca-lyptus /ju:kə'liptəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) sorts of tall evergreen tree (including the Australian gum tree) from which an oil, used for colds, is obtained.

Eu-char-ist /'ju:kərist/ *n* the **E**~, Christian sacrament in which bread and wine are consecrated and taken.

eu-logize (also **-ise**) /'ju:lədʒaɪz/ *vt* (formal) praise highly in speech or writing.

eu-logy /'ju:lədʒi/ *n* [C,U] (*pl* -ies) (speech or writing full of) high praise.

eu-phem-ism /'ju:fə'mizəm/ *n* [C,U] (instance of the) use of less exact but less harsh words or phrases in place of words required by truth or accuracy: 'Pass away' is a ~ for 'die'.

eu-phem-is-tic /ju:fə'mistik/ *adj*

eu-phe-mis-ti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

eu-phoria /ju:'fɔ:riə/ *n* [U] state of well-being and pleasant excitement.

eu-phoric /ju:'fɔ:rik/ *adj*

Euro-pean /jʊərə'piən/ *n, adj* (native) of Europe; (happening) in, extending over, Europe: ~ countries.

Eu-sta-chian tube /ju:stəʃn 'tju:b/ *US*: 'tu:b/ *n* [C] (*anat*) tube connecting the middle ear with the pharynx.

eu-tha-nasia /ju:'ðə'neɪziə/ *US*: -'neɪzə/ *n* [U] (bringing about of an) easy and painless death (for persons suffering from an incurable and painful disease).

evacu-ate /'i:vækjuet/ *vt* **1** (esp of soldiers) withdraw from: ~ a fort/town. **2** remove (a person) from a place or district, eg one considered to be dangerous in time of war: *The women and children were ~d to the country.* **3** empty (a vessel, bowels, etc.)

evacu-ation /i:vækju'eɪʃn/ *n* [U] evacuating or being evacuated; [C] instance of this.

evacuee /i:vækju:'i:/ *n* [C] person who is evacuated(2).

evade /'i:veɪd/ *vt* **1** get or keep out of the way of: ~ a blow/one's enemies/an attack. **2** find a way of not doing something: ~ income tax. **3** avoid answering (fully or honestly): *evading a question.*

evalu-ate /'i:vəljuet/ *vt* find out, decide, the amount or value of.

evalu-ation /i:vəlju'eɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

evan-gelic /i:væn'dʒelɪk/, **evan-geli-cal** /-kl/ *adj* **1** of, according to, the teachings of the Gospel: ~ preaching. **2** (usually evangelical) of the beliefs and teachings of those Protestants who stress the importance of the atoning death of Jesus Christ.

evan-geli-cal-ism /-ɪzəm/ *n* [U]

evan-gel-ist /i:vændʒəlɪst/ *n* [C] **1** one of the writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) of the Gospels. **2** preacher of the Gospel, esp one who travels and holds religious meetings.

evan-gel-is-tic /i:vændʒəlɪstɪk/ *adj*

evap-or-ate /'i:vəpəreɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) change into vapour: *Heat ~s water.* **2** remove

liquid from a substance, eg by heating: ~d milk. **3** disappear; die: *His hopes ~d.*

evap-or-ation /i:vəpə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U]

evas-ion /'i:vəɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] evading: ~ of responsibility. **2** [C] statement, excuse, etc made to evade something; act of evading: *His answers to my questions were all ~s.*

evas-ive /'i:vəɪsɪv/ *adj* tending, trying, to evade: *an ~ answer; take ~ action*, do something in order to evade danger, etc.

evas-ive-ly *adv*

evas-ive-ness *n* [U]

eve /i:v/ *n* [C] day or evening before a Church festival or any date or event; time just before anything: *Christmas E*~, 24 Dec; *New Year's E*~, 31 Dec.

even¹ /'i:vən/ *adj* **1** level; smooth: *The best lawns are perfectly ~.* **2** regular; steady; of unchanging quality: *His ~ breathing showed that he had got over his excitement.* *The quality of work is not very ~.* **3** (of amounts, distances, values) equal: *Our scores are now ~.* **be/get even with somebody**, have one's revenge on him. **break even**, (informal) make neither a profit nor a loss. **4** (of numbers) that can be divided by two: *The pages on the left side of a book have ~ numbers.* **5** equally balanced: ~ money, (betting) with the chance to win the amount betted. **6** (of temper, etc) not easily disturbed or made angry: *an ~-tempered wife.*

even-ly *adv*

even-ness *n* [U]

even² /'i:vən/ *adv* **1** (used to show a comparison between what is stated and what might have happened, been done, etc): *He never ~ opened the letter* (so he certainly did not read it). *It was cold there ~ in July* (so you can imagine how cold it was in winter). *E ~ a child can understand the book* (so adults certainly can). **2 even if/though**, (used to stress the extreme case of what follows): *She won't leave the TV set, ~ though her husband is waiting for his dinner.* **3** (used with comparatives) still, yet: *You know ~ less about it than I do.* *You seem ~ busier than usual today.* **4 even as**, just at the time when: *E ~ as I gave the warning the car skidded.* **even now/then**, in spite of these or those circumstances, etc: *E ~ now he won't believe me.* *E ~ then he would not admit his mistake.* **even'so**, though that is the case: *It has many omissions — ~ so, it is quite a useful reference book.*

even³ /'i:vən/ *vt, vi* **even out**, make or become equal, level: *Whatever advantages he started with, things will ~ out eventually.* **even up**, make equal.

even-ing /'i:vniŋ/ *n* [C] **1** that part of the day between afternoon and nightfall: *two ~s ago; this/tomorrow/yesterday ~;* in the ~; on Sunday ~. **2** (used as an adjective): *an ~ paper*, published after the morning papers.

'evening dress, clothes worn for formal occasions in the evening.

'Evening prayer, Christian church service

held in the evening.

even-song /'i:vnsɒŋ/ US: -sɔ:ŋ/ *n* Evening prayer in the Church of England.

event /'i:vnt/ *n* [C] **1** something (usually important) that happens or has happened: *the chief ~s of 1901. It was quite an ~ (often used to suggest that what happened was unusual, memorable, etc).* **2** fact of a thing happening: *in the ~ of his death, if he dies; in that ~, if that happens.* **in any event**, whatever happens. **3** outcome; result. **4** one of the races, competitions, etc in a sports programme: *Which ~s have you entered for?*

event-ful /-fl/ *adj* full of notable events: *He had an ~ful life.*

event-ual /'i:vntʃuəl/ *adj* coming at last as a result: *his foolish behaviour and ~ failure.*

event-ually /-tʃuəli/ *adv* in the end: *After several attempts he ~ly swam across.*

event-ual-ity /i:vntʃuə'ləti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) event(1,2) that is possible.

ever /'evə(r)/ *adv* **1** (usually in negative sentences and questions, and in sentences expressing doubt or conditions) at any time: *Nothing ~ happens in this village. If you ~ visit London...* **2** (used in questions) at any time up to the present: *Have you ~ been in an aeroplane?* (Note: *ever* is not used in the answer; use either 'Yes, I have' or 'No, never', etc.) **3** (used after a comparative or superlative): *It is raining harder than ~, than it has been doing so far. This is the best work you have ~ done.* **4** continuously; at all times: *~ after; for ~ (and ~); ~ since I was a boy.* **5** (used to stress surprise, uncertainty, etc): *When/Where/How ~ did you lose it? What ~ do you mean?* **6** *Yours ever*, formula for ending a letter (in informal or familiar style).

ever-green /'evəgrɪn/ *n* [C], *adj* (tree, shrub) having green leaves throughout the year: *The pine, cedar and spruce are ~s.* ⇨ deciduous.

ever-last-ing /'evə'lɑ:stɪŋ/ US: -'læst-/ *adj* **1** going on for ever: *~ fame/glorious.* **2** (informal) repeated too often: *I'm tired of him and his ~ complaints.*

the Everlasting, God.

ever-more /'evə'mɔ:(r)/ *adv* for ever.

every /'evri/ *adj* **1** all or each one of: *I have read ~ book (= all the books) on that shelf. Not ~ horse (= Not all horses) can run fast.* ⇨ all¹(1). (Note: when *every* is used attention is directed to the whole; when *each* is used, attention is directed to the unit or individual: *E~ boy in the class (= All the boys) passed the examination. Compare Each boy may have three tries.*) **2** each one of an indefinite number (the emphasis being on the unit, not on the total or whole): *Such things do not happen ~ day.* (Note: not replaceable by *all*.) **3** all possible; complete: *You have ~ reason to be satisfied.* **4** (used with numbers and with *other* and *few*, to indicate recurrence, or intervals in time or space): *There are buses to the station ~ ten minutes. I go there ~ other day/~ three days*

~ few days. **every other**, ⇨ other(4). **every now and then/again**, occasionally; not often. **every time**, (a) always: *Our football team wins ~ time.* (b) whenever: *E~ time I meet him, he asks for money from me.* **in every way; every bit**, in all respects: *This is in ~ way better than that. It's ~ bit as good.*

every-body /'evrɪbɒdi/, **every-one** /'evriwʌn/ *pron* every person: *In a small village ~ knows ~ else.*

every-day /'evri'deɪ/ *adj* happening or used daily; common and familiar: *an ~ occurrence; in his ~ clothes.*

every-thing /'evrɪθɪŋ/ *pron* **1** all things: *Tell me ~ about it.* **2** thing of the greatest importance: *Money means ~ to him.*

every-where /'evriweə(r)/ US: -hwear/ *adv* in, at, to, every place: *I've looked ~ for it.*

evict /'i:vɪkt/ *vt* expel (a tenant) (from a house or land) by authority of the law: *They were ~ed for not paying the rent.*

evic-tion /'i:vɪkʃn/ *n* [C, U]

evidence /'evidəns/ *n* **1** [U] anything that gives a reason for believing, that makes clear or proves, something: *There wasn't enough ~ to prove him guilty. The scientist must produce ~ in support of his theories.* **2** [U or pl] indication, mark, trace: *There was ~/were ~s of glacial action on the rocks.* (**be**) **in evidence**, conspicuous, clearly seen: *He was very much in ~ at the party.*

evi-dent /'evidənt/ *adj* plain and clear to the eyes or mind: *It must be ~ to all of you that...*

evi-dent-ly *adv*

evil /'i:vl/ *adj* **1** wicked, sinful, bad, harmful: *~ men/thoughts.* **2** likely to cause trouble; bringing trouble or misfortune: *an ~ tongue.* **3** *n* **1** [U] sin; doing wrong, the spirit of ~. **2** [C] evil thing; disaster: *War, famine and flood are terrible ~s.* **be/choose the lesser of two evils**, the less harmful of two bad choices.

'evil-doer /-dʊ:(r)/, person who does evil.

'evil-minded, having evil thoughts and desires.

evilly *adv* in an evil way: *He eyed her ~ly.*

evince /'i:vɪns/ *vt* (formal) show that one has a feeling, quality, etc: *a child who ~s great intelligence.*

evoca-tive /'i:vəkətɪv/ *adj* that evokes, or is able to evoke: *~ words, that call up memories, emotions.*

evoke /'i:vəʊk/ *vt* call up, bring out: *~ admiration/surprise/memories of the past.*

evo-ca-tion /'i:vəʊ'keɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

evol-ution /'i:vəʊlu:ʃn/ US: -ev-/ *n* **1** [U] process of opening out or developing: *the ~ of a plant from a seed. The ~ of modern society.* **2** [U] (theory of the) development of more complicated forms of life (plants, animals) from earlier and simpler forms.

evolve /'i:vɒlv/ *vi, vt* (cause to) unfold; develop; be developed, naturally and (usually) gradually: *The American constitution was planned; the British constitution ~d.*

ewe /ju:/ *n* [C] female sheep. ⇨ *ram* (1).

ewer /'ju:ə(r)/ *n* [C] large wide-mouthed pitcher or jug for holding water.

ex- /iks-, eks-, ɪgz-/ *prefix* **1** out (of): *extract*; *ex-directory*. **2** former: *ex-president*.

ex-acer-bate /ɪgz'æsbət/ *vt* (formal) irritate (a person); make pain, disease, a problem, worse.

ex-acer-ba-tion /ɪgz'æsbə'tʃn/ *n* [U]

exact¹ /ɪg'zækt/ *adj* **1** correct in every detail; free from error: *Give me his ~ words. What is the ~ size of the room?* **2** capable of being precise: ~ sciences; an ~ memory.

exact-ly *adv* (a) completely: *Your answer is ~ly right. That's ~ly (= just) what I expected.* (b) (as an answer or confirmation) quite so; just as you say.

exact-ness (also **exacti-tude**) /ɪg'zæktɪtju:d/ *US*: -tu:d/) *n* [U]

exact² /ɪg'zækt/ *vt* **1** demand and get payment of: ~ taxes (from people). **2** (formal) insist on: ~ obedience.

exact-ing *adj* making great demands; severe; strict: an ~ing piece of work.

exag-ger-ate /ɪg'zædʒəreɪt/ *vt, vi* make something seem larger, better, worse, etc than it really is: *You ~ the difficulties. If you always ~, people will no longer believe you.*

exag-ger-ation /ɪg'zædʒə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U] exaggerating or being exaggerated; [C] such a statement: a story full of exaggerations.

exalt /ɪg'zɔ:lt/ *vt* **1** make high(er) in rank, great(er) in power or dignity. **2** praise highly.

exalted *adj* dignified; ennobled: a person of ~ed rank.

exal-ta-tion /ɪg'zɔ:lt'eɪʃn/ *n* [U] (fig) elation; state of spiritual delight.

exam /ɪg'zæm/ *n* (informal abbr of) examination (2).

exam-in-ation /ɪg'zæmɪ'neɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] examining or being examined: *On ~, it was found that the signature was not genuine. The prisoner is still under ~, being questioned.* **2** [C] testing of knowledge or ability: *take an ~ (= be tested) in mathematics; ~ questions/papers; an oral ~.* **3** inquiry into or inspection of something: *an ~ of business accounts; an ~ of one's eyes.* **4** questioning by a lawyer in a law court: *an ~ of a witness.*

exam-ine /ɪg'zæmɪn/ *vt* **1** look at carefully in order to learn about or from: ~ old records; *have one's teeth/eyes ~d.* **2** put questions to in order to test knowledge or get information: ~ pupils in grammar; ~ a witness in a law court.

exam-iner, person who examines.

example /ɪg'zɑ:mpl/ *US*: -zæm-/ *n* [C] **1** fact, thing, etc which represents a general rule: *This dictionary has many ~s of how words are used in sentences.* **for example**, using this or these as typical: *Many great men came from poor families—Lincoln and Edison, for ~.* **2** specimen showing the quality of others in the same group or of the same kind: *This is a good ~ of Shakespeare's sense of humour.* **3** thing or per-

son, person's conduct, to be copied or imitated: *follow her ~; set him a good ~.* **4** acting as a warning: *Let her sorrow be an ~ to you.* **make an example of sb**, punish him as a warning to others.

exas-per-ate /ɪg'zɑ:spəreɪt/ *US*: -zæs-/ *vt* irritate; produce anger, etc in: ~d by/at his stupidity. *It is exasperating to miss a train by half a minute.*

exas-per-ation /ɪg'zɑ:spə'reɪʃn/ *US*: -zæs-/ *n* [U] state of being irritated: *'Stop that noise!'*, he cried out in exasperation.

ex-ca-vate /'ekskeɪvɪt/ *vt* make, uncover, by digging: *excavating for coal*; ~ a trench/a buried city.

ex-ca-va-tion /'ekskeɪ'veɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

ex-ca-va-tor, person engaged in, machine used for, excavating.

ex-ceed /ɪk'si:d/ *vt* **1** be greater than: *Their success ~ed all expectations.* **2** go beyond what is allowed, necessary or advisable: ~ the speed limit, drive faster than is allowed.

exceed-ing-ly *adv* extremely; to an unusual degree: an ~ingly difficult problem.

ex-cel /ɪk'sel/ *vi, vt* (-ll-) **1** do better than others, be very good: *He ~s in courage/as a writer.* **2** do better than: *He ~s all of us in/at tennis.*

ex-cel-lence /'eksələns/ *n* **1** [U] the quality of being excellent: a prize for ~ in French. **2** [C] thing or quality in which a person excels: *They do not recognize her many ~s.*

Ex-cel-lency /'eksələnsɪ/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) title of ambassadors, governors and their wives, and some other officers and officials: *Your/His/Her ~.*

ex-cel-lent /'eksələnt/ *adj* very good; of the highest quality.

ex-cel-lent-ly *adv*

ex-cept¹ /ɪk'sept/ *prep* **1** not including; but not: *He gets up early every day ~ Sunday. Nobody was late ~ me.* (Note: compare *Five others were late besides me*.) **2 except for**, (used when what is excluded is different from what is included): *Your essay is good ~ for the spelling.* **3 except that**, apart from the fact that: *She knew nothing ~ that he was likely to be late.*

ex-cept² /ɪk'sept/ *vt* exclude (from); set apart (from a list, statement, etc): *When I say that the boys are lazy, I ~ Tom.*

ex-cept-ing *prep, conj* (used after *not*, *always* and *without*) leaving out; excluding: *the whole staff, not ~ing the heads of departments.*

ex-cep-tion /ɪk'sepʃn/ *n* **1** [C] person or thing that is not included: *You must all be here at 8am; I can make no ~s. I enjoyed all his novels with the ~ of his last.* **without excep-tion**, with no exceptions. ⇨ also *prove* (1). **2** [C] something that does not follow the rule: ~s to a rule of grammar. **3** [U] objection. **take exception to**, object to, protest against; be offended by: *He took great ~ to what I said.*

ex-cep-tional /ɪk'sepʃnəl/ *adj* unusual:

weather that is ~ for June.

ex-cep-tion-ally *adv* unusually: *She's an ~ly clever girl.*

ex-cerpt /'eksə:pt/ *n* [C] extract from a book, etc.

ex-cess /'iks/ *ses*/ *n* 1 [U] (and in the *sing* with *a*, *an*) fact of being, amount by which something is, more than something else, or more than is expected or proper: *an ~ of enthusiasm*. **in excess of**, more than. 2 [U] **to excess**, to an amount or degree beyond usual limits: *drink to ~*. *She is generous to ~*. 3 (*pl*) personal acts which go beyond the limits of good behaviour, morality or humanity: *The ~es (= acts of cruelty, etc) committed by the troops when they occupied the capital will never be forgotten*. □ *adj* /'eks/ *ses*/ *extra*; additional: *~ fare* [luggage/postage].

ex-cess-ive /'iks/ *ses*/ *adj* too much; too great; extreme: *~ive charges*.

ex-cess-ive-ly *adv*

ex-change¹ /'iks/ *tʃ* *ei* *ndʒ*/ *n* 1 [C, U] (act of) exchanging: *He is giving her French lessons in ~ for English/lessons*. 2 [U] the giving and receiving of the money of one country for that of another; relation in value between kinds of money used in different countries: *the rate of ~ between the dollar and the pound*. 3 [C] place where merchants or financiers meet for business.

the 'Stock Exchange, for the buying and selling of shares, etc.

'telephone exchange, control office where lines are connected.

ex-change² /'iks/ *tʃ* *ei* *ndʒ*/ *vt, vi* give, receive (one thing) in place of another: *~ glances/greetings*. *Mary ~d seats with Anne*.

ex-change-able /-əbəl/ *adj* that may be exchanged (*for*).

ex-chequer /'iks/ *tʃ* *ek* *ə* (r)/ *n* [C] 1 **the E~**, (GB) government department in charge of public money: *Chancellor of the Ex'chequer*, minister at the head of this department (= Minister of Finance in other countries). 2 supply of money (public or private); treasury.

ex-cise¹ /'eks/ *sa* *iz*/ *n* [U] government tax on certain goods manufactured, sold or used within a country: *the ~ on beer/tobacco*; *~ duties*.

ex-cise² /'iks/ *sa* *iz*/ *vt* (*formal*) remove by, or as if by cutting (a part of the body, a passage from a book, etc).

ex-ci-sion /'iks/ *si* *ʒ* *n* [C, U]

ex-cite /'iks/ *sa* *t*/ *vt* 1 stir up the feelings (often of great pleasure) of: *Everybody was ~d by the news of the victory*. *It's nothing to get ~d about*. *Extremists were exciting the people to rebellion/to rebel*. 2 bring about: *~ admiration/envy/affection*; *~ a riot*.

ex-cit-able /'iks/ *sa* *t* *ə* *b* *l*/ *adj* easily excited.

ex-cite-ment /'iks/ *sa* *t* *m* *ə* *n* *t*/ *n* 1 [U] state of being excited: *news that caused great ~*. 2 [C] exciting incident, etc: *He kept calm amid all these ~s*.

ex-claim /'ik/ *s* *kle* *m*/ *vt, vi* cry out suddenly and loudly from pain, anger, surprise, etc; say (the words quoted): *'What!' he ~ed*. *'Are you leaving without me?'*

ex-cla-mation /'eks/ *kle* *me* *i* *n*/ *n* 1 [U] crying out or exclaiming. 2 [C] sudden short cry, expressing surprise, pain, etc: *'Oh!' 'Look out!', and 'Hurrah!' are ~s*.

'excla-mation mark, the mark (!) used in writing to show surprise, extreme feeling.

ex-cla-ma-tory /'ik/ *s* *kle* *m* *ə* *t* *ə* *r*/ *US*: -t^ə *r*/ *adj* using, containing, in the nature of, an exclamation: *an ~ sentence*.

ex-clude /'ik/ *s* *kl* *u* *d*/ *vt* 1 prevent (a person from getting in somewhere): *~ him from membership*. 2 prevent (the chance of something arising): *~ all possibility of doubt*. 3 ignore as irrelevant: *We can ~ (from the reckoning) the possibility that the money won't arrive*.

ex-clu-sion /'ik/ *s* *kl* *u* *z* *n*/ *n* [U] excluding or being excluded (*from*).

ex-clu-s-ive /'ik/ *s* *kl* *u* *s* *i* *v*/ *adj* 1 (of a person) not willing to mix with others (esp those considered to be inferior in social position, education, etc). 2 (of a group or society) not readily admitting new members: *He belongs to the most ~ clubs*. 3 (of a shop, goods sold in it, etc) of the sort not to be found elsewhere; expensive. 4 reserved to the person(s) concerned: *have ~ rights/an ~ agency for the sale of Ford cars in a town; an ~ story/interview*, eg given to only one newspaper. 5 **exclusive of**, not including: *The ship had a crew of 57 ~ of officers*. 6 excluding all but what is mentioned; only: *Teaching has not been his ~ employment*. □ *n* [C] article, report, etc published by only one newspaper.

ex-clu-s-ive-ly *adv*

ex-com-muni-cate /'eks/ *k* *ə* *m* *j* *u* *n* *i* *k* *e* *t*/ *vt* exclude (as a punishment) from the privileges of a member of the Christian Church.

ex-com-muni-ca-tion /'eks/ *k* *ə* *m* *j* *u* *n* *i* *k* *e* *t* *n*/ *n* [C, U]

ex-cre-ment /'eks/ *k* *r* *e* *m* *ə* *n* *t*/ *n* [U] solid waste matter discharged from the bowels.

ex-creta /'ik/ *s* *k* *r* *i* *t* *ə* (r)/ *n pl* waste (excrement, urine, also sweat) expelled from the body.

ex-crete /'ik/ *s* *k* *r* *i* *t*/ *vt* (of an animal or plant) discharge from the system, eg waste matter, sweat.

ex-cre-tion /'ik/ *s* *k* *r* *i* *n*/ *n* [U] excreting; [C, U] that which is excreted.

ex-cru-ciat-ing /'ik/ *s* *k* *r* *u* *j* *i* *e* *t* *i* *ŋ*/ *adj* (of pain, bodily or mental) extreme.

ex-cru-ciat-ing-ly *adv*

ex-cur-sion /'ik/ *s* *k* *u* *r* *ʃ* *n* *US*: -ʒ *n* [C] short (return) journey, esp one made by a number of people together for pleasure: *go on/make an ~ to the mountains; an ~ train*.

ex-cuse¹ /'ik/ *s* *k* *j* *u* *s*/ *n* [C] reason given (true or invented) to explain or defend one's conduct: *He's always making ~s for being late*. **without excuse**: *Those who are absent without (good) ~ will be punished*.

ex-cuse² /ɪk'skjuːz/ *vt* **1** give reasons showing, or intended to show, that a person or his action is not to be blamed: *Please ~ my coming late/ ~ me for being late/ ~ my late arrival.* **2** set free from a duty, punishment, etc: *He was ~d (from) attendance at the lecture.* **3** justify, be a reason for: *His lack of experience does not ~ his bad behaviour.* **4** **Excuse me**, (used as an apology when one interrupts, asks, disagrees, has to behave impolitely or disapprove): *E~ me, but is this seat vacant?*

ex-cus-able /ɪk'skjuːzəbl/ *adj* that may be excused: *an excusable mistake.*

ex-ecu-tant /ɪg'zekjʊtənt/ *n* [C] (formal) person who performs music, etc.

ex-ecute /'eksikjuːt/ *vt* **1** carry out (what one is asked or told to do): *~ a plan/a command/a manoeuvre.* **2** give effect to: *~ a will.* **3** make legally binding: *~ a legal document*, by having it signed, witnessed, sealed and delivered. **4** carry out punishment by death: *~ a murderer.* **5** perform on the stage, at a concert, etc: *The piano sonata was badly ~d.*

ex-ecu-tion /'eksɪ'kjuːʃn/ *n* **1** [U] the carrying out or performance of a piece of work, etc: *His ~ of the plan was unsatisfactory.* **2** [U] skill in performing music: *a pianist with marvellous ~.* **3** [U] infliction of punishment by death; [C] instance of this: *~ by hanging.*

ex-ecu-tioner, public official who executes criminals.

ex-ecu-tive /ɪg'zekjʊtɪv/ *adj* **1** having to do with managing or executing (**1**): *~ duties.* **2** having authority to carry out decisions, laws, decrees, etc: *the ~ branch of the government.* **3** *n* [C] **1** the **E~**, the executive branch of a government. **2** (in the Civil Service) person who carries out what has been planned or decided. **3** person or group in a business or commercial organization with administrative or managerial powers.

ex-ecu-tor /ɪg'zekjʊtə(r)/ *n* [C] person who is appointed to carry out the terms of a will.

ex-ecu-trix /ɪg'zekjʊtrɪks/ *n* [C] woman executor.

ex-emp-lary /ɪg'zempləri/ *adj* serving as an example or a warning: *~ conduct/punishment.*

ex-emp-lify /ɪg'zemplɪfaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) illustrate by example; be an example of.

ex-empt /ɪg'zempt/ *vt* free from (an obligation): *Poor eyesight will ~ you from military service.* *adj* not liable to; free (from): *~ from tax.*

ex-emp-tion /ɪg'zempʃn/ *n* [C, U]

ex-er-cise¹ /'eksəsaɪz/ *n* **1** [U] use or practice (of mental or physical powers, of rights): *Walking, running, rowing and cycling are all healthy forms of ~.* *The ~ of patience is essential in diplomatic negotiations.* **2** [C] activity, drill, etc designed for bodily, mental or spiritual training: *vocal/gymnastic ~s; ~s for the harp/flute; ~s in English composition.* **3** (pl) series of movements for training troops, crews of warships, etc: *military ~s.*

ex-er-cise² /'eksəsaɪz/ *vt, vi* **1** take exercise: give exercise to, ⇨ **exercise**¹ (**1**): *We get fat and lazy if we don't ~ enough.* **2** employ; make use of: *~ patience/one's rights.* **3** trouble; worry the mind of: *The economic problem that is exercising our minds...*

exert /ɪg'zɜːt/ *vt* **1** put forth; bring into use: *~ all one's energy/influence.* **2** make an effort: *~ oneself to arrive early.*

ex-er-tion /ɪg'zɜːʃn/ *US: -ʒn/ n* [U] exerting; [C] instance of this.

ex-hale /eks'heɪl/ *vt, vi* **1** breathe out. **2** give off gas, vapour; be given off (as gas or vapour).

ex-ha-la-tion /'ekshə'leɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

ex-haust¹ /ɪg'zɔːst/ *n* [C, U] (outlet, in an engine or machine, for) steam, vapour, etc that has done its work.

ex-haust-pipe, for releasing gases from a motor-vehicle engine.

ex-haust² /ɪg'zɔːst/ *vt* **1** use up completely: *~ one's patience/strength; ~ oneself by hard work; feeling ~ed, tired out.* **2** make empty: *~ a well; ~ a tube of air.* **3** say, find out, all there is to say about (something): *~ a subject.*

ex-haust-ion /ɪg'zɔːstʃən/ *n* [U] exhausting or being exhausted; total loss of strength: *They were in a state of ~ after climbing the mountain.*

ex-haus-tive /ɪg'zɔːstɪv/ *adj* thorough; complete: *an ~ inquiry.*

ex-hi-bit¹ /ɪg'zɪbɪt/ *n* [C] **1** object or collection of objects, shown publicly, eg in a museum: *Do not touch the ~s.* **2** document, object, etc produced in a law court and referred to in evidence.

ex-hi-bit² /ɪg'zɪbɪt/ *vt* **1** show publicly for sale, in a competition, etc: *~ paintings.* *Mr X ~s in several galleries.* **2** give clear evidence of (a quality): *The girls ~ed great courage during the climb.*

ex-hi-bi-tor, person who exhibits at an art show, flower show, etc.

ex-hi-bi-tion /'eksɪ'bɪʃn/ *n* **1** [C] collection of things shown publicly (eg of works of art); display of commercial or industrial goods for advertisement; public display of animals, plants, flowers, etc (often shown in competition). **2** (sing with the or a, an) act of showing: *an ~ of bad manners; an opportunity for the ~ of one's knowledge.*

ex-hi-bi-tion-ism /'eksɪ'bɪʃənɪzəm/ *n* [U] tendency towards extravagant behaviour designed to attract attention to oneself.

ex-hi-bi-tion-ist /-ɪst/, person who is given to exhibitionism.

ex-hil-ar-ate /ɪg'zɪləreɪt/ *vt* fill with high spirits; make lively or glad: *exhilarating news.*

ex-hil-ar-ation /ɪg'zɪlə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U]

ex-hort /ɪg'zɔːt/ *vt* (formal) urge: *~ her to do good.*

ex-hor-ta-tion /'eksɔː'teɪʃn/ *n* [U] exhorting; [C] earnest request, sermon, etc.

ex-hume /ɪg'zjuːm/ *US: -zuːm/ vt* take out (a

dead body) from the earth (for examination).

ex-hum-ation /eksju:'meiʃn/ *n* [C,U]

ex-ile /'egzail/ *n* 1 [U] being sent away from one's country or home, esp as a punishment: *be/live in ~; go/be sent into ~; after an ~ of ten years.* 2 [C] person who is banished in this way. □ *vt* send into exile.

ex-ist /'ig'zist/ *vi* 1 *be*; have being; be real: *The idea ~s only in the minds of poets. Does life ~ on Mars?* 2 continue living: *We cannot ~ without food and water.*

ex-istence /-əns/ *n* (a) [U] the state of being: *Do you believe in the ~ence of ghosts? This is the oldest skull in ~ence.* (b) (used with a, an) manner of living: *lead a happy ~ence.* (c) all that exists.

ex-ist-ent /-ənt/ *adj* living; being real; actual.

exit /'eksit/ *n* [C] 1 departure of an actor from the stage: *make one's ~, go out or away.* 2 way out, eg from a theatre or cinema. □ *vi* (used as a stage direction) *E~ Macbeth, Macbeth goes off the stage.*

ex-on-er-ate /'ig'zɒnəreit/ *vt* free, release: ~ *him from blame/responsibility.*

ex-on-er-ation /'ig'zɒnə'reiʃn/ *n* [U]

ex-or-bi-tant /'ig'zɔ:bitənt/ *adj* (of a price, charge or demand) much too high or great.

ex-hor-bi-tant-ly *adv*

ex-or-cize, (also **-ise**) /'eksɔ:səiz/ *vt* drive out, eg an evil spirit, by prayers or magic.

ex-or-cism /-sɪzəm/ *n* [C,U] instance of, belief in, exorcizing.

ex-or-cist /-sɪst/, person who performs an exorcism.

ex-otic /'ig'zɒtɪk/ *adj* 1 (of plants, fashions, words, ideas) introduced from another country. 2 foreign or unusual in style; striking or pleasing because colourful, unusual: ~ *birds.*

ex-pand /'ɪk'spænd/ *vt, vi* 1 make or become larger: *Metals ~ when they are heated.* □ *contract*³(1). *Our foreign trade has ~ed during recent years. He ~ed his short story into a novel.* 2 unfold or spread out: *The petals of many flowers ~ in the sunshine.* 3 (of a person) become good-humoured or genial.

ex-panse /'ɪk'spæns/ *n* [C] wide and open area: *the broad ~ of the Pacific; the blue ~ of the sky.*

ex-pan-sion /'ɪk'spænsjən/ *n* 1 [U] expanding or being expanded(1): *the ~ of gases when heated.* 2 [C] enlargement: *The novel was an ~ of his short story.*

ex-pan-sive /'ɪk'spænsɪv/ *adj* 1 able, tending, to expand. 2 (of persons, speech) unreserved, good-humoured.

ex-patri-ate /'eks'pætriət *US: -'peɪt-/ vt* leave one's own country to live abroad; renounce one's citizenship. □ *n* /-riət/ [C] person living outside his own country: *American ~s in Paris.*

ex-pect /'ɪk'spekt/ *vt* 1 think or believe that something will happen or come, that a person will come: *We ~ed you yesterday. 'Will he be*

late?' - 'I ~ so.' They ~ (= require) me to work on Saturdays. 2 **be expecting**, (informal) be pregnant.

ex-pect-ancy /-ənsɪ/ *n* [U] the state of expecting: *with a look/an air of ~ancy; life ~ancy, expected length of life.*

ex-pect-ant /-ənt/ *adj* expecting: *an ~ant mother, woman who is pregnant.* □ *expect*(2).

ex-pec-ta-tion /'ekspek'teɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] expecting; awaiting: *He ate a light lunch in ~ of a good dinner.* 2 (often *pl*) thing that is expected. 3 (*pl*) future prospects, esp something to be inherited: *a young man with great ~s.* 4 [C] years a person is expected to live: *An insurance company can tell you the ~ of life of a man who is 40 years old.*

ex-pedi-ent /'ɪk'spi:diənt/ *adj* likely to be useful or helpful for a purpose; advantageous though contrary to principle: *In times of war governments do things which are ~, not because they want to.* □ *n* [C] necessary plan, action, device, etc.

ex-pedi-ent-ly *adv*

ex-pedi-ence /-əns/, **ex-pedi-ency** /-ənsɪ/ *n* [U] suitability for a purpose; self-interest: *act from expediency, not from principle.*

ex-pedite /'eksprɪdaɪt/ *vt* (formal) help the progress of; speed up (business, etc).

ex-pedi-tion /'eksprɪ'dɪʃn/ *n* 1 [C] (men, ships, etc making a) journey or voyage for a definite purpose: *send a party of men/go on an ~ to the Antarctic.* 2 [U] (formal) promptness; speed.

ex-pedi-tion-ary /-fənəri *US: -fənəri/ adj* of, making up, an expedition.

ex-pedi-tious /'eksprɪ'dɪʃəs/ *adj* (formal) acting quickly; prompt and efficient.

ex-pel /'ɪk'spel/ *vt* (-ll-) 1 send out or away by force: ~ *a boy from school.* 2 force out: ~ *air from the lungs.*

ex-pend /'ɪk'spend/ *vt* 1 spend: ~ *time and care in doing something.* 2 use up: *They had ~ed all their ammunition.*

ex-pend-able /-əbl/ *adj* (esp) that may be sacrificed to achieve a purpose: *The general considered that these troops were ~able.*

ex-pen-di-ture /'ɪk'spendɪtʃə(r)/ *n* 1 [U] spending or using: *the ~ of money on armaments.* 2 [C,U] amount spent or used: *an ~ of £500 on new furniture.*

ex-pense /'ɪk'spens/ *n* 1 [U] spending (of money, time, energy, etc); cost: *I want the best you can supply; you need spare no ~, you need not try to economize.* **at the expense of**, at the cost of: *He became a brilliant scholar, but only at the ~ of his health.* 2 (usually *pl*) money used or needed: *travelling ~s. Illness, holidays and other ~s reduced his bank balance to almost nothing.*

ex-pen-sive /'ɪk'spensɪv/ *adj* causing expense; costing a great deal: *an ~ dress; too ~ for me to buy; an ~ war, with many killed.*

ex-pen-sive-ly *adv*

ex-peri-ence /ɪk'spiəriəns/ *n* 1 [U] process of gaining knowledge or skill by doing and seeing things; knowledge or skill so gained: *Has he had much ~ in work of this sort?* **by/from experience:** *We all learn by/from ~.* 2 [C] event, activity, which has provided experience(1): *She wrote about her ~s in Africa.* 3 [C] event that affects one in some way: *an unpleasant/unusual/delightful ~.* □ *vt* have experience of: *~ pleasure/pain/difficulty.*

ex-peri-enced *adj* having knowledge or skill as the result of experience: *an ~ nurse/teacher.*

ex-peri-ment /ɪk'spɛrɪmənt/ *n* 1 [C] test or trial carried out carefully in order to study what happens and gain new knowledge: *perform/carry out an ~ in chemistry.* 2 [U] experimenting: *learn by ~.* □ *vi* conduct experiments: *~ with new methods.*

ex-peri-men-ta-tion /ɪk'spɛrɪmənt'eɪʃn/ *n* [U]

ex-peri-men-tal /ɪk'spɛrɪ'mentl/ *adj* of, used for, based on, experiments: *~ methods; an ~ farm.*

ex-pert /'eksɜːpt/ *n* [C] person with special knowledge, skill or training: *an agricultural ~; an ~ in economics.* □ *adj* trained, skilled, by practice: *according to ~ advice/opinions.*

ex-pert-ly *adv*

ex-pert-ise /'eksɜːptɪz/ *n* [U] 1 expert opinion. 2 expert knowledge and skill.

ex-pir-a-tion /'ekspraɪ'eɪʃn/ *n* [U] 1 ending (of a period of time): *at the ~ of the lease.* 2 breathing out (of air).

ex-pire /ɪk'spaɪə(r)/ *vi* 1 (of a period of time) come to an end: *When does your driving licence ~?* 2 (literary) die.

ex-piry /ɪk'spaɪəri/ *n* [U] end, termination, esp of a contract or agreement: *the ~ of a driving licence.*

ex-plain /ɪk'spleɪn/ *vt* 1 make plain or clear; show the meaning of: *A dictionary tries to ~ the meanings of words. He ~ed that he had been delayed by the weather.* 2 provide reasons for: *Can you ~ his behaviour? That ~s his long absence.*

ex-pla-na-tion /'eksplə'neɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] (process of) explaining: *The plan needs ~ to make it clear.* 2 [C] statement, fact, circumstance, etc that explains: *an ~ of his conduct/of a mystery.*

ex-plana-tory /ɪk'splənətri/ *US: -tɔːri/ adj* serving or intended to explain.

ex-ple-tive /ɪk'splɪtɪv/ *US: 'eksplətɪv/ n* [C] (often meaningless) exclamation, eg 'My goodness' or an oath such as 'Damn'.

ex-plic-able /'eksplɪkəbl/ *adj* that can be explained.

ex-pli-cit /ɪk'splɪsɪt/ *adj* (of a statement, etc) clearly and fully expressed: *He was quite ~ about it, left no doubt about what he meant.*

ex-pli-cit-ly *adv*

ex-pli-cit-ness *n* [U]

ex-plode /ɪk'spləʊd/ *vt, vi* 1 (cause to) burst

with a loud noise: *~ a bomb/a charge of gunpowder. The bomb ~d.* 2 (of feelings) burst out; (of persons) show violent emotion: *At last his anger ~d. He ~d with rage.* 3 destroy, expose (the incorrectness of) an idea, a theory, etc: *~ a superstition; an ~d idea.*

ex-ploit ¹ /'eksplɔɪt/ *n* [C] bold or adventurous act.

ex-ploit ² /ɪk'splɔɪt/ *vt* 1 use, work or develop mines and other natural resources. 2 use selfishly or for profit: *~ child labour.*

ex-ploi-ta-tion /'eksplɔɪ'teɪʃn/ *n* [U]

ex-plore /ɪk'splɔː(r)/ *vt* 1 travel into or through (a country, etc) for the purpose of learning about it: *~ the Arctic regions.* 2 examine thoroughly problems, possibilities, etc in order to test, learn about, them.

ex-plorer, person who explores.

ex-plo-ra-tion /'eksplə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U] exploring: *the exploration of the ocean depths;* [C] instance of this.

ex-plora-tory /ɪk'splɔːrətri/ *US: -tɔːri/ adj* for the purpose of exploring.

ex-plo-sion /ɪk'spləʊʒn/ *n* [C] 1 (loud noise caused by a) sudden and violent bursting: *a 'bomb ~. The ~ was heard a mile away.* 2 outburst or outbreak of anger, laughter, etc. 3 great and sudden increase: *the population ~.*

ex-plos-ive /ɪk'spləʊsɪv/ *n* [C], *adj* (substance) tending to or likely to explode: *a shell filled with high ~; an ~ charge. That's an ~ issue, one likely to cause anger, etc.*

ex-plos-ive-ly *adv*

ex-po-nent /ɪk'spəʊnənt/ *n* [C] person or thing that explains or interprets, or is a representative or example: *Huxley was an ~ of Darwin's theory of evolution.*

ex-port ¹ /'eksɜːpt/ *n* 1 [C] (business of) exporting: *a ban on the ~ of gold; the ~ trade; ~ duties.* 2 [C] thing exported: *Last year ~s exceeded imports in value.*

ex-port ² /ɪk'spɔːt/ *vt, vi* send (goods) to another country: *~ cotton goods.*

ex-porter, person who exports goods.

ex-port-able /-əbl/ *adj*

ex-pose /ɪk'spəʊz/ *vt* 1 uncover; leave uncovered or unprotected: *~ one's body to the sunlight; ~ soldiers to unnecessary risks.* 2 display (the usual word): *~ goods in a shop window.* 3 make known: *~ a plot/liar.* 4 (photography) allow light to reach (film, etc).

ex-po-si-tion /'eksɜːpəʒɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] expounding or explaining. 2 [C] instance of this; explanation or interpretation of a theory, plan, etc. 3 [C] (abbr **expo**) /'eksɜːpəʊ/ exhibition of goods, etc: *an industrial ~.*

ex-po-sure /ɪk'spəʊʒə(r)/ *n* 1 [U] exposing or being exposed (all senses): *The climbers lost their way on the mountain and died of ~. The ~ of the plot against the President probably saved his life.* 2 [C] instance of exposing or being exposed (all senses): *How many ~s have you taken, How many pictures have you taken on the film?* 3 aspect: *a house with a southern ~,*

one that faces south.

ex-pound /ik'spaʊnd/ *vt* (formal) explain, make clear, by giving details: ~ a theory.

ex-press¹ /ik'spres/ *adj* **1** clearly and openly stated, not suggested or implied: *It was his ~ wish that you should remarry.* **2** going, sent, quickly; designed for high speed: *an ~ train.* **□** *adv* by express delivery.

ex-press² /ik'spres/ *n* [C] **1** express train: *the 8.00am ~ to Edinburgh.* **2** service of the post office, railways, road services, sending goods quickly: *send goods (by) ~.*

ex-press³ /ik'spres/ *vt* **1** make known, show by words, looks, actions: *I find it difficult to ~ my meaning.* *A smile ~ed her joy at the good news.* **2** send a letter, goods, etc fast by special delivery: *The letter is urgent; you had better ~ it.* **3** press or squeeze juices or oil from/out of: *juice ~ed (pressed is more usual) from grapes.*

ex-pres-sion /ik'spreʃn/ *n* [U] process of expressing(1): *read (aloud) with ~, in a way that shows feeling for the meaning.* **find ex-pression in**, be expressed by means of: *Her feelings at last found ~ in tears.* **2** [C] word or phrase: *'Shut up' (= Stop talking) is not a polite ~.* **3** outward sign (on the face, in the voice, etc) of an emotion: *He had an angry ~ on his face.* **4** (maths) symbols representing a quantity, eg $3xy^2$.

ex-pres-sion-less *adj* without expression: *an ~less face.*

ex-press-ive /ik'spresiv/ *adj* showing feelings, personality, etc: *an ~ smile.*

ex-press-ive-ly *adv*

ex-press-ly /ik'spresli/ *adv* plainly; definitely: *You were ~ forbidden to touch my papers.*

ex-pro-pri-ate /eks'prəʊpriət/ *vt* take away (property); dispossess (a person of an estate, etc).

ex-pro-pri-ation /eks'prəʊpri'eɪʃn/ *n* [U]

ex-pul-sion /ik'spʌlʃn/ *n* [U] expelling or being expelled; [C] instance of this: *the ~ of a student from college.*

ex-pur-gate /'ekspɜːgeɪt/ *vt* take out (from a book, etc what are considered to be) improper or objectionable parts: *an ~d edition of a novel.*

ex-pur-ga-tion /'ekspɜːgeɪʃn/ *n* [U]

ex-quis-ite /'ek'skwɪzɪt/ *adj* excellent, of a high state of perfection: ~ workmanship.

ex-quis-ite-ly *adv*

ex-tant /'ek'stænt/ *adj* (esp of documents, etc) still in existence.

ex-tem-por-ary /ik'stempərəri/ *US*: -pərəri/ *adj* = extempore.

ex-tem-pore /'ek'stempəri/ *adv, adj* (spoken or done) without previous thought or preparation: *speak ~, without notes.*

ex-tem-por-aneous-(ly) /'ek'stempə-'leɪniəs(lɪ)/ *adj, adv*

ex-tend /ik'stend/ *vt, vi* **1** make longer (in space or time); enlarge: ~ a railway/the city boundaries. **2** lay or stretch out the body, a limb or limbs at full length: ~ one's hand to

her. **3** offer: ~ an invitation/a warm welcome to him. **4** (of space, land, etc) reach, stretch: a road that ~s for miles and miles. **5** cause to reach or stretch: ~ a cable between two posts. **6** (usually passive) use the powers of a person, horse, etc to the utmost: *The horse was fully ~ed.*

ex-ten-sion /ik'stenʃn/ *n* **1** [U] extending or being extended: the ~ of useful knowledge. **2** [C] additional part; enlargement: *an ~ of one's summer holidays; build an ~ to a hospital; get an ~ of time, eg for paying a debt; telephone number 629-8494, ~ 15, ie a telephone in one of the offices.*

ex-ten-sive /ik'stensiv/ *adj* extending far; far-reaching: ~ repairs/inquiries.

ex-ten-sive-ly *adv*

ex-tent /ik'stent/ *n* [U] **1** length; area; range: *I was amazed at the ~ of his knowledge.* **2** degree: *to a certain/some ~, partly.*

ex-tenu-ate /ik'stenjuet/ *vt* make (bad behaviour) seem less serious (by finding an excuse): *There are extenuating circumstances in this case.*

ex-tenu-ation /ik'stenju'eɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

ex-ter-i-our /'ek'stɪəriə(r)/ *adj* outer; situated on or coming from outside: *the ~ of a building.* **□** interior(1). **□** *n* [C] outside; outward appearance: *a good man with a friendly ~.*

ex-ter-mi-nate /ik'stɜːmɪneɪt/ *vt* make an end of (disease, ideas, a race, etc); destroy completely.

ex-ter-mi-na-tion /ik'stɜːmɪneɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

ex-ter-nal /'ek'stɜːnl/ *adj* outside; situated on the outside; of or for the outside: ~ evidence, obtained from independent sources, not from what is being examined. **□** *n* [C] (usually pl) (formal) external circumstances: *the ~s of religion, acts and ceremonies* (contrasted with inner and spiritual aspects).

ex-ter-nal-ly *adv*

ex-tinct /ik'stɪŋkt/ *adj* **1** no longer burning; no longer active: *an ~ volcano.* **2** (of feelings, passions) dead. **3** no longer in existence; having died out: *an ~ species; become ~.*

ex-tinc-tion /ik'stɪŋkʃn/ *n* [U] **1** making, becoming, extinct: *a race threatened by ~.* **2** act of extinguishing: *the ~ of a fire.*

ex-tin-guish /ik'stɪŋgwɪʃ/ *vt* **1** put out a light, fire. **2** end the existence of hope, love, passion, etc.

ex-tin-guisher, (kinds of) apparatus for giving out a jet of liquid chemicals for putting out a fire.

ex-tol /ik'stəʊl/ *vt* (-ll-) praise highly: ~ him as a hero.

ex-tort /ik'stɔːt/ *vt* obtain by violence, threats, etc: ~ money from him.

ex-tor-tion /ik'stɔːʃn/ *n* [C, U]

ex-tor-tion-ate /ik'stɔːʃənət/ *adj* **1** in the nature of extortion. (2) of demands, prices) exorbitant.

ex-tra /'ekstrə/ *adj* additional; beyond what is usual, expected or arranged for: ~ pay for ~

work. □ *adv* **1** more than usually: ~ *fine quality.* **2** in addition: *price £1.30, packing and postage ~.* □ *n* [C] **1** additional thing; something for which an extra charge is made: *The bike costs £30; the pump and saddlebag are ~s.* **2** (in the cinema, TV, etc) person employed for a minor part, eg in a crowd scene. **3** special edition of a newspaper.

extra- /ekstrə-/ *prefix* outside, beyond, especially; *extramural*; *extraordinary*.

ex-tract /ɪk'strækt/ *vt* **1** take or get out (usually with effort): *have a tooth ~ed*; ~ *a bullet from a wound.* **2** (fig) obtain by force: ~ *money/information from a person*, who is unwilling to give it. **3** obtain (juices, etc) by pressing, crushing, boiling, etc: ~ *oil from olives.* **4** select and copy out words, examples, passages, etc (from a book). □ *n* /ɪk'strækt/ [C, U] **1** that which has been extracted (3): *beef ~.* **2** [C] passage extracted (4): ~ *s from a long poem.*

ex-trac-tion /ɪk'strækʃn/ *n* [C, U] (a) extracting or being extracted (1): *the ~ion of a tooth.* (b) descent: *Is he of French ~ion?*

extra-cur-ricu-lar /ɪk'strɒk'ɪkju:l(r)/ *adj* outside the regular course of academic work or studies: ~ *activities*, eg a dramatic society.

ex-tra-dite /ɪk'strədaɪt/ *vt* **1** give up, hand over (a person) from the country where he is living to the country where he is said to have committed, or has been convicted of, a crime. **2** obtain (such a person) for trial.

ex-tra-di-tion /ɪk'strədiʃn/ *n* [U]

ex-traneous /ɪk'streɪniəs/ *adj* **1** not related (to the object to which it is attached). **2** not belonging (to what is being dealt with); coming from outside: ~ *interference.*

extra-ordi-nary /ɪk'strɔ:dɪnri/ *US: -neri/ adj* **1** beyond what is usual or ordinary; remarkable: *a man of ~ genius*; ~ *weather.* **2** (of officials) additional, specially employed: *envoy ~.* **ex-tra-ordi-nar-ily** /ɪk'strɔ:dɪnrəli/ *US: -neri/ adv*

ex-trapo-late /ɪk'stræpəleɪt/ *vt, vi* (formal) estimate from known data, information, the unknown factors.

ex-trapo-la-tion /ɪk'stræpəleɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

ex-trava-gance /ɪk'strævəgəns/ *n* **1** [U] being extravagant: *His ~ explains why he is always in debt.* **2** [C] something: excessively expensive: *His new car was an ~ he could not afford.* **3** [C] absurd statement, act, etc.

ex-trava-gant /ɪk'strævəgənt/ *adj* **1** (in the habit of) wasting (money, etc); wasteful: *an ~ man*; ~ *tastes and habits.* **2** (of ideas, speech, behaviour) going beyond what is reasonable; not properly controlled: ~ *praise/behaviour.*

ex-trava-gant-ly *adv*

ex-treme /ɪk'stri:m/ *n* [C] **1** highest degree: *annoying in the ~*, very annoying. **2** (pl) qualities, etc as wide apart, as widely different, as possible: *the ~s of heat and cold.* Love and hate are ~s. *go/be driven to extremes*, to do more than is usually considered right or desir-

able. □ *adj* **1** at the end(s); farthest possible: *in ~ old age.* **2** reaching the highest degree: ~ *patience/kindness.* **3** (of persons, their ideas) going to great lengths in views or actions: *the ~ left*, (in politics) the most radical.

ex-treme-ly *adv*

ex-trem-ist /-ɪst/ *n* [C] person who holds extreme views (esp in politics). □ *adj* (of political views) extreme.

ex-trem-ity /ɪk'streməti/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (formal) **1** extreme point, end or limit: (pl) hands and feet. **2** (sing only) extreme degree (of joy, misery, esp of misfortune): *an ~ of pain.* **3** (usually pl) extreme measures, eg for punishing, taking revenge: *Both armies were guilty of extremities.*

ex-tri-cate /ɪk'strɪkeɪt/ *vt* (formal) set free, get a person, oneself, free: ~ *oneself from a difficulty.*

ex-tri-cable /ɪk'strɪkəbl/ *adj* that can be freed.

ex-tri-ca-tion /ɪk'strɪkeɪʃn/ *n* [U]

ex-trin-sic /ɪk'strɪnsɪk/ *adj* operating or originating from the outside; not essential.

ex-tro-vert /ɪk'strɔ:vɜ:t/ *n* [C] **1** person more interested in what goes on around him than in his own thoughts and feelings. **2** (informal) lively, cheerful person. ⇨ *introvert.*

ex-tro-ver-sion /ɪk'strɔ:vɜ:ʃn/ *US: -ʒn/ n* [U]

ex-uber-ant /ɪg'zju:bərənt/ *US: -zu:-/ adj* **1** growing vigorously; luxurious: *plants with ~ foliage.* **2** full of life and vigour; high-spirited: *an ~ imagination.*

ex-uber-ant-ly *adv*

ex-uber-ance /-rəns/ *n* [U] state or quality of being exuberant: *The speaker's exuberance won over an apathetic audience.*

ex-ude /ɪg'zju:d/ *US: -zu:d/ vi, vi* (formal) (of drops of liquid) come or pass out slowly: *Sweat ~s through the pores.*

ex-ult /ɪg'zʌlt/ *vi* rejoice greatly: ~ *at/in a success*; ~ (= triumph) *over a defeated rival.*

ex-ult-ant /-ənt/ *adj* triumphant.

ex-ul-ta-tion /ɪgzʌl'teɪʃn/ *n* [U] great joy (at); triumph (over).

eye /aɪ/ *n* **1** organ of sight: *We see with our ~s.* *an eye for an eye*, punishment as severe as the injury suffered. *in the eyes of the law*, from the point of view of the law. *in the mind's eye*, in imagination. *under/before one's very eyes*, (a) in one's presence, in front of one. (b) with no attempt at concealment. *up to one's eyes in* (work, etc), very busy with. *with an eye to*, with the intention of, hoping for. *with the naked eye*, ⇨ *naked.* *with one's eyes open*, aware of the dangers, problems. *be in the public eye*, be often seen in public. *close one's eyes to*, refuse to see or take notice of. *have an eye for*, be a good judge of. *keep an eye on*, keep a watch on. *make eyes at*, show one is attracted to (a girl). *more in it than meets the eye*, more than is immediately obvious. *open sb's eyes to*, cause

him to realize. **see eye to eye (with)**, agree entirely (with), have identical views. **set/clap eyes on**, meet, see: *I hope I shall never set ~s on her again.* **2** thing like an eye: *the ~ of a needle*, the hole for the thread; *a hook and ~*, fastening with a hook and loop for a dress, etc.

'eye-ball, the eye within the lids and socket.

'eye-brow, arch of hair above the eye. **raise one's eyebrows**, express surprise, doubt, etc.

'eye-catching *adj* attractive.

'eye-lash, hair, row of hairs, on the edge of the eyelid.

'eye-lid, upper or lower skin covering the eye when blinking.

'eye-opener, circumstance, etc (often surprising) that makes one realize, understand something: *Finding him kissing my best friend was a real ~-opener for me.*

'eye-shadow, cosmetic for colouring the skin round the eye.

'eye-sight, power, faculty, of seeing: *to have good/poor ~sight.*

'eye-sore, something unpleasant to look at.

'eye-strain, tired condition of the eyes (as caused, for example, by reading very small print).

'eye-witness, person who can give evidence of what he has himself seen: *an ~-witness account of a crime.*

eye² /aɪ/ *vt* observe, watch: *He ~d me with suspicion. They were ~ing us jealously.*

-eyed /aɪd/ *suffix*: *a blue-~ girl*, (a) girl having blue eyes; (b) favourite girl; *'starry-~d (informal)*, idealistic.

eye-let /'aɪlɪt/ *n* [C] small hole in cloth, etc for a rope, etc to go through; metal ring round such a hole, to strengthen it.

Ff

F, f /ef/ (*pl* F's, f's /efs/) the sixth letter of the English alphabet.

fab /fæb/ *adj* (informal abbr of) fabulous(3).

fable /'feɪbl/ *n* 1 [C] short tale, not based on fact, esp one with animals in it, eg *Aesop's ~s*, and intended to give moral teaching. **2** [U] (collective sing) myths; legends: *sort out fact from ~.* **3** [C] false statement or account.

fabled /'feɪblɪd/ *adj* legendary.

fab-ric /'fæbrɪk/ *n* [C,U] **1** kind, length, of textile material; cloth: *woollen/silk ~s.* **2** structure: *the ~ of society; the ~ of the building.*

fab-ri-cate /'fæbrɪkeɪt/ *vt* **1** construct; put together. **2** make up (something false); forge (a document): *a ~d account of adventures.*

fab-ri-ca-tion /'fæbrɪkeɪʃn/ *n* [U] fabricat-

ing; [C] something fabricated (both senses).

fabu-lous /'fæbjʊləs/ *adj* **1** celebrated in fable(2): *~ heroes.* **2** incredible or absurd: *~ wealth.* **3** (informal) wonderful; marvellous.

fabu-lous-ly *adv* extremely: *~ly rich.*

fa-çade /fə'sɑ:d/ *n* [C] **1** front or face of a building (towards a street or open place). **2** (fig) false appearance: *a ~ of indifference.*

'face¹ /feɪs/ *n* [C] **1** the front part of the head (eyes, nose, mouth, cheeks, chin): *He fell on his ~.* **'face to 'face**, (of persons) together so that they look at each other: *The two politicians were brought ~ to ~ in a TV interview.* **in one's face**, (a) straight against: *The sun was shining in one's ~.* (b) with no attempt at concealment: *Death stared him in the ~.* *She'll only laugh in your ~.* **to one's face**, openly, in one's hearing: *I'll tell him so to his ~*, ie I'm not afraid to tell him. (Note: compare *behind one's back*).

fly in the face of sth, openly defy, disregard. **show one's face**, appear, let oneself be seen: *How can you show your ~ here after the way you behaved last time?* **2** look; expression: *a sad ~; smiling ~s.* **on the face of it**, judging by appearances, when first seen or heard: *On the ~ of it, his story seems unconvincing.* **keep a straight face**, hide one's amusement (by not smiling or laughing).

lose face, suffer loss of credit or reputation. **make/pull a face/faces**, make an ugly, funny, etc expression. **put a good/bold face on sth**, show courage in dealing with it. **save (one's) face**, avoid losing one's dignity or suffering loss of credit or reputation. Hence, **'face-saver** *n*, **'face-saving** *n, adj*: *~saving moves.* **3** surface; façade (of a building); front: *the ~ of a clock.*

He laid the cards ~ down on the table. The team climbed the north ~ of the mountain.

'face-ache, (fig) irritating, annoying, person.

'face-card, king, queen or jack.

'face-cloth, (esp) small square towel for washing the face and hands.

'face-cream, cosmetic cream for the face.

'face-lift(ing), (a) operation of tightening the skin to smooth out wrinkles and make the face look younger. (b) (fig) improvement to the appearance (of a building, etc).

'face-powder, cosmetic powder for the face.

'face value, (a) value shown on a coin or banknote. (b) (fig) apparent value of something: *accept a promise at ~ value.*

face-less *adj* (fig) unknown to the general public: *the ~less men who have power in commerce and industry.*

face² /feɪs/ *vt, vi* **1** have or turn the face to, or in a certain direction; be opposite to: *Turn round and ~ me. Who's the man facing us?* **2** meet confidently or defiantly: *~ the enemy; ~ dangers.* **'face the 'music**, show no fear at a time of trial, danger, difficulty. **face 'up to (sth)**, recognize and deal with, honestly and

bravely: *F~ up to the fact that you are no longer young.* **3** recognize the existence of: *~ 'facts', be realistic.* **4** present itself to: *the problem that ~s us.* **5** cover with a layer of different material: *~ a wall with concrete.*

facet /'fæsɪt/ *n* [C] **1** one of the many sides of a cut stone or jewel. **2** view, aspect, eg of a problem.

fa-cetious /fə'si:ʃəs/ *adj* (intended to be, trying to be) humorous; fond of, marked by, joking: *a ~ remark/young man.*

fa-cetious-ly *adv*

facia /'feɪʃə/ *n* = fascia.

fa-cial /'feɪʃl/ *adj* of or for the face: *a ~ massage.* □ *n* [C] facial massage.

facile /'fæsəl *US*: -səl/ *adj* **1** easily done or obtained: *a ~ victory.* **2** (of a person) able to do things easily. **3** (of speech or writing) done easily but without attention to quality: *a ~ remark/comment.*

fa-cili-tate /fə'sɪlɪteɪt/ *vt* make easy; lessen the difficulty of: *Modern inventions have ~d housework.* (Note: never used when the subject is a word for a person).

fa-cil-ity /fə'sɪləti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] quality which makes learning or doing things easy; aptitude: *have great ~ in learning languages.* **2** (pl) aids, circumstances, which make it easy to do things: *facilities for travel, eg buses, trains, air services; 'sports facilities, eg running tracks, swimming pools.*

fac-ing /'feɪsɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] coating of different material, eg on a wall. **2** (pl) material of a different colour on clothes, eg on the cuffs or collar: *a purple jacket with bright green ~s.* ⇨ face² (5).

fac-sim-ile /fæk'sɪməli/ *n* [C] exact copy or reproduction of writing, a picture, etc.

fact /fækt/ *n* **1** [C] something that has happened or been done. **accessary before the fact**, accessory who is not present when a crime is committed. **accessary after the fact**, person who knowingly helps another who has committed a crime. **2** [C] something known to be true or accepted as true: *No one can deny the ~ that fire burns.* **facts and figures**, full and precise information. **the facts of life**, (informal) (human) sexual reproduction. **3** (sing without a) reality; what is true; what exists: *It is important to distinguish ~ from fiction.* **in (actual) fact; as a matter of fact; in point of fact**, (used to emphasize one's confidence in a judgement): *I think so; in ~, I'm certain.*

'fact-finding *adj* designed to discover what is true: *a ~ finding tour/committee.*

fac-tion /'fæktʃn/ *n* **1** [C] discontented, often unscrupulous and self-interested group of persons within a party (esp political): *The party split into petty ~s.* **2** [U] quarrelling among such groups.

fac-tious /'fæktʃəs/ *adj* (formal) of, caused by, fond of, quarrelling: *a factious spirit.*

fac-tor /'fæktə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (maths) whole num-

ber (except 1) by which a larger number can be divided exactly: *2, 3, 4 and 6 are ~s of 12.* **2** fact, circumstance, etc helping to bring about a result: *evolutionary ~s, environmental influences, etc; an unknown ~, something unknown, likely to influence a result.*

fac-tory /'fæktəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) building(s) where goods are made (esp by machinery); workshop: *~ workers.*

fac-tual /'fæktʃʊəl/ *adj* concerned with fact.

fac-ulty /'fækʌlti/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** power of mind; power of doing things: *the mental faculties, reason; have a great ~ for learning languages.* **2** (in a university) department or grouping of related departments: *the F~ of Law/Science; all the teachers, lecturers, professors, etc in one of these: a member of (the) ~.*

fad /fæd/ *n* [C] fashion, interest, trend, unlikely to last: *Will Tom continue to collect foreign stamps or is it only a passing ~?*

fade /feɪd/ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) lose colour, freshness or strength: *The strong sunlight had ~d the curtains. Flowers soon ~ when cut.* **2** go slowly out of view, hearing or the memory: *Daylight ~d away. His hopes ~d.* **3** (in filming, broadcasting) (cause to) decrease or increase in strength: *fading one scene into another; ~ a conversation out/in.*

faeces (*US* = feces) /'feɪsɪz/ *n* pl waste matter excreted from the bowels.

fag¹ /fæg/ *n* **1** (sing only) tiring job: *What a ~! It's too much (of a) ~.* **2** [C] (sl) cigarette.

fag² /fæg/ *vi, vt* (-gg-) **1** do very tiring work: *~ (away) at a task.* **2** (of work) make very tired: *Doesn't that sort of work ~ you out?*

fag-got (*US* also **fagot**) /'fægət/ *n* [C] **1** bundle of sticks or twigs tied together for burning as fuel. **2** meat ball for frying.

Fahr-en-heit /'færənhart/ *n* name of a thermometer scale with freezing-point at 32° (32° F) and boiling-point at 212° (212° F).

fail¹ /feɪl/ *n* (only in) **without fail**, for certain, no matter what difficulties, etc there may be: *I'll come at two o'clock without ~.*

fail² /feɪl/ *vi, vt* **1** be unsuccessful: *~ (in) an examination; ~ to pass an examination. All our plans/Attempts ~ed.* **2** (of examiners) decide that (a candidate) has been unsuccessful. **3** be not enough; come to an end while still needed or expected: *The crops ~ed because of drought. Words ~ me, I cannot find words to describe my feelings, etc.* **4** (of health, eyesight, etc) become weak: *His eyesight is ~ing.* **5** omit; neglect; not remember: *He never ~s to write (= always writes) to his mother every week.* **6** become bankrupt: *Several of the biggest banks ~ed during the depression.* **7 fail in**, be without: *He's a clever man, but ~s in effort.*

fail-ing¹ /'feɪlɪŋ/ *n* [C] weakness or fault (of character): *We all have our little ~s.*

fail-ing² /'feɪlɪŋ/ *prep* in the absence of: *~ this, if this does not happen; ~ an answer, if no*

answer is received.

fail-ure /'feɪljə(r)/ *n* 1 [U] being unsuccessful: *All his efforts ended in ~.* 2 [C] instance of failing; person, attempt or thing that fails: *Success came after many ~s.* 3 [U] state of not being adequate; [C] instance of this: *'heart ~.* 4 [C] of crops often results in famine. 5 [C] bankruptcy: *many bank ~s.* 6 [C,U] neglect, omission, inability: *His ~ to help us was disappointing.* 6 breakdown (of machinery, power etc): *'engine ~.*

faint ¹ /feɪnt/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 (of things known by the senses) weak; indistinct; not clear: *The sounds of the music grew ~er in the distance. There was a ~ smell of burning.* 2 (of things in the mind) weak; vague: *There is a ~ hope that she may be cured. I haven't the ~est idea what you mean.* 3 (of the body's movements and functions) weak; failing: *His breathing became ~.* 4 (of persons) likely to lose consciousness: *She looks/feels ~.* 5 (of persons) weak, exhausted: *~ with hunger and cold.* 6 (of actions, etc) unlikely to have much effect: *make a ~ attempt to do something.*

faint-hearted *adj* having no courage.

faint-ly *adv*

faint ² /feɪnt/ *vi* 1 lose consciousness (because of loss of blood, the heat, shock, etc): *He ~ed from the heat.* 2 become weak: *He was ~ing with hunger.* □ *n* [C] act, state, of fainting(1): *She collapsed in a ~.*

fair ¹ /feə(r)/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 just; acting in a just and honourable manner; in accordance with justice or the rules (of a game, etc): *Everyone must have a ~ share; a ~ fight. To be ~, she did apologise. give/get a fair hearing,* an opportunity to defend his actions, behaviour, etc, eg in a law court. 2 average; quite good: *a ~ chance of success.* 3 (of the weather) good; dry and fine; (of winds) favourable: *hoping for ~ weather.* 4 satisfactory; promising: *be in a ~ way to succeed.* 5 (of the skin, hair) pale; blond: *~-haired; a ~ skin.* 6 clean; clear; without blemish: *Please make a ~ copy of this letter, a new one without the errors, corrections, etc.*

fair-play, (fig) justice; equally just treatment for all.

fair-ish /'feəriʃ/ *adj* of average size, weight or quality.

fair-ness *n* [C] (esp) *in all fairness*, to be fair(1).

fair ² /feə(r)/ *adv* in a fair(1) manner. **play fair**, act justly. **fair enough**, (informal) (used to indicate that a person has been reasonable, made a reasonable suggestion, etc.) ⇨ square¹.

fair ³ /feə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 market (esp for cattle, sheep, farm products, etc) held periodically in a particular place. 2 group of entertainments, side-shows, etc travelling from place to place. 3 large-scale exhibition of commercial goods: *a world ~.*

fair-ground, open space for fairs(2).

fair-ly ¹ /'feəli/ *adv* 1 justly; honestly: *treat him ~.* 2 (informal) completely: *He was ~ beside himself with rage.*

fair-ly ² /'feəli/ *adv* of degree moderately: *This is a ~ easy book.*

fair-way /'feəweɪ/ *n* [C] 1 navigable channel for ships. 2 part of a golf-links, between a tee and a green, free from hazards.

fairy /'feəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) small imaginary being with supernatural powers, able to help or harm human beings.

'fairy-land, home of fairies; enchanted place.

'fairy-story/-tale, (a) tale about fairies. (b) untrue report, story, esp by a child.

faith /feɪθ/ *n* 1 [U] trust; unquestioning confidence: *have/put one's ~ in justice. I have great faith in this medicine.* 2 [C] belief in divine truth without proof; religion: *the Christian, Jewish and Muslim ~s.* 3 [U] promise; engagement. **keep/break faith with somebody**, be loyal/disloyal. 4 [U] loyalty; sincerity. **in bad/good faith**, with/without the intention of deceiving.

'faith-healing, (belief in) healing (of disease, etc) by prayer, etc.

faith-ful /'feɪθfʊl/ *adj* 1 loyal and true: *a ~ friend; ~ to one's promise.* 2 true to the facts: *a ~ copy/description/account.* 3 **the ~**, (pl) the true believers, esp of Islam or Christianity.

faith-fully *adv* in a faithful way: *I promise ~ to come. Yours faithfully*, formula used to end a letter (esp in formal or business style).

faith-less /'feɪθlɪs/ *adj* false; disloyal.

faith-less-ly *adv*

fake /feɪk/ *n* [C] 1 story, work of art, etc that looks genuine but is not. 2 person who tries to deceive by claiming falsely to be or have something. □ *vt* make (eg a work of art, a story) in order to deceive: *~ an oil-painting.*

fal-con /'fɔːlkən/ *US*: /'fælkən/ *n* [C] small bird of prey trained to hunt and kill other birds and small animals.

fal-con-ry *n* [U] hunting with, art of training, falcons.

fall ¹ /fɔːl/ *n* [C] 1 act of falling: *a ~ from a horse; a ~ in temperature; a ~ in prices.* 2 amount of rain that falls; distance by which something falls or comes down: *The ~ of the river here is six metres.* 3 (often pl) place where a river falls over cliffs, etc: *Niagara F~s.* 4 (US) autumn: *in the ~ of 1970.*

fall ² /fɔːl/ *vi* (pt fell /fel/, pp ven /'fɛlən/) (For special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 14 below.) 1 come or go down freely (by force of weight, loss of balance, etc): *He fell into the water. The rain was ~ing steadily. fall on one's feet*, (fig) be fortunate; get out of a difficulty successfully. **fall short of**, fail to equal; be inferior to: *Your work ~s short of my expectations.* 2 no longer stand; come to the ground; collapse; be overthrown: *He fell over and broke his left leg. He fell on his knees (= knelt down) and begged for mercy. He fell in battle, was killed. fall flat*

(**on one's face**). (fig) fail to have the intended effect: *His best jokes all fell flat*, did not amuse his listeners. **fall over oneself**, (a) fall because one is awkward, clumsy, or in too much of a hurry. (b) (fig) be very eager: *The big teams were ~ing over themselves/each other for this brilliant player*. **3** hang down: *Her hair fell over her shoulders*. **4** come or go to a lower level or point; become lower or less: *The barometer is ~ing. The temperature fell rapidly*. **5** become: *His horse fell lame. He fell silent. The old man fell asleep*. **fall foul of**, ⇨ *foul*¹ (3). **fall in love (with)**, become filled with love: *He fell in love with an actress*. **fall out of love (with)**, stop feeling love (for). **6** descend on: *Darkness fell on/upon the scene*, it became dark. **7** give in and do wrong: *Eve tempted Adam and he fell*. **8** be overcome or defeated: *The Government has ~en again*. **9 fall on**, take a direction or position: *A shadow fell on the wall. His eye fell on (= He suddenly saw) a curious object*. In 'formidable' the stress can ~ on either the first or the second syllable. **10** (of a city, etc) be captured by the enemy. **11** (of land) slope: *The ground ~s towards the river*. **12** occur, have as date: *Easter ~s early next year*. **13** be spoken: *Not a word fell from his lips*. **14** (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

fall about (laughing/with laughter), (informal) laugh uncontrollably.

fall among, meet by chance: ~ among thieves.

fall astern, drop behind; not keep up with.

fall away, (a) desert: *His supporters began to ~ away*. (b) disappear, vanish.

fall back, move or turn back: *Our attack was so successful that the enemy fell back*. **fall back on**, turn to for support: *It's always useful to have savings to ~ back on*.

fall behind (with), fail to keep level with: *He always ~s behind when we're going uphill. Don't ~ behind with your rent, or you'll be evicted*.

fall for, (informal) be attracted by the merits of (esp when deceived): *He ~s for every pretty face he sees*.

fall in, (a) collapse; give way: *The roof fell in*.

(b) (mil) take, cause to take, places in the ranks: *The sergeant ordered the men to ~ in*.

(c) (of a single soldier) take his place in the ranks. (d) (of a lease) expire. (e) (of a debt) become due. **fall in with**, (a) happen to meet. (b) agree to: *He fell in with my plans*.

fall into line (with), agree to (what others are doing or wish to do).

fall off, become smaller, fewer or less: *Attendance at church has ~en off*.

fall on, attack; assault (the enemy). ⇨ also *foot*¹ (1).

fall out, (a) (mil) leave one's place in the rank or file. (b) discontinue; give up: *the ~out rate*, eg of students who give up a course of

study. ⇨ *drop-out* at *drop*² (12). **fall out (with)**, quarrel (with): *He has ~en out with the girl he was going to marry*.

fall through, fail; be unsuccessful: *His scheme fell through*.

fall to, begin to eat, fight, attack, etc: *They fell to with a good appetite*.

fall under, be classifiable under: *The results ~ under three headings*.

fall-lacy /'fæləsi/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [C] false or mistaken belief. **2** [U] false reasoning or argument: *a statement based on ~*.

fall-lacious /fə'leɪʃəs/ *adj* misleading; based on error.

fallen /'fældən/ *pp* of *fall*².

fall-ible /'fæləbəl/ *adj* liable to error.

fall-i-bil-ity /fə'ləbəlɪtɪ/ *n* [U] (state of) being fallible.

Fal-lo-pian tube /fə'ləʊpiən 'tju:b *US*: -tu:b/ *n* = oviduct.

fall-out /'fɔ:l aʊt/ *n* [U] radioactive dust in the atmosphere, after a nuclear explosion.

fall-low /'fæləʊ/ *adj*, *n* [U] (land) ploughed but not sown or planted: *allow land to lie ~*.

fall-low-deer /'fæləʊ dɪə(r)/ *n* [C] (pl unchanged) small deer with a reddish-yellow coat with, in the summer, white spots.

false /fəʊls/ *adj* **1** wrong; incorrect: *a ~ alarm*; *a ~ arrest*. **make a false start**, (athletics) start before the signal has been given. **2** deceitful; lying: *give a ~ impression*; *give ~ witness*, tell lies (eg in a law court). **3** not genuine; artificial: ~ teeth. ⇨ also pretence (2).

false-ly *adv*

false-hood /'fəʊlshud/ *n* **1** [C] lie (the usual word); untrue statement: *How can you utter such ~s?* **2** [U] telling lies; lying.

false-ness /fəʊl'setəs/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) unnaturally high-pitched voice in men.

false-ify /'fəʊlsɪfaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) make false: ~ records/accounts.

falsi-fi-ca-tion /fəʊlsɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

fals-ity /'fəʊlsəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] lie (the usual word). **2** [C] false act, statement, etc: *several falsities in the witness's statement*.

false-ter /'fəʊltə(r)/ *vi, vt* **1** move, walk or act in an uncertain or hesitating manner, from either weakness or fear. **2** (of a person) speak in a hesitating way or with a broken voice: *He ~ed as he asked for mercy*.

false-ter-ing-ly *adv*

fame /feɪm/ *n* [U] (condition of) being known or talked about by all; what people say (esp good) about a person: *His ~ as a poet did not come until after his death*.

famed *adj* famous: ~d for their courage.

fam-il-iar /fə'mɪlə(r)/ *adj* **1** **familiar with**, having a good knowledge of: *I am not very ~ with European history*.

2 **familiar to**, well known to: *facts that are ~ to every European*.

3 common; usual; often seen or heard: *the ~ voices of one's friends*.

4 close; personal: *Are you on ~ terms with Mr Green?* **5** claiming or showing a greater degree of friendship than is

considered right: *He made himself much too ~ with my wife.*

fam-il-iar-ly *adv*

fam-il-i-ar-ity /fə'milɪə'rəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] (the state of) being familiar: *His ~ with the languages used in Nigeria surprised me. You should not treat her with such ~.* ⇨ familiar(4,5). **2** (pl) instance of familiar behaviour such as the use of a pet name.

fam-il-i-ar-ize (also **-ise**) /fə'milɪəraɪz/ *vt* **1** make well acquainted (with): ~ oneself with the rules. **2** make well known: *Television has ~d the word 'newscast'.*

fam-ily /'fæmli/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [C] parents and children. (Note: used with a *sing verb* when family is a collective noun: *Almost every ~ in the village has a man in the army*; used with a *pl verb* when family means members of my family: *My ~ are early risers*.) **2** (as a collective noun) children: *He has a large ~.* **3** [C] all those persons descended from a common ancestor: *families that have been in the US for two hundred years*. **4** [C] group of living things (plants, animals, etc) or of languages, with common characteristics and a common source: *animals of the cat ~*, eg lions and tigers. **5** (used as an adjective) of or for a family: ~ life; a ~ man, one who enjoys home life with his family.

family doctor, general practitioner.

family name, = surname.

family planning, (use of birth control for) planning the number of children, intervals between births, etc in a family.

family tree, genealogical chart.

fam-ine /'fæmɪn/ *n* **1** [U] extreme scarcity (esp of food) in a region: *Parts of India have often suffered from ~.* **2** [C] particular occasion when there is such scarcity: *a rice/coal ~.*

fam-ish /'fæmɪʃ/ *vi, vt* **1** suffer from extreme hunger: *They were ~ing for food.* **2** cause (a person) to suffer from hunger: *The child looked half ~ed.* (Note: usually passive.)

fa-mous /'feɪməs/ *adj* known widely; having fame: a ~ scientist.

fa-mous-ly *adv* excellently: *getting on ~ly.*

fan /fæn/ *n* [C] **1** object (waved in the hand, or operated mechanically, eg by an electric motor) for making a current of air (eg to cool a room). **2** something that is or can be spread out flat, eg the tail of a peacock.

'fan belt, rubber belt used to turn the cooling-fan of an engine.

'fan-light, fan-shaped window over a door.

fan² /fæn/ *vi, vi* (-nn-) **1** send a current of air on to: ~ oneself. **2** (of a breeze) blow gently on: *The breeze ~ned our faces.* **3** open in fan-shaped formation: *The troops ~ned out across the fields.*

fan³ /fæn/ *n* [C] (informal) fanatical supporter: *'football ~s.*

'fan mail, letters from fans, eg to a pop star.

fa-natic /fə'nætɪk/ *n* [C] person with excessive enthusiasm: *food ~s*, willing to eat only

certain kinds of food. □ *adj* (also **fa-nati-cal** /-kl/) excessively enthusiastic: ~(al) beliefs.

fa-nati-cally /-kli/ *adv*

fa-nati-cism /-sɪzəm/ *n* [U] excessive enthusiasm; [C] instance of this.

fan-ci-ful /'fænsɪfl/ *adj* (formal) **1** (of persons) led by imagination instead of reason and experience: a ~ writer. **2** unreal; curiously designed: ~ drawings.

fan-ci-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

fancy¹ /'fænsɪ/ *adj* **1** (esp of small things) brightly coloured; made to please the eye: ~ cakes. **2** not plain or ordinary: ~ dress, ie unusual costume, often historical or exotic, as worn at parties.

fancy² /'fænsɪ/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] power of creating images in the mind. (Note: imagination suggests a more active power.) **2** [C] something imagined; vague opinion or belief: *I have a ~ (= a vague idea) that she will be late.* **3** [C] fondness, liking, desire (for): a ~ for some wine with my dinner. **take a fancy to**, become fond of: *The children have taken quite a ~ to you.*

'fancy-free *adj* not in love; not taking one's life, other people, seriously.

fancy³ /'fænsɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) **1** picture in the mind; imagine: *Can you ~ me as a mother?* **2** be under the impression that (without being certain, or without enough reason): *I ~ (that) he won't come.* **3** have a desire for: *What do you ~ to eat/for dinner?* **4 fancy oneself**, be conceited: *He fancies himself as an orator.* **5** (used to express surprise): *F~ her saying such unkind things about you! F~ that!*

fan-fare /'fænfə(r)/ *n* [C] short series of notes played loudly on trumpets or bugles.

fang /fæŋ/ *n* [C] **1** long, sharp tooth (esp of dogs and wolves). **2** snake's tooth.

fan-tas-tic /fæn'tæstɪk/ *adj* **1** wild and strange: ~ dreams/shapes/fashions. **2** (of ideas, plans) impossible to carry out; absurd: ~ proposals. **3** (informal) marvellous; wonderful: *She's a really ~ girl!*

fan-tas-ti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

fan-tasy /'fæntəsi/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] imagination, esp when extravagant. **2** [C] wild or strange product of the imagination.

far¹ /fɑ:(r)/ *adj* ⇨ farther, farthest, further, furthest. **1** (usually in literary style) distant: a ~ country. **a far cry**, ⇨ cry²(1). **2** (= farther) more remote: *on the ~ bank of the river.*

the Far East, countries of E and SE Asia.

far² /fɑ:(r)/ *adv* ⇨ farther, farthest, further, furthest. **1** (suggesting distance in space or time): *How ~ did you go? We didn't go ~.* (Note: usually used in questions and in the negative; compare *We went a long way*.) **2** (used with other adverbs and prepositions): ~ beyond the bridge/above the clouds/into the night/back in history. **few and far between**, ⇨ between¹. **far from**, (a) not at all: *Your work is ~ from (being) satisfactory.* (b) instead of: *F~ from admiring his paint-*

ings, I dislike them intensely. **go far**, (a) (of persons) be successful; do much: *He's clever and intelligent, and will go ~*. (b) (of money) buy many goods, services, etc: *A pound doesn't go ~ nowadays*. **go/carry sth too far**, go beyond the limits of what is considered reasonable: *You've gone too ~ this time!* **far and near/wide**, everywhere: *They searched ~ and wide for the missing child*. **so far**, until now: *So ~ the work has been easy*. **so far, so good**, up to now everything has gone well. **as/so far as**, (a) to the place mentioned: *He walked as ~ as the post office*. (b) the same distance: *We didn't go as/so ~ as the others*. (c) to the extent that (suggesting a limit of advance or progress): *So ~ as I know he will be away for four months*. **3** (by) much; considerably; to a great extent: *It fell ~ short of our expectations*. **by far**, by a great amount: *This is better by ~*.

far-away *adj* (a) distant, remote: *~away places/times*. (b) (of a look in a person's eyes) dreamy: *a ~away look in his eyes*.

far-fetched *adj* (of an idea, excuse, etc) difficult to believe because almost certainly impossible.

far-flung *adj* widely spread or extended.

far-gone, very ill, mad, drunk, etc.

far-reaching *adj* likely to have many consequences; having a wide application: *~reaching proposals*.

far-sighted *adj* (a) able to see distant objects more clearly than near objects. (b) (fig) having good judgement of future needs, etc.

farce /fɑ:s/ *n* [C] play for the theatre, full of ridiculous situations intended to make people laugh; [U] this style of drama. **2** [C] series of actual events treated lightly when it should be treated seriously: *The trial was a ~*.

far-ci-cal /fɑ:sɪkl/ *adj*

far-ci-cally /-kli/ *adv*

fare¹ /feə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** money charged for a journey by bus, ship, taxi, etc. **2** passenger in a hired vehicle: *The taxi-driver had only six ~s all day*.

fare² /feə(r)/ *n* [U] (dated) food provided at table: *simple/homely ~*.

fare³ /feə(r)/ *vi* progress; get on: *How did you ~ at the interview?* Were you successful or not?

fare-well /fə'wel/ *int* (literary) goodbye. **□ n** [C] leave-taking: *make one's ~s*. **2** (used as an adjective): *a ~ speech*.

farm¹ /fɑ:m/ *n* [C] **1** area of land and buildings for growing crops, raising animals, etc: *working on the ~*. **2** farmer's house on a farm. **'farm-yard**, space enclosed by farm buildings (sheds, barns, etc).

farm² /fɑ:m/ *vt, vi* **1** use (land) for growing crops, raising animals, etc: *He ~s 200 acres*. **2 farm out**, send work out to be done by others.

farmer /fɑ:mə(r)/ *n* [C] man who owns or manages a farm.

far-ther /fɑ:ðə(r)/ *adv* (comparative of *far*): *We can't go any ~ without a rest. They went ~ into the forest.* (Note: usually used to refer to distance but *further* is now often used.) **□ adj** more distant: *on the ~ bank of the river*.

far-thest /fɑ:ðɪst/ *adv, adj* (superlative of *far*): *Which village in England is ~ from London?* (Note: **⇨ farther**.)

far-thing /fɑ:ðɪŋ/ *n* [C] (former GB coin worth) one-quarter of a penny.

fas-cia (also **fa-cia**) /fæ'ʃiə/ *n* [C] = dash-board.

fas-ci-nate /fæsɪneɪt/ *vt* charm or attract greatly: *The children were ~d by the exhibition*.

fas-ci-nat-ing *adj* having strong charm or attraction: *a fascinating smile/idea/girl*.

fas-ci-nat-ing-ly *adv*

fas-ci-na-tion /fæ'sɪneɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

fas-cism /fæ'ʃɪzəm/ *n* [U] (often **F~**) form of reactionary, nationalist, anti-democratic, anti-communist, bourgeois movement and system of government, typical of the era of imperialism.

fascist /fæ'sɪst/ *n* [C] (often derogatory) supporter of fascism. **□ adj** of fascism; of the extreme right wing; reactionary.

fashion /fæʃn/ *n* **1** (sing with the or a, an) manner of doing or making something: *He was behaving in a strange ~*. **after a fashion**, not particularly well: *He can speak and write English, after a ~*. **2** [C,U] (of clothes, behaviour, thought, custom, etc) that which is considered most to be admired and imitated during a period or at a place: *dressed in the latest ~*. **in fashion**, fashionable. **come into/go out of fashion**, become/no longer be in fashion: *When did mini-skirts come into/go out of ~?* **□ vt** give form or shape to: *~ a lump of clay into a bowl*.

fashion-able /fæʃənəbl/ *adj* **1** following the fashion(2). **2** used by, visited by, many people: *a ~ summer resort*. **fashion-ably** /-əbl/ *adv*

fast¹ /fɑ:st US: fæst/ *adj* **1** firmly fixed; not easily moved: *Make the boat ~*. Make it secure. **hard and fast rule**, that cannot be changed. **2** steady; loyal: *a ~ friend*. **3** (of colours) that will not fade. **□ adv** firmly, securely, tightly: *hold ~ to a rope*. **fast asleep**, **⇨ asleep**(1). **play fast and loose with**, repeatedly change one's attitude towards: *play ~ and loose with a girl's affections*. **stand fast**, **⇨ stand**(2)(3).

fast² /fɑ:st US: fæst/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** quick; rapid: *a ~ train/horse*. **2** (of a watch or clock) showing time later than the true time: *My watch is five minutes ~*, eg showing 2.05 at 2.00. **3** (of a surface) producing quick motion: *a ~ cricket pitch*. **4** (of photographic film) suitable for very brief exposures.

fast³ /fɑ:st US: fæst/ *adv* quickly: *Don't speak so ~*.

fast⁴ /fɑ:st US: fæst/ *vi* go without food or

without certain kinds of food, esp as a religious duty: *days devoted to ~ing*, eg in Lent. □ *n* [C] (period of) going without food: *a ~ of three days*.

fas·ten /'fæ:sn US: 'fæsn/ *vt, vi* 1 fix firmly; tie or join together: *Have you ~ed all the doors and windows?* 2 become fast¹ or secure: *This dress ~s down the back*, has buttons, etc down the back. 3 (formal) direct one's looks, thoughts, attention, etc on: *He ~ed his eyes on/upon me*. 4 seize; select (a person) for attack: *He ~ed on/upon the idea*.

fas·tēner /'fæ:snə(r)/, something that fastens things together: *a paper ~er*; *a zip~er*.

fas·ten·ing, thing that fastens, eg a bolt.

fas·tid·ious /fə'stɪdiəs US: fæ-/ *adj* hard to please; quick to find fault: *He is ~ about his food*.

fa·stid·ious·ly *adv*

fast·ness /'fæ:stnəs US: 'fæst-/ *n* [U] the quality of being fast¹ (3): *We guarantee the ~ of these dyes*.

fat¹ /fæt/ *adj* (-ter, -test) 1 covered with, having much, fat: *~ meat*; *a ~ man*. 2 thick; well filled: *a ~ wallet*, one full of banknotes. 3 (informal) (used for ironic emphasis): *A ~ lot of good he will be!* He will be no use at all! *There's a ~ chance that he'll come*, no chance at all.

'fat·head, dull, stupid person.

fat·tish *adj* a little fat.

fat·ness *n* [U]

fat² /fæt/ *n* [C, U] (kinds of) white or yellow substance, oily or greasy, found in animal bodies; oily substance in seeds, etc; this substance purified for cooking purposes: *Fried potatoes are cooked in deep ~*. **live off the fat of the land**, live in luxury.

fa·tal /'feɪtəl/ *adj* 1 causing, ending in, death or disaster: *a ~ accident*. 2 like fate; of, appointed by, destiny: *the ~ day*.

fa·tally /'feɪtəli/ *adv*: *be ~ly injured/wounded*.

fa·tal·ism /'feɪtəlizəm/ *n* [U] belief that events are decided by fate (1).

fa·tal·ist /'feɪtəlist/ *n* [C] believer in fatalism.

fa·tal·is·tic /'feɪtəlistik/ *adj* believing that all that happens is inevitable: *a ~ic attitude*.

fa·tal·ity /fə'tæləti/ *n* (pl -ies) 1 [C] misfortune, disaster, esp one that causes death and destruction: *floods, earthquakes and other fatalities*. 2 [C] death by accident, in war, etc. 3 [U] state of being subject to fate (1) or destiny. 4 [U] fatal influence; deadliness: *the ~ of certain diseases*, eg cancer.

fate /feɪt/ *n* 1 [U] power looked on as controlling all events in a way that cannot be opposed: *He had hoped to live to 80 but ~ decided otherwise*. **as sure as fate**, certain(ly). 2 [C] the future as decided by fate: *They abandoned the men to their ~*. 3 (sing) death; destruction; person's ultimate condition: *decide a person's ~*, eg whether he shall live or die. □ *vt be fated to/that*, be destined (the usual word) to/that.

fate·ful /'feɪtfl/ *adj* 1 controlled by, showing

the power of, fate (1); important and decisive: *a ~ decision*; *on this ~ day*. 2 prophetic.

fate·fully /-fəli/ *adv*

fa·ther¹ /'fɑ:ðə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 male parent: *You have been like a ~ to me*. The property had been handed down from ~ to son for many generations. 2 (usually pl) ancestor(s). 3 founder or first leader: *the F~ of English poetry*, Chaucer. 4 priest, esp one belonging to a religious order; head of a monastic house. 5 title used in personifications: *F~ Christmas*; *F~ Time*. **Our (Heavenly) Father**, God.

the Holy Father, the Pope.

'father figure, older man respected because of his concern for one's welfare.

'father·hood /-hʊd/ *n* [U] state of being a father.

'father·in·law /'fɑ:ðər ɪn lɔ:/ *n* [C] (pl ~s-in-law) father of one's wife or husband.

'father·land /-lənd/ *n* [C] one's native country (mother country is more usual).

father·less *adj* without a living or known father.

father·ly *adj* of or like a father: *~ly love/ smiles*.

fa·ther² /'fɑ:ðə(r)/ *vt* 1 be the originator of an idea, plan, etc. 2 be (or admit to being) the father (of a child), the author (of a book).

fathom /'fæðəm/ *n* [C] measure (six feet or 1.8 metres) of depth of water: *The ship sank in six ~s*. □ *vt* 1 find the depth of. 2 understand fully: *I cannot ~ his meaning*.

fathom·less *adj* too deep to fathom, esp (2).

fa·tigue /fə'ti:g/ *n* 1 [U] condition of being very tired: *Several men dropped with ~ during the long march*. 2 [U] weakness in metals caused by prolonged stress. 3 [C] tiring task; non-military duty of soldiers, such as cleaning, cooking, etc. □ *vt* tire (the usual word): *fatiguing work*.

fat·ten /'fætn/ *vt, vi* make or become fat: *~ cattle*.

fatty /'fæti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) like, consisting of, fat: *~ bacon*.

fa·tu·ity /fə'tju:əti US: -'tu:/ *n* (pl -ies) 1 [U] state of being fatuous. 2 [C] fatuous remark, act, etc.

fa·tu·ous /'fætʃuəs/ *adj* showing foolish self-satisfaction: *a ~ smile/young man*.

fa·tu·ous·ly *adv*

fau·cet /'fɔ:sɪt/ *n* [C] (US) = tap¹ (1).

fault /fɔ:lt/ *n* 1 [C] something that makes a person, thing, etc imperfect; defect: *She loves me in spite of all my ~s*. There is a ~ in the electrical connections. **at fault**, in the wrong; in a puzzled or ignorant state: *My memory was at ~*. **find fault with**, complain about: *I have no ~ to find with your work*. Hence, **'fault·finder**, **'fault·finding**. 2 (sing only) responsibility for being wrong: *It's your own ~*. 3 [C] place where there is a break in the continuity of layers of rock, etc. □ *vt* find fault with: *No one could ~ his performance*.

fault-less *adj*
fault-less-ly *adv*
faulty *adj* (-ier, -iest) having a fault or faults.
faun /fɔ:n/ *n* [C] (in Roman mythology) one of a class of gods of the woods and fields, a man with a goat's horns, legs and tail.
fauna /fə:nə/ *n* [U] all the animals of an area or an epoch: *the ~ of E Africa*.
faux pas /fəʊ 'pɑ:/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) indiscreet action, remark.
fa-vour¹ (*US* = **fa-vor**) /'feivə(r)/ *n* 1 [U] friendly regard; willingness to help, protect, be kind to: *look with ~ on a plan*, approve of it. 2 [U] aid; support: *He obtained his position more by ~ than by merit or ability*. **in favour of**, (a) in sympathy with; approving of: *Are you in ~ of women's lib?* (b) on behalf of; to the account of: *Cheques should be drawn in ~ of the Society*. **be in/out of favour (with sb)**, have/not have his friendship, support, etc. **in sb's favour**, to the advantage of: *The exchange rate is in our ~*. 3 [C] act of kindness: *May I ask you a ~? Would you do me a ~?*
fa-vour² (*US* = **fa-vor**) /'feivə(r)/ *vt* 1 support; approve of: *He ~s an increase in nursery education*. 2 give more support, help, to one person, group, etc than to another: *A teacher should not ~ any of his pupils*. 3 (formal) do something for: *Will you ~ me with an interview?* 4 (formal) (of circumstances) make possible or easy: *The weather ~ed our voyage*.
fa-vour-able (*US* = **-vor-**) /'feivərəbl/ *adj* giving or showing approval; helpful: *She got a ~ report on/about her work*.
fa-vour-ably /-əbl/ *adv* in a favourable manner: *speak favourably of a plan*.
fa-vour-ite (*US* = **-vor-**) /'feivrit/ *n* [C] 1 person or thing preferred above all others: *He is a ~ with his uncle/a ~ of his uncle's/his uncle's ~*. 2 **the ~**, (racing) the horse, etc generally expected to win: *The ~ came in third*. 3 person who is given unfair preference. □ *adj* preferred above all others.
fa-vour-it-ism (*US* = **-vor-**) /-izəm/ *n* [U] (practice of) having favourites(3).
fawn¹ /fɔ:n/ *n* 1 [C] young fallow-deer less than one year old. 2 [U] light yellowish-brown colour. □ *adj* light yellowish-brown.
fawn² /fɔ:n/ *vi* 1 (of dogs) show pleasure and affection by jumping about, tail-wagging, etc. 2 **fawn on sb**, try to win his favour by using flattery, etc.
fear¹ /fiə(r)/ *n* 1 [C,U] feeling caused by the nearness or possibility of danger or evil; alarm: *They stood there trembling with ~*, frightened and shaking. **for fear of**, because of anxiety about: *She asked us not to be noisy, for ~ of waking the baby*. 2 [U] anxiety for the safety (of): *He is in ~ of his life*. 3 [U] likelihood: *There's not much ~ of my losing the money*. **No fear!** (informal) Certainly not!
fear-ful /-fl/ *adj* (a) causing fear; terrible: *a ~ful railway accident*. (b) (informal) annoying; very great: *What a ~ful mess!* (c) fright-

ened; apprehensive: *~ful of waking the baby*.
fear-fully /-fəli/ *adv*
fear-less *adj* without fear.
fear-less-ly *adv*
fear-less-ness *n* [U]
fear² /fiə(r)/ *vt, vi* 1 feel fear (of), be afraid (of): *~ death*. 2 **fear for**, feel anxiety about: *We ~ed for his life/safety*. 3 have an uneasy feeling or anticipation of: *~ the worst*, be afraid that the worst has happened or will happen.
feas-ible /'fi:zəbl/ *adj* 1 that can be done: *A counter-revolution is ~*. 2 (informal) that can be managed or that is convenient or plausible; that can be believed: *His story sounds ~*, may be true.
feas-i-bil-ity /,fi:zə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]
feast /fi:t/ *n* [C] 1 religious anniversary or festival, eg Christmas or Easter. 2 splendid meal. □ *vt, vi* 1 take part in, give, a feast: *~ one's friends; ~ all evening*. 2 give pleasure to: *~ one's eyes on beautiful scenes*.
feat /fi:t/ *n* [C] something difficult well done, esp showing skill, strength or daring: *brilliant ~s of engineering*.
feather¹ /'fedə(r)/ *n* [C] one of the light coverings that grow from a bird's skin. **as light as a feather**, very light. **birds of a feather**, people of the same sort. **a feather in one's cap**, something one can be proud of.
'feather-weight, (esp) boxer weighing between 118 and 126 lbs (53.5 and 57 kg).
feath-ery *adj* light and soft like feathers: *~y snow*.
feather² /'fedə(r)/ *vt* supply with feathers: *~ an arrow*. **feather one's nest**, make things comfortable for oneself.
fea-ture /'fi:tʃə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 one of the named parts of the face: *Her eyes are her best ~*. 2 (*pl*) the face as a whole: *a man of handsome ~s*. 3 characteristic or striking part: *geographical ~s*. 4 prominent article or subject in a newspaper. 5 full-length film in a cinema programme, etc. □ *vi* be or make a feature(3,4) of: *a film that ~s a new French actress*.
fea-ture-less *adj* uninteresting.
Feb-ru-ary /'febrʊəri/ *US*: -ruəri/ *n* the second month of the year, with 28 days (29 in a leap year).
feces ⇨ faeces.
fed /fed/ *pt, pp* of feed².
fed-eral /'fedrəl/ *adj* 1 of, based on, federation: *In the USA foreign policy is decided by the ~ (ie central) government, and ~ laws are made by Congress*. 2 relating to, supporting, central (as distinct from State) government.
Federal Bureau of Investigation, (*US*) (abbr **FBI**) department which is responsible for investigating violations of federal law and safeguarding national security. ⇨ state¹(2).
fed-er-al-ism /-izəm/ *n* [U]
fed-er-al-ist, supporter of federal union or power.
fed-er-ate /'fedəreit/ *vt, vi* (of States, organi-

zations, societies) combine, unite, into a federation.

fed-er-ation /ˌfedə'reɪʃn/ **n** 1 [C] political system in which a union of States leaves foreign affairs, defence, etc to the central (Federal) government but keeps powers of government over some internal affairs. 2 [C] such a union of States, eg the USA; similar union of societies, trade unions, etc. 3 [U] act of federating.

fee /fi:/ **n** 1 [C] charge or payment for professional advice or services, eg doctors, lawyers, surveyors. 2 cost of an examination, membership, etc. □ *vi* engage for a fee: *a barrister*.

feeble /'fi:bl/ **adj** (-r, -st) weak; faint; without energy, force or decision: *a ~ old man*; *a ~ cry/argument/joke*.

'feeble-minded **adj** (a) subnormal in intelligence. (b) (informal) without firmness or decision.

feebly /'fi:bl/ **adv**

feed ¹ /fi:d/ **n** 1 [C] (chiefly of animals and babies) meal: *We stopped to let the horses have a ~*. 2 [U] food for animals: *There isn't enough ~ left for the hens*. 3 [C] pipe, channel, etc through which material is carried to a machine: [U] material supplied.

'feed-back **n** [U] (a) return of part of the output of a computer system to its source (eg to correct it). (b) (informal) information, etc (about a product) given by the user to the supplier, maker, etc: *interesting ~ back via the market research department*. ⇨ **feed**²(6).

feed² /fi:d/ **vt, vi** (pt, pp **fed** /fed/) 1 give food to: *Have the pigs been fed yet?* **be ~ed up (with)**, (sl) have had enough of and therefore feel angry or discontented: *I'm ~ed up with your grumbling*. 2 (chiefly of animals) eat: *The cows were ~ing in the meadows*. 3 **feed on**, take as food: *Cattle ~ chiefly on grass*. 4 supply with material; supply (material) to: *This moving belt ~s the machine with raw material*. 5 provide information; put information into (a computer). 6 **feed back**, send information, etc back, eg from the sales staff to the manufacturer. ⇨ **feedback** above.

feeder /'fi:də(r)/ **n** [C] 1 (of plants and animals, used with *adjectives*) one that feeds. 2 feeding-bottle or bib. 3 (often as an *adjective*) branch of a main railway line, canal, etc.

'feeding-bottle, bottle from which a baby is given milk.

feel¹ /fi:l/ **n** (sing only) 1 sensation characteristic of something when touching or being touched: *You can tell it's wool by the ~*. 2 act of feeling; being touched: *Let me have a ~*.

feel² /fi:l/ **vt, vi** (pt, pp **felt** /felt/) 1 (try to) learn about, explore, by touching, holding in the hands, etc: *Blind persons can often recognize objects by ~ing them*. **feel one's way**, (a) go forward carefully, as in the dark or as a blind man does. (b) be cautious: *They were ~ing their way towards an agreement*. 2 search (about) with the hand(s) (or the feet, a stick,

etc): *He felt in his pocket for a penny*. 3 be aware of (through contact): *I can ~ a nail in my shoe*. 4 be aware of (not through contact): *He felt his heart beating wildly*. *She felt concern for them all*. 5 be in a certain physical, moral or emotional state: *~ cold/hungry/happy/ill*. *How are you ~ing today?* *Please ~ free* (= consider yourself welcome) *to come whenever you like*. 6 be capable of sensation: *The dead cannot ~*. 7 **feel for**, have sympathy, compassion: *I ~ for you in your sorrow*. 8 **feel as if/though**, have, give, the impression that: *She felt as if her head were splitting*. 9 give or produce an impression: *This new suit doesn't ~ right*. 10 **feel like**, (of persons) be in the mood for: *I don't ~ like (eating) a big meal now*. 11 be sensitive to; suffer because of: *He doesn't ~ the heat at all*. 12 have the idea; be of the opinion: *He felt sure that he would succeed*. **feel in one's bones (that)**, ⇨ **bone**. 13 appreciate; understand properly: *We all felt the force of his arguments*.

feeler /'fi:lə(r)/ **n** [C] 1 part of an animal used for testing things by touch, eg a whisker, an antenna. 2 suggestion used to test the opinions or feelings of others: *put out ~s*.

feeling /'fi:liŋ/ **n** 1 [U] power and capacity to feel: *He had lost all ~ in his legs*. 2 [C] physical or mental awareness; emotion: *a ~ of hunger/gratitude/joy*. 3 [C] idea or belief not based wholly on reason: *a ~ of danger*. 4 (usually sing) general opinion: *The ~ of the meeting was against the proposal*. 5 (pl) emotional side of a person's nature (contrasted with the intellect): *Have I hurt your ~s, offended you?* ⇨ **mixed**. 6 [U] sympathy; understanding: *He doesn't show much ~ for the sufferings of others*. 7 [C, U] excitement of mind, esp of anger, hatred or resentment: *F~ over the election ran high*. There were strong opinions, etc. 8 [U] taste and understanding; sensibility: *She plays the piano with ~*. □ **adj** (formal) sympathetic; showing emotion: *a ~ remark*.

feet /fi:t/ **n** pl of foot¹.

feint /feint/ **n** [C] pretence (the more usual word). □ *vi* pretend.

fel-ic-ity /fə'lisɪti/ **n** [U] (formal) great happiness or contentment.

fe-line /'fi:laɪn/ **adj** of or like a cat: *walk with ~ grace*.

fell¹ /fel/ **pt** of fall².

fell² /fel/ **n** [C] stretch of rocky, bare moorland or bare hilly land (esp in N England): *the Derbyshire F~s*.

fell³ /fel/ **vt** cause to fall; strike down; cut down (a tree): *He ~ed his enemy with a single blow*.

fel-low /'feləʊ/ **n** [C] 1 (dated informal) man or boy: *He's a pleasant ~*. 2 (dated) (usually pl) friend, companion: *'school ~s*. 3 (used as an *adjective*) of the same class, kind, etc: *~'citizens*. 4 member of a learned society: *F~ of the British Academy*. 5 member of the governing body of some university colleges; incor-

porated graduate member of a college.

fellow-¹feeling, sympathy.

fel-low-ship /'feləʊʃɪp/ *n* [U] (*dated*) friendly association; companionship: *enjoy ~ with people*. **2** [C] number of persons associated together; group or society. **3** [U] membership in such a group: *admitted to ~*. **4** [C] position of a college fellow (5).

felon /'felən/ *n* [C] person guilty of felony.

fel-oni-ous /'fi:ləniəs/ *adj* criminal (the usual word).

fel-ony /'feləni/ *n* [C,U] (*pl*-ies) major serious crime, eg murder, armed robbery, arson.

felt¹ /felt/ *pt.pp* of feel².

felt² /felt/ *n* [U] wool, hair or fur, compressed and rolled flat into a kind of cloth: (used as an adjective) *~ hats/slippers*.

fe-male /'fi:meil/ *adj* **1** of the sex that produces offspring: *a ~ child/dog*. **2** (of plants or their parts) fruit-bearing. **3** of women: *~ emancipation*. □ *n* [C] female animal.

femi-nine /'femɪnɪn/ *adj* **1** of, like, suitable for, women: *~ curiosity*, said to be typical of women. **2** (*gram*) of the gender proper to the names of females: *~ nouns and pronouns*, eg actress, lioness, she, her.

femi-nin-ity /'femɪnɪnəti/, quality of being feminine.

fem-in-ism /'femɪnɪzəm/, movement for women to have the same rights (social, financial, legal, etc) as men. ⇨ *lib*.

fem-in-ist /-ɪst/, supporter of feminism.

fe-mur /'fi:mə(r)/ *n* [C] (*anat*) thigh-bone.

fen /fen/ *n* [C] area of low marshy land.

fence¹ /fens/ *n* [C] barrier made of wood or metal, eg one put round a field, garden, etc.

sit/be on the fence, not commit oneself; wait to see where one can win most advantage. □ *vt* surround, divide, provide, with a fence: *The land is ~d off/in/round*.

fencing /'fensɪŋ/, material for making fences.

fence² /fens/ *vt* **1** practise the art of fighting with long narrow swords or foils. **2** (*fig*) avoid giving a direct answer to a question(er): *fencing (with) a question*.

fencer, person who fences (1).

fenc-ing /'fensɪŋ/ *n* [U] art, sport, of fighting with swords.

fence³ /fens/ *n* [C] receiver of stolen goods; his place of business. □ *vt,vi* receive stolen goods.

fend /fend/ *vt,vi* **1** **fend off**, defend oneself from: *~ off a blow*. **2** **fend for oneself**, look after oneself: *When his father died, Tom had to ~ for himself*.

fen-der /'fenda(r)/ *n* [C] **1** metal frame bordering an open fireplace (to prevent burning coal, etc from rolling on to the floor). **2** something used to lessen shock or damage in a collision, eg on a ship's side. **3** (US) guard over the wheel of a motor-vehicle.

fer-ment¹ /'fɜ:mənt/ *n* [C] substance, eg yeast, that causes other substances to ferment.

2 in a ferment, (*fig*) in a state of, eg social, political, excitement.

fer-ment² /'fɜ:mənt/ *vt,vi* **1** (cause to) undergo chemical changes through the action of organic bodies (esp yeast) which change glucose into alcohol, eg in beer, wine. **2** (*fig*) (cause to) become excited.

fer-men-ta-tion /'fɜ:məntəʃn/ *n* [U]

fern /'fɜ:n/ *n* [C,U] sorts of feathery, green-leaved flowerless plant.

ferny *adj*

fer-ocious /'fɜ:rəʊʃəs/ *adj* fierce, cruel, savage: *a ~ temper*.

fer-ocious-ly *adv*

fer-oc-ity /'fɜ:rəsəti/ *n* (*formal*) [U] fierceness; savage cruelty; [C] (*pl*-ies) fierce, savage or cruel act.

fer-ret /'ferɪt/ *n* [C] small animal of the weasel family, used for driving rabbits from their burrows, killing rats, etc. □ *vt,vi* **1** hunt with ferrets. **2** discover by searching; search: *~ out/~ about for a lost book*.

ferry /'feri/ *n* [C] (*pl*-ies) (place where there is a) boat, hovercraft or aircraft that carries people and goods across a river, channel, etc. □ *vt,vi* take, go, across in a ferry: *~ people/a boat across a river*.

'ferry-boat, one used for ferrying.

'ferry-man, person who owns or runs a ferry.

fer-tile /'fɜ:taɪl/ *US*: 'fɜ:tl/ *adj* **1** (of land, plants, etc) producing much: *~ soil*. **2** (of a person, his mind, etc) full of ideas, plans, etc: *a ~ imagination*. **3** able to produce fruit, young; capable of developing: *~ seeds/eggs*. ⇨ *sterile* (1,2).

fer-til-ity /'fɜ:tɪləti/, state of being fertile.

fer-til-ize (also **-ise**) /'fɜ:tɪlaɪz/ *vt* make fertile or productive: *~ the soil* (by using manure).

fer-ti-lizer (also **-iser**) *n* [U] chemical plant food; artificial manure; [C] substance of this kind.

fer-ti-liz-ation (also **-isation**) /'fɜ:tɪlaɪzəʃn/ *US*: -lɪz-/ *n* [U]

fer-vent /'fɜ:vənt/ *adj* showing strong feeling; passionate: *~ love/hatred*.

fer-vent-ly *adv*

fer-vour (US = **-vor**) /'fɜ:və(r)/ *n* [U] strength or warmth of feeling.

fes-tal /'festl/ *adj* festive (the usual word).

fes-ter /'festa(r)/ *vi* **1** (of a cut or wound) (cause to) fill with poisonous matter (*pus*): *If the cut gets dirty, it will probably ~*. **2** (*fig*) act like poison in the mind: *The insult ~ed in his mind*.

fes-ti-val /'festɪvl/ *n* [C] **1** (day or season for) rejoicing; public celebration: *Christmas and Easter are Church ~s*. **2** series of performances (of music, ballet, drama, etc) given periodically, eg once a year: *a ~ of music*. □ *adj* of a feast or feast-day: *~ music*.

fes-tive /'festɪv/ *adj* of a feast or festival; joyous: *a ~ season*, eg Christmas.

fes-tiv-ity /fe'stɪvəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] rejoicing; being merry and gay. **2** (pl) joyful events: wedding festivities.

fes-toon /fel'stu:n/ *n* [C] chain of flowers, leaves, ribbons, etc hanging in a curve or loop between two points, as a decoration. □ *vt* decorate (the usual word): ~ed with Christmas decorations.

fetch /fetʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** go for and bring back: *F~ a doctor at once. Shall I ~ your coat (for you)?* **2** cause to come out: ~ a deep sigh. **3** (of goods) bring in; sell for (a price): *These old books won't ~ (you) much.* **4** (informal) give (a blow) to: *She ~ed me a slap across the face.*

fête /fet/ *n* [C] festival or entertainment: the village ~, often one at which funds are raised, eg for a charity. □ *vt* honour by entertaining; make a fuss of: *The hero was ~d wherever he went.*

fetid /'fetɪd/ *adj* stinking.

fet-ish, fe-tich /'fetɪʃ/ *n* [C] (pl ~es) **1** object worshipped by pagan people because they believe a spirit lives in it. **2** anything to which foolishly excessive respect or attention is given: *Some women make a ~ of clothes.*

fet-lock /'fetlɒk/ *n* [C] (tuft of hair on a) horse's leg above and behind the hoof.

fet-ter /'fetə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** chain for the ankles of a prisoner or the leg of a horse. **2** (fig) (usually pl) something that prevents progress. □ *vi* **1** put in chains. **2** (fig) try to stop progress.

feud /fju:d/ *n* [C] bitter quarrel between two persons, families or groups, over a long period of time. □ *vt* quarrel; fight: ~ over a will.

feu-dal /'fju:dəl/ *adj* of the method of holding land (by giving services to the owner) during the Middle Ages in Europe.

feu-dal-ism /-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] the feudal system.

fe-ver /'fi:və(r)/ *n* **1** [U] condition of the human body with temperature higher than usual, esp as a sign of illness: *He has a high ~.* **2** [U] one of a number of diseases in which there is a high fever: yellow/rheumatic ~. **3** (usually sing with *a*) excited state; nervous agitation: *in a ~ of impatience.* **at/to** 'fever pitch, *at/to* a high level of excitement.

fe-vered *adj* affected by a fever: *a ~ed imagination*, highly excited.

fe-ver-ish *adj* having symptoms of, caused by, causing, fever.

fe-ver-ish-ly *adv*

few /fju:/ *adj* (-er, -est), *pron* (contrasted with many; ⇨ little, much) **1** (used with a pl noun) not many: *F~ people live to be 100 and ~er still live to be 110. Such occasions are ~.* **no fewer than**, as many as: *No ~er than twenty workers were absent yesterday through illness.* **2 a few**, a small number (of): *I know a ~ of them.* **quite a few**, several. **3 every few minutes/days**, etc, ⇨ every(4). **4 the ~**, the minority.

fez /fez/ *n* [C] red felt headdress with a flat top and no brim, worn by some Muslim men.

fi-ancé /fi'a:nseɪ/ *US*; /fi'a:n'seɪ/ *n* [C] man to

whom one is engaged to be married.

fi-ancée /fi'a:nseɪ/ *US*; /fi'a:n'seɪ/ *n* [C] woman to whom one is engaged to be married.

fi-asco /fi'æskəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s, *US* also ~es) complete failure, breakdown: *The new play was a ~.*

fib /fɪb/ *n* [C] (informal) untrue statement (esp about something unimportant). □ *vi* (-bb-) tell a fib.

fib-ber, person who tells fibs.

fib-bing, telling fibs.

fibre (*US* = fiber) /'faɪbə(r)/ *n* **1** [C] one of the very thin threads of which many animal and vegetable growths are formed, eg cotton, wool, nerves, muscles. **2** [U] substance formed of a mass of fibres, for manufacture into various materials. **3** [U] structure; texture: *material of tough ~.* **4** [U] (fig) character: *a person of strong moral ~.*

'fibre-glass, material of glass fibres in resin, used as an insulating material, and made into structural materials.

fi-brous /'faɪbrəs/ *adj* made of, like, fibres.

fib-ula /'fɪbjələ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) (*anat*) outer and smaller of the two bones from the knee to the ankle.

fickle /'fɪkl/ *adj* (of moods, the weather, etc) often changing; not constant.

fic-tion /'fɪkʃn/ *n* **1** [C] something invented or imagined (contrasted with truth). **2** [U] (branch of literature concerned with) stories, novels and romances.

fic-ti-tious /'fɪk'tɪʃəs/ *adj* untrue; imagined or invented: *The account he gives of his movements is quite ~.*

fiddle /'fɪdl/ *n* [C] **1** violin; any instrument of the violin family, eg a cello or viola. **fit as a fiddle**, very well; healthy. **play second fiddle (to)**, take a less important part (than). **2** instance of fiddling; ⇨ **3** below. □ *vi* **1** play a tune, etc on the fiddle. **2** make aimless movements; play aimlessly (with something in one's fingers): *He was fiddling (about) with a piece of string.* **3** (sl) make or keep dishonestly inaccurate records of figures (in business accounts, etc): ~ the expenses.

fid-dler, (a) person who plays a fiddle(1). (b) person who fiddles(3).

fid-dling *adj* (informal) trivial: *fiddling little jobs.*

fi-del-ity /fi'deləti/ *n* [U] **1** loyalty, faithfulness: ~ to one's principles/wife. **2** accuracy; exactness: *translate with the greatest ~.* ⇨ high-fidelity.

fidget /'fɪdʒɪt/ *vi, vt* (cause to) move the body (or part of it) about restlessly; make nervous: *The boy was ~ing with his knife and fork.* □ *n* [C] **1** the ~s, fidgeting movements: *Having to sit still for a long time often gives small children the ~s.* **2** person who fidgets.

fidgety *adj*

field' /fi:ld/ *n* [C] **1** area of land, usually enclosed by means of hedges, fences, etc: *work-ing in the ~s.* **2** area or expanse; open space: *an*

'ice-~, eg round the North Pole; a 'cricket/'football ~. **3** area of land from which minerals, etc are obtained: a new 'oil-~; 'coal-~s. **4** place, area, where a battle or war is or was fought: the ~ of battle/battle-~. **5** area or department of study or activity: the ~ of politics/medical research. That is outside my ~, is not something that I have studied. **6** range (of operation, activity, use); area or space in which forces can be felt: a magnetic ~, round a magnet: a wide ~ of vision. **7** (in sports and athletics) all those taking part; (in cricket and baseball) team that is not batting.

'field day, (a) day on which military operations are practised or for exploration, etc by a society. (b) (fig) great or special occasion: having a ~ day, having great fun, success, etc.

'field event, athletic event such as jumping or throwing which does not take place on a track.

'field glasses, binoculars for outdoor use.

'field hockey, ⇨ hockey.

'field hospital, temporary one near the scene of fighting.

'field 'marshal, army officer of highest rank.

'field-officer, major, lieutenant colonel or colonel.

'field study, planned study of first-hand observations, interviews, etc.

'field work, (a) research done in the field, eg by a geologist. (b) = field study. (c) = spade work.

field² /fi:ld/ vt, vi **1** (in cricket and baseball) (stand ready to) catch or stop (the ball): He ~s well. **2** (of football teams, etc) put into the field: The school is ~ing a strong team in their next match.

fielder, fields-man, (in cricket, etc) person who fields.

fiend /fi:nd/ n [C] **1** devil. **2** very wicked or cruel person. **3** (informal) person devoted or addicted to something: a fresh-air ~.

fiend-ish adj savage and cruel.

fiend-ish-ly adv

fierce /fi:əs/ adj (-r, -st) **1** violent; cruel; angry: ~ dogs/winds; look ~; have a ~ look. **2** (of heat, desire, etc) intense, strong: ~ hatred.

fierce-ly adv

fierce-ness n [U]

fiery /'fiəri/ adj (-ier, -iest) **1** flaming; looking like, hot as, fire: a ~ sky; ~ eyes, angry and glaring. **2** (of a person, his actions, etc) quickly or easily made angry: a ~ temper/speech.

fiery-ly /-li/ adv

fi-esta /fi:'estə/ n [C] (pl ~s) **1** religious festival; saint's day. **2** holiday, festival.

fif-teen /'fi:ti:n/ adj, n [C] (of) 15.

fif-teenth /'fi:ti:nθ/ adj, n [C] (abbr 15th) (of) one of 15 parts or the next after 14.

fifth /fi:fθ/ adj, n [C] (abbr 5th) (of) one of 5 parts or the next after 4.

fifth 'column, organized body of persons

sympathizing with and working for the enemy within a country at war.

fifth-ly adv

fifty /'fifti/ adj, n [C] (of) 50. **go fifty-fifty (with); on a fifty-fifty basis**, have equal shares. **a fifty-fifty chance**, equal chance. **in the fifties**, (a) (of a person's age, temperature, speed, etc) between 49 and 60. (b) between '49 and '60 in a century.

fif-ti-eth /'fifti:θ/ adj, n [C] (abbr 50th) (of) one of 50 parts or the next after 49.

fig /fig/ n [C] (broad-leaved tree having a) soft, sweet, pear-shaped fruit full of small seeds. **not care/give a fig (for)**, not care or value in the least.

'fig-leaf, conventional device for concealing male genital organs in drawings, statues, etc.

fight¹ /fait/ n **1** [C] act of fighting; struggle: a ~ between two dogs; the ~ against poverty. **2** [U] desire, spirit or ability to fight: The news that their leader had surrendered took all the ~ out of them.

fighter, (a) person who fights professionally: a prize ~. (b) thing used in fighting, eg aircraft: a 'jet-~. (c) (used as an adjective): a ~er pilot/squadron.

fight² /fait/ vi, vt (pt, pp fought /fo:t/) struggle with the hands or with weapons; use physical force (as in war): ~ a battle. The dogs were ~ing over a bone. Britain has often fought against/with (= against) her enemies. Britain fought with (= on the side of) France. **fight to the finish**, until there is a decision. **fight 'shy of**, keep away from, not get mixed up with. **fight tooth and nail**, make every possible effort to win. **fight back**, (a) use force to resist an attack. (b) (fig) make an effort to resist something: ~ back a cold. **fight sth down**, repress: ~ down a feeling of jealousy. **fight sb/sth off**, drive away; struggle against: ~ off a cold, eg by taking aspirin. **fight it out**, fight until a dispute is settled.

fight-ing n [U]: 'street ~ing. ⇨ adj **a fight-ing chance**, a possibility of success if great effort is made. **fighting fit**, very healthy.

fig-ment /'figmənt/ n [C] something invented or imagined: ~s of the imagination.

fig-urative /'figjərativ/ adj (abbr fig used in this dictionary) (of words and language) used not in the literal sense but in an imaginative way, eg bait¹ (2).

fig-ura-tive-ly adv

fig-ure /'fi:gə(r) US: 'figjə(r) n [C] **1** symbol for a number, esp 0 to 9: He has a salary of six figures/a six-~ salary, £100000 or more. ⇨ double figures. **2** (pl) arithmetic: Are you good at ~s? **3** diagram; illustration: The black-board was covered with geometrical ~s, ie squares, triangles, etc. **4** person's, animal's, form drawn, painted or carved. **5** human form, esp the appearance and what it suggests: I'm dieting to keep my ~, in order not to grow fat. **6** person, esp his influence: Russell, the greatest ~ of his era. ⇨ vt, vi **1** imagine; picture

mentally. **2** appear; have a part; be prominent: ~ in history/in a play. **3** **figure sth/sb out**, calculate; think about until one understands: *I can't ~ that man out*, I do not understand him. **'figure-head**, (a) carved image (either bust or full-length) placed for ornament at the prow of a ship. (b) person in high position but with no real authority.

'figure of 'speech, expression, eg a simile or metaphor, that gives variety or force, using words out of their literal meaning.

fila-ment /'fɪləmənt/ *n* [C] thin thread, eg of wire in an electric light bulb.

filch /fɪltʃ/ *vt* steal (something of small value).

file¹ /faɪl/ *n* [C] metal tool with roughened surface(s) for cutting or smoothing hard substances. □ *vt* use a file on; make smooth, remove, cut through, with a file: *fil- ing one's fingernails*.

file² /faɪl/ *n* [C] **1** holder, cover, case, box, drawer, etc for keeping papers, etc together and in order for reference purposes. **2** set of papers so kept. **3** record stored in a computer. **on file**, on or in a file(1) or computer. □ *vt* place on or in a file: *Would you please ~ (away) these letters*.

fil- ing, work of placing papers in files.

file³ /faɪl/ *n* [C] line of persons or things one behind the other. **in single file**, ⇨ single(1). **the rank and file**, (a) common soldiers (not officers). (b) (fig) ordinary, undistinguished persons. □ *vi* march in file: *The men ~ d in/out*, came or went in/out.

fil-ial /'fɪliəl/ *adj* of a son or daughter: ~ duty.

fil-ings /'fɪlɪŋz/ *n* pl bits removed by filing.

fill¹ /fɪl/ *n* [U] as much as is wanted: *eat/drink one's ~*. **have (had) one's fill of sth**, (informal) have (had) as much as one can bear.

fill- ing, something put in to fill something: *a ~ ing in a tooth*.

fill² /fɪl/ *vt, vi* **1** make or become full; occupy all the space in: ~ a tank with petrol. *Tears ~ ed her eyes*. *I was ~ ed with admiration*. **2** hold a position and do the necessary work; put a person in a position: *The vacancy has already been ~ ed*. **fill the bill**, (informal) do or be what is wanted.

3 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

fill in, add what is necessary to make complete: ~ in an application form, write one's name, and other particulars required; ~ in an outline, add details, etc.

fill out, (a) make or become larger, rounder or fatter: *Her cheeks began to ~ out*. (b) (esp US) = fill in.

fill up, make or become full: ~ up a petrol tank.

fil-let /'fɪlət/ *n* [C] slice of fish or meat without bones. □ *vt* cut into fillets: ~ ed plaice.

fil- lip /'fɪlɪp/ *n* [C] **1** quick blow or stroke with a finger. **2** (fig) incentive or stimulus: *an advertising campaign that gave a fresh ~ to sales*.

filly /'fɪli/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) female foal.

film¹ /fɪlm/ *n* **1** [C] thin coating or covering: *a ~ of dust/mist*. **2** [C, U] roll or sheet of thin flexible material for use in photography: *a roll (US = spool) of ~*. **3** [C] series or strip of photographs projected onto a screen one after the other so quickly that the people, objects, etc appear to be moving; such a strip representing a story, drama, etc.

'film star, well-known and popular cinema actor or actress.

'film test, photographic test of a person who wishes to act in films.

filmy *adj* (-ier, -iest) like a film(1): ~ y clouds.

film² /fɪlm/ *vt, vi* **1** cover, become covered, with a film(1): *The scene ~ ed over*. **2** take a film(3) of: ~ a play. **3** be suited for filming: *She ~ s ~ badly*.

fil-ter /'fɪltə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** apparatus (eg with sand) for holding back solid substances in a liquid passed through it: *a ~ coffee ~*. **2** coloured glass (as used on a camera lens) which allows light of certain wave-lengths to pass through. **3** (radio) device which separates alternating current of one frequency from others. □ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) flow through a filter. **2** (fig) (of a crowd, road traffic, news, ideas, etc) make a way, pass or flow: *new ideas ~ ing into people's minds*. **3** (of traffic in GB) be allowed to move when traffic going in other directions is held up by a red light.

'filter tip, cigarette end containing material that acts as a filter (for nicotine, etc). Hence, **'filter- 'tipped** *adj*

filth /fɪlθ/ *n* [U] **1** disgusting dirt. **2** obscenity.

filthy *adj* (-ier, -iest).

fin /fɪn/ *n* [C] **1** part (like a wing) attached to a fish used in swimming. **2** thing shaped like or used in the same way as a fin, eg the 'tail- ~ of an aircraft.

fi- nal /'faɪnəl/ *adj* **1** coming at the end: *the ~ chapter of a book*. **2** putting an end to doubt or argument: *a ~ decision/judgement*. □ *n* [C] (often pl) last of a series: *take one's ~ s*, last examinations; *the tennis ~ s*, at the end of a tournament. ⇨ cup final.

fi- nal-ist, (a) player who takes part in the last of a series of contests. (b) undergraduate in his last year.

fi- nally /-nəli/ *adv* (a) lastly; in conclusion. (b) once and for all: *settle a matter ~ ly*.

fi- nal-ity /faɪ'næləti/ *n* [U] state or quality of being final: *speak with an air of ~*, as if there is nothing more to be said or done.

fi- nal-ize (also -ise) /'faɪnəlaɪz/ *vt* give a final form to.

fi- nance /'fʌməns/ *n* **1** [U] (science of) the management of (esp public) money: *an expert in ~*. **2** (pl) money (esp of a government or a business company): *Are the country's ~ s sound?*. □ *vt* provide money for (a scheme, etc).

fi- nan- cial /faɪ'nænʃl/ *adj* of finance: *in ~ difficulties*, short of money; *the ~ year*, the annual period for which accounts are made up.

fin-an-cially /-fənl/ *adv*

fin-an-cier /faɪ'nænsiə(r) *US*: /fɪnən'siə(r) *n* [C] person skilled in finance.

finch /fɪntʃ/ *n* [C] kinds of small bird (usually with a prefix, eg 'chaffinch).

find¹ /faɪnd/ *n* [C] act of finding; something (esp valuable or pleasing) found: *I made a great ~ in a secondhand bookshop yesterday.*

finder, (a) person who finds something: *Lost, a diamond ring: ~er will be rewarded.*

(b) lens in a camera ('view-~er) or telescope used to find the object to be examined, etc.

find-ing, (usually *pl*) (a) what has been learnt as the result of inquiry: *the ~ings of the Commission.* (b) what is decided by a jury, etc. ⇨ **find**²(9).

find² /faɪnd/ *vt* (*pt, pp* found /faʊnd/) **1** get back, after a search: *Did you ever ~ that pen you lost? The missing child has not been found yet.* **2** get or discover after research, experience or effort: *~ a cure/remedy (for a disease): ~ a solution/an answer (to a problem).* *They couldn't ~ the way in/out/back.* **find fault (with)**, ⇨ **fault**(1). **find one's feet**, (a) be able to stand and walk, eg as a baby does. (b) (fig) become able to act independently, without the help and guidance of others. **3** arrive at naturally: *Rivers ~ their way to the sea.* **4** discover by chance; come across: *He was found dead at the foot of a cliff.* **5** become informed or aware of, by experience or trial: *We found the beds quite comfortable. I ~ it difficult to understand him/~ him difficult to understand.* **6** (often **find out**) learn by study, calculation, inquiry: *Please ~ out when the train leaves.* **7** (= there is/are, the subject being one or you): *One doesn't find You don't find (= There isn't) much sunshine in this area.* **8** supply; provide: *Who will ~ the money for the expedition?* **all found**, everything provided: *Wanted, a waitress, £100 a month and all found, board, lodging, etc provided in addition to wages.* **9** (legal) decide and declare; give as a verdict: *How do you ~ the accused? The jury found the accused man guilty.*

fine¹ /faɪn/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** (of weather) bright; clear; not raining: *It rained all morning, but turned ~ later.* **2** in good health: *I'm feeling ~.* **3** enjoyable; pleasing; splendid: *a ~ view; have a ~ time; ~ clothes.* **4** delicate; carefully made and easily injured: *~ silk.* **5** of very small particles: *Sand is ~r than gravel.* **6** slender; thin; sharp: *a pencil with a ~ point.* **not to put too fine a point on it**, to express it plainly. **7** (of metals) refined; pure: *~ gold.* **8** (able to be) seen only with difficulty or effort: *a ~ distinction.* **9** able to make delicate distinctions: *a ~ taste in art.*

fine art; the fine arts, the visual arts that appeal to the sense of beauty, esp painting and sculpture.

fine-ly *adv* (a) splendidly: *~ly dressed.* (b) into small particles or pieces: *carrots ~ly chopped.*

fine-ness *n* [U]

fine² /faɪn/ *adv* (informal) very well: *That will suit me ~.*

fine³ /faɪn/ *n* [C] sum of money (to be) paid as a penalty for breaking a law or rule. □ *vt* punish by a fine: *~ him £5.*

fine-able (also **fin-able**) /'faɪnəbl/ *adj* liable to a fine.

fin-ery /'fɪnəri/ *n* [U] gay and elegant dress or appearance: *the garden in its summer ~, with its flowers, etc.*

fi-nesse /'fɪnes/ *n* [U] artful or delicate way of dealing with a situation: *show ~ in dealing with people.*

fin-ger /'fɪŋɡə(r)/ *n* [C] one of the end parts of the hand or a glove: *There are five ~s (or four ~s and one thumb) on each hand.* **have a finger in every/the pie**, ⇨ **pie**. **keep one's fingers crossed**, (fig) hope that nothing will prevent success. **lay one's finger on**, show exactly (where something is wrong). **not lift a finger (to help sb)**, do nothing to help when help is needed. **slip through one's fingers**, ⇨ **slip**²(3). □ *vt* touch with the fingers: *~ a piece of cloth.*

'finger-nail, nail at the tip of the finger.

'finger-print, mark made by a finger when pressed on a surface, used for identifying criminals.

'finger-tip, top of a finger. **have sth at one's fingertips**, be thoroughly familiar with it; know it well.

fin-ish /'fɪnɪʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** bring or come to an end; complete: *~ one's work; ~ reading a book.* *Have you ~ed with that dictionary?* Are you still using it? **2** make complete or perfect: *He gave the picture a few ~ing touches.* □ *n* (sing only) **1** last part: *the ~ of a race.* **fight to the finish**, ⇨ **fight**². **2** the state, manner, of being complete: *His style of writing has no ~.* **3** shining surface (after polishing): *expensive furniture with a beautiful ~.*

fi-nite /'faɪnaɪt/ *adj* **1** limited: *Human understanding is ~.* **2** (gram) agreeing with a subject in number and person: 'Am', 'is', 'are', 'was', and 'were' are the ~ forms of 'be', and 'be'; 'being' and 'been' are the 'non-~ forms'.

fiord, fjord /fjɔːd/ *n* [C] long, narrow arm of the sea, between high cliffs (as in Norway).

fir /fɜː(r)/ *n* [C] conifer with leaves like needles; [U] wood of this tree.

'fir-cone, ⇨ **cone**(3).

fire¹ /'faɪə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] condition of burning: *F~ burns.* **on fire**, burning: *The house was on ~.* **catch fire**, begin to burn: *Paper catches ~ easily.* **set sth on fire; set fire to sth**, cause it to begin burning: *He set his hair on ~.*

2 [U] destructive burning: *Have you insured your house against ~?* **3** [C] instance of destructive burning: *forest ~s.* **4** [C] burning fuel in a grate, etc to heat a building, for cooking, etc: *There's a ~ in the next room.* **5** [U] shooting (from guns). **open/cease fire**, start/stop shooting. **under fire**, (a) being shot at.

(b) (fig) being criticised. **6** [U] strong emotion; angry or excited feeling; enthusiasm: *a speech that has no ~, is uninspiring.*

fire alarm, apparatus (bell, etc) for making known the outbreak of a fire.

fire-arm, rifle, gun, pistol or revolver.

fire brigade, organized team of men who put out fires.

fire drill, practice of the routine to be followed when fire breaks out.

fire-engine, (motor-vehicle with a) machine for putting out a fire.

fire-escape, outside staircase for leaving a burning building; apparatus, kind of extending ladder, used to save people from a burning building.

fire-extinguisher, portable cylinder with a chemical substance, etc inside, for putting out a small fire.

fire-man (a) man who looks after the fire in a furnace, etc. (b) member of a fire brigade.

fire-place, place for a fire in a room.

fire-proof *adj* (a) that does not burn. (b) that does not crack or break when heated.

fire-raising, arson.

fire service, fire brigade(s).

fire-side, (sing with *the*) part of a room round the fireplace: *sitting at/by the ~side*; (used as an adjective): *a ~side chair*.

fire station, building for a fire brigade.

fire-wood, wood prepared for lighting fires or as fuel.

fire-work, device containing gunpowder and chemicals, used for making a display at night, or as a signal.

fire² /'faɪə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** set on fire with the intention of destroying; cause to begin burning: *~ a heap of leaves.* **2** use heat on something in order to change it in some way: *~ (= bake to harden) pottery in a kiln.* **3** supply (a furnace) with fuel: *an ~oil-~d furnace.* **4** excite or stimulate.

fire sb with sth, fill with (enthusiasm, etc).

5 send (a bullet, etc) from a gun; explode (a charge of explosive); shoot: *~ a gun/six rounds of ammunition. The police ~d into the crowd.* **fire away**, (a) continue firing: *They were firing away at the enemy.* (b) (fig) go ahead; begin: *I'm ready to answer questions; ~ away.* **6** (informal) dismiss (an employee).

fire-ing-line, front line where soldiers fire at the enemy. **in the fire-ing-line**, (fig) exposed to direct attack, criticism, etc.

fire-ing-party/-squad, number of soldiers ordered to fire volleys at a military funeral or to carry out a military execution.

firm¹ /fɜ:m/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** solid; hard; not yielding when pressed: *~ flesh/muscles.* **2** not easily changed or influenced; showing strength of character and purpose: *be ~ with children, insist on obedience and discipline; a ~ promise.* **3** (of a person, his body, its movements, characteristics, etc) steady, stable: *walk with ~ steps. He spoke in a ~ voice.* **4** *vt, vi* make or become firm. **5** *adv* = firmly:

stand ~; hold ~ to one's beliefs.

firm-ly *adv* in a firm manner.

firm-ness *n* [U]

firm² /fɜ:m/ *n* [C] (two or more) persons carrying on a business.

fir-ma-ment /'fɜ:məmənt/ *n* **the ~**, the heavens and all that is in them.

first¹ /fɜ:st/ *adj* (abbr *1st*) coming before all others in time or order: *January is the ~ month of the year; at the ~ (= earliest) opportunity.*

first thing, at the earliest opportunity: *I'll be here ~ thing in the morning.* **not know the first thing about sth**, not even one thing.

at first sight, initially: *It seemed easy at ~ sight, but...*

first 'aid, treatment given at once to a sick or injured person before a doctor comes.

first 'class, *n* [U] best accommodation in a train, steamer, aircraft, etc. **first-class** *adj* of the best class: *~class hotels; a ~class (university) degree.* **adv** by the best class: *travel ~class.*

first 'floor, (GB) floor immediately above the ground floor; (US) ground floor.

first-hand *adj, adv* (obtained) directly from the source: *~hand information; learn something ~hand.* **at first hand**, directly.

first 'lady, wife of a president, etc.

first name, given name (contrasted with surname).

first 'night, evening on which a play, etc is presented for the first time.

first 'mate, ⇨ *mate*¹(2).

first of fender, one against whom no previous conviction has been recorded.

first 'person, (gram) the pronouns *I, me, we, us* (and the verb forms used with them).

first-rate *adj* of the best class; excellent: *~rate 'acting.* **adv** (informal) very well: *getting on ~rate.*

first-ly *adv* in the first place.

first² /fɜ:st/ *adv* **1** before anyone or anything else (often, for emphasis, *~ of all; ~ and foremost*): *Which horse came in ~, won the race?* **2** for the first time: *When did you ~ see him/see him ~?* **3** before some other (specified or implied) time: *I must finish this work ~, ie before starting something else.* **4** in preference: *He said he would resign ~.*

first-born *adj, n* [C] eldest (child).

first³ /fɜ:st/ *n* (abbr *1st*) **1** **at first**, at the beginning. **from the first**, from the start.

from first to last, from beginning to end; throughout. **2** [C] (in examinations, competitions) place in the first class; person who obtains this: *He got a ~ in Modern Languages.*

firth /fɜ:θ/ *n* [C] (esp in Scotland) river estuary or sea inlet.

fis-cal /'fɪskl/ *adj* of public revenue.

fish¹ /fɪʃ/ *n* (pl *~* or *~es*) **1** [C] cold-blooded animal living wholly in water and breathing through gills: *catch a ~/two ~es/a lot of ~.* **have 'other fish to fry**, more important business to attend to. ⇨ also *water*¹(1). **2** [U]

fish as food: ~ *and chips*.

'fish-cake, shaped piece of minced fish.

'fish-finger, long piece of fish in bread crumbs.

'fish-hook, metal hook used for catching fish.

'fish-knife, knife with which fish is eaten.

'fish-monger, person who sells fish.

'fish-paste, paste of fish or shellfish (spread on bread, etc).

'fish-slice, implement for serving fish at table.

fishy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) smelling or tasting like fish: *a ~y smell*. (b) (informal) causing a feeling of doubt: *a ~y story*.

fish² /fɪʃ/ *vi, vt* **1** try to catch fish: *go ~ing*. **2** (fig) try to get by indirect methods: ~ *for information/compliments*. **3** draw or pull: ~ *out a coin from one's pocket*.

fish-ing, catching fish for a living or for pleasure.

'fish-ing-line, line¹(1) with a fish-hook attached for fishing.

'fish-ing-rod, rod to which a fishing-line is fastened.

'fish-ing-tackle, things needed for fishing.

fisher-man /'fɪʃəməŋ/ *n* [C] (pl -men) man who earns a living by fishing. ⇨ *angler*.

fish-ery /'fɪʃəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) part of the sea where fishing is carried on: *in-shore fisheries*, those near the coast.

fis-sion /'fɪʃn/ *n* [C,U] splitting or division, eg of an atom: *nuclear ~*.

fis-sure /'fɪʃə(r)/ *n* [C] narrow opening made by the splitting or separation of parts.

fist /fɪst/ *n* [C] hand when tightly closed (as in boxing): *He struck me with his ~*.

fit¹ /fɪt/ *adj* (-ter, -test) **1** suitable or suited; well adapted; good enough: *The food was not ~ to eat. That man is not ~ for the job*. **2** right and proper. **think/see fit (to do sth)**, decide to: *Do as you think ~*. **3** ready; in a suitable condition; (informal) (used as an *adverb*): *He was laughing ~ to burst*. **4** in good athletic condition; in good health: *I hope you're keeping ~*. ⇨ *keep¹(14)*

fit-ness *n* [U] (a) suitability (for). (b) the state of being physically fit.

fit² /fɪt/ *n* [C] **1** sudden (usually short) attack of illness: *a ~ of coughing*. **2** sudden attack of hysteria, paralysis, eg with loss of consciousness and violent movements: *fall down in a ~*.

give sb a fit, (informal) do something that greatly shocks or outrages him. **have a fit**, (informal) be greatly surprised or outraged: *She almost had a ~ when she saw the bill*. **3** sudden outburst lasting for a short time: *a ~ of energy/enthusiasm/temper*. **throw a fit**, be suddenly angry.

fit-ful /-fɪl/ *adj* occurring, coming and going, irregularly.

fit-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

fit³ /fɪt/ *vt, vi* (-tt-) **1** be the right measure, shape and size for: *shoes that ~ well*. **2** put on

(esp clothing) to see that it is the right size, shape, etc: *have a new coat ~ted*. **3** put into place: *a new lock on a door*. **4** make (a person, oneself, something) suitable or competent: *Can we make the punishment ~ the crime?* **5 fit in (with)**, (cause to) be in a suitable or harmonious relation (with); find, be in, the right or a suitable time or place for: *I must ~ my holidays in with yours*. **fit sb/sth out**, supply with what is needed; equip: *~ out a ship for a long voyage*. **fit sb/sth up**, supply: *a hotel ~ted up with modern comforts*. □ *n* (usually sing with *a* or *an* and an *adjective*) style, manner, in which something, eg clothes, fits: *The coat is a tight/an excellent ~*.

fit-ment /'fɪtmənt/ *n* [C] piece of furniture or equipment: *kitchen ~s*.

fit-ter /'fɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who cuts out, fits and alters clothes. **2** workman who fits and adjusts parts of an engine, machine, etc.

fit-ting /'fɪtɪŋ/ *adj* proper; right; suitable. □ *n* [C] **1** act of fitting: *go to the tailor's for a ~*. **2** fixture in a building, esp (pl) things permanently fixed: *gas and electric light ~s*. **3** furnishing: *office ~s*, eg desks, filing cabinets.

five /faɪv/ *adj, n* [C] (of) 5. ⇨ *fifth*.

'five-fold *adj* with 5 parts; 5 times as much.

five-pence /'faɪfəns/ *US: 'faɪvəns/ n* [C] (pl ~pence pieces) (coin with a) value of 5 pence.

'five-star *adj* of the best or luxury class: *a ~-star hotel*.

fiver /'faɪvə(r)/ *n* [C] (informal) £5 note; \$5 bill.

fix¹ /fiks/ *n* [C] (pl ~es) **1** *be in/get oneself into a fix*, a dilemma, an awkward situation.

2 finding of a position, position found, by taking bearings, observing the stars, etc. **3** (sl) injection of a drug, eg heroin.

fix² /fiks/ *vt, vi* **1** make firm or fast; fasten (something) so that it cannot be moved: ~ *shelves to a wall*. **2 fix on**, direct (the eyes, one's attention, etc) steadily on or to: ~ *one's attention on what one is doing*. **3** (of objects) attract and hold (the attention): *This unusual sight kept his attention ~ed*. **4** determine or decide: ~ *the rent/a date for a meeting*; ~ *ed prices*, prices with no discount, with no possibility of bargaining; *a man with ~ed* (= definite and decided) *principles*. **5** treat (photographic films, colours used in dyeing, etc) so that light does not affect them. **6** arrange; organize, provide for: ~ *her up with a job*. **7** settle one's choice, decide to have: *They've ~ed on a villa near Rome*. **8** (sl) (a) use bribery or deception, improper influence: *Can you ~ a judge in Britain?* (b) get even with; deal with: *I'll ~ him!* **9** (informal) put in order: ~ *one's hair*, brush and comb it. **10** (informal) repair: ~ *a watch/car*.

fixed /fɪkst/ *adj* unchanging: *a ~ed idea*, one which a person will not change and which occupies his thoughts too much.

fix-ed-ly /'fɪksɪdli/ *adv*

fix-ation /fɪk'seɪʃn/ *n* [C] **1** fixing or being fixed: *the ~ of a photographic film*. **2** obsession: *She has a ~ about bathing daily*.

fixa-tive /'fɪksətɪv/ *n* [C] **1** substance which makes specimens firm for study under a microscope. **2** substance for keeping paint, etc in position.

fix-ture /'fɪkstʃə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** something fixed in place, esp (*pl*) built-in cupboards, etc which are bought with a building: *We were charged for ~s and fittings*. **2** (day fixed or decided for a) sporting event: *football and racing ~s*. **3** (*informal*) person or thing that appears unlikely to move from or leave a place: *Professor Green seems to be a permanent ~ in the college*.

fizz /fɪz/ *vi* make a hissing sound (as when gas escapes from a liquid). □ *n* [U] this sound.

fizzy *adj* (-ier, -iest).

fizzle /'fɪzl/ *vi* hiss or splutter feebly. **fizzle out**, come to a weak, unsatisfactory end.

fjord /fjɔ:d/ ⇨ fiord.

flabby /'flæbi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** (of the muscles, flesh) soft; not firm: *A man who never takes any exercise is likely to have ~ muscles*. **2** (*fig*) weak; without moral force: *a ~ will/character*.

flab-bi-ness *n* [U]

flag¹ /flæg/ *n* [C] **1** (usually oblong) piece of cloth, attached by one edge to a rope, used as the distinctive symbol of a country, or as a signal: *the national ~ of Great Britain*, the Union Jack. **2** = flagstone. □ *vt* (-gg-) **1** place a flag on; decorate with flags: *streets ~ged to celebrate a victory*. **2** signal to stop a train, car, etc by moving one's outstretched arm up and down or waving a flag: *~ down the next car*.

'flag-pole, pole on which a flag is shown.

'flag-ship, warship having an admiral on board.

'flag-staff, pole on which a flag is flown.

flag² /flæg/ *vi* (-gg-) **1** (of plants, etc) droop, hang down, become limp. **2** (*fig*) become tired or weak: *His strength/interest in his work was ~ging*.

flagel-lant /'flædʒlənt/ *n* [C] person who practises whipping (as a religious penance).

flagel-late /'flædʒlənt/ *vt* whip (esp as a religious penance).

flagel-la-tion /'flædʒləɪʃn/ *n* [U]

flagon /'flæɡən/ *n* [C] **1** large, round bottle in which wine, cider, etc is sold. **2** vessel with a handle, lip and lid for serving wine at table.

fla-grant /'fleɪgrənt/ *adj* (of a criminal or crime, etc) openly and obviously wicked: *~ offences/sinners*.

fla-grant-ly *adv*

flag-stone /'flægstəʊn/ *n* [C] flat, square or oblong piece of stone for a floor, path or pavement.

flair /flæ(r)/ *n* [C] (usually *sing*) natural or instinctive ability (to do something well, to select or recognize what is best, most useful, etc): *have a ~ for languages*.

flake /fleɪk/ *n* [C] small, light, leaf-like piece:

'snow-~s; 'soap-~s. □ *vi* **1** (*informal*) fall off in flakes. **2** **flake out**, (*informal*) collapse with exhaustion.

flaky *adj* (-ier, -iest) made up of flakes: *flaky pastry*.

flam-boy-ance /flæm'bɔɪəns/ *n* [U] being flamboyant.

flam-boy-ant /flæm'bɔɪənt/ *adj* **1** brightly coloured and decorated. **2** (of a person, his character) very energetic, lively, etc in order to attract attention.

flam-boy-ant-ly *adv*

flame¹ /fleɪm/ *n* **1** [C, U] (portion of) burning gas: *He put a match to the papers and they burst into ~s*. **2** [C] blaze of light; brilliant colour: *the ~s of sunset*. **3** [C] passion: *a ~ of anger/enthusiasm*. **4** [C] (*informal*) sweetheart: *She's an old ~ of his*.

flame² /fleɪm/ *vi* **1** burn with, send out, flames. **2** be or become like flames in colour: *flaming trees in autumn*.

flam-ing *adj*

fla-mingo /flə'mɪŋɡəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or ~es) large long-legged, long-necked wading bird with pink feathers.

flam-mable /'flæməbl/ *adj* (= inflammable, but preferred in US and in technical contexts) having a tendency to burst into flames and to burn rapidly.

flan /flæn/ *n* [C] tart containing fruit, etc not covered with pastry.

flank /flæŋk/ *n* [C] **1** fleshy part of the side of a human being or animal between the last rib and the hip. **2** side of a building or mountain. **3** right or left side of an army or body of troops: *attack the left ~*. □ *vt* **1** be situated at or on the flank of. **2** go round the flank of (the enemy).

flan-nel¹ /'flænl/ *n* **1** [U] loosely woven woolen cloth. **2** (*pl*) flannel trousers used for sports. **3** [C] face-cloth.

flan-nel² /'flænl/ *vi* (*informal*) give an indirect or useless answer to avoid commitment. □ *n* [U] such speech.

flap¹ /flæp/ *n* [C] **1** (sound of a) flapping blow or movement. **2** piece of material that hangs down or covers an opening: *the ~ of a pocket/ an envelope*. **3** part of the wing of an aircraft that can be lifted in flight to alter its upward direction and speed. **4** *be in/get into a flap*, (*sl*) a state of nervous excitement or confusion.

flap² /flæp/ *vt, vi* (-pp-) **1** (cause to) move up and down or from side to side: *The sails were ~ping against the mast. The bird was ~ping its wings*. **2** give a light blow to with something soft and flat: *~ the flies off/away*. **3** (*sl*) be in, get into, a flap¹ (4).

flap-per /'flæpə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** something broad and flat (eg as used to swat flies, etc). **2** (fish's) broad fin.

flare¹ /flæə(r)/ *vi* **1** burn with a bright, unsteady flame: *flaring torches*. **2** **flare up**, (*a*) burst into bright flame. (*b*) (*fig*) (of violence,

anger) suddenly break out: *She ~s up at the least thing. Rioting ~d up again later.* Hence, **'flare-up** *n.* □ **n** 1 [U] flaring flame: *the ~ of torches.* 2 [C] device for producing a flaring light, used as a signal, etc: *The crew of the sinking ship used ~s to attract attention.*

flare² /flæ(r)/ *vi, vt* (of trousers, a skirt, the sides of a ship) (cause to) spread gradually outwards. □ **n** [C] gradual widening.

flash¹ /flæʃ/ *n* [C] 1 sudden burst of flame or light: *a ~ of lightning.* 2 (fig) sudden outburst of wit etc; sudden idea, realization, etc; inspiration. *in a flash*, instantly, at once. *a flash in the pan*, an effort that is quickly over or at once ends in failure. 3 (informal) (used as an adjective) showy; smart: *a ~ sports car.* ⇨ *flashy.*

'flash-back, part of a film, etc that shows a scene earlier in time than the rest.

'flash-bulb, bulb used in photography giving a flash of light. ⇨ *flashlight* (b).

'flash-gun, device to synchronize the actions of a flashbulb and the shutter in a camera.

'flash-light *n* (a) light used for signals, in lighthouses, etc. (b) device for producing a brilliant flash of light for taking a photograph indoors or when natural light is too weak. (c) small electric torch.

flash² /flæʃ/ *vi, vt* 1 send, give out, a sudden bright light: *Lightning ~ed across the sky.* 2 come suddenly (into view, into the mind): *The idea ~ed into/through his mind.* 3 send instantly: *~ news across the world* (by radio or TV). 4 send or reflect like a flash: *Her eyes ~ed defiance.* 5 show briefly: *~ a light/a document at him.* 6 move quickly: *The train ~ed past us.*

flashy /'flæʃi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) shining and attractive but often a little vulgar: *~ clothes/jewellery/men.*

flask /flɑːsk *US*: flæsk/ *n* [C] 1 narrow-necked bottle used in laboratories, etc. 2 narrow-necked bottle for oil or wine. 3 (also **'hip-flask**) flat-sided bottle of metal or (often leather-covered) glass for carrying alcoholic drink in the pocket. 4 = *thermos*/vacuum flask.

flat¹ /flæt/ *n* [C] (GB) set of rooms on one floor of a building as a residence: *an old house divided into ~s; a new block of ~s.*

flat-let /-lɪt/ *n* [C] small flat.

flat² /flæt/ *adj* (-ter, -test) 1 smooth and level; even; having an unbroken surface: *The top of a table is ~.* 2 spread out; (lying) at full length: *He fell ~ on his back.* 3 with a broad level surface and little depth: *~ plates/dishes/pans.* The omelette was ~, had failed to rise while cooking. 4 dull; uninteresting; monotonous: *The party/conversation/scenery was rather ~.* **fall flat**, ⇨ *fall*² (2). 5 (music) below the true pitch: *sing ~; a ~ note; A ~ (A ♭), a note half a tone lower than A.* ⇨ *sharp* (9). 6 absolute; downright; unqualified: *give her a ~ denial/refusal.* 7 (of colours, coloured surfaces) uniform, without relief: *His paintings all seem ~.*

8 (of a battery) run down; needing to be recharged. 9 (of a tyre) having no or not enough air in it. □ *adv* 1 in a flat manner: *sing ~.* 2 positively: *He told me ~ that... flat broke*, (informal) with no money at all. 3 **flat out**, (a) (informal) with all one's strength and resources: *He was working/running ~ out.* (b) exhausted.

'flat fish, fish (*sole, plaice*, etc) having a flat body and swimming on one side.

'flat-footed *adj* (a) having feet with flat soles. (b) (informal) (of behaviour) clumsy. (c) (informal) determined.

'flat racing; the Flat, horse-racing over level ground with no obstacles.

'flat rate, (business) common price paid for each (different) thing or service.

'flat spin, (a) (uncontrollable) descent of a spinning aircraft. (b) (informal) mental state of great confusion: *be in a ~ spin.*

flat-ly *adv* absolutely: *He ~ly refused to help.*

flat-ness *n* [U]

flat³ /flæt/ *n* [C] 1 flat part of anything: *the ~ of his sword.* 2 stretch of low level land, esp near water: *'mud ~s.* 3 (music) flat note; the sign ♭. 4 deflated tyre, eg after a puncture. 5 piece of stage scenery on a movable frame.

flat-ten /'flætən/ *vt, vi* make or become flat: *a field of wheat ~ed by storms; ~ oneself against a wall.*

flat-ter /'flætə(r)/ *vt* 1 praise too much or insincerely (in order to please). **flatter oneself that...**, be pleased with one's belief that... 2 give a feeling of pleasure to: *I'm ~ed by your invitation.* 3 (of a picture, artist, etc) show (a person) as better looking than he is: *This photograph ~s you.*

flat-terer, person who flatters.

flat-tery, insincere praise: *Don't be deceived by her flatteries.*

flatulence /'flætʃʊləns/ *n* [U] (discomfort caused by) gas in the alimentary canal.

flaunt /flaʊnt/ *vt, vi* show off in order to attract attention to: *~ oneself/one's riches.*

flau-tist /'flaʊtɪst/ *n* [C] flute-player.

fla-vour (US = -*vor*) /'flaɪvə(r)/ *n* 1 [U] sensation of taste and smell: *Some food has very little ~.* 2 [C] distinctive taste: *various ~s in ice-cream.* 3 [C] special quality: *a newspaper story with a ~ of romance.* □ *vt* give a flavour to: *~ a sauce with onions.*

fla-vour-ing, (US = -*vor*-) something used to give flavour to (food, etc).

fla-vour-less (US = -*vor*-) *adj* having no flavour.

flaw /flɔː/ *n* [C] something that lessens the value, beauty or perfection of a thing: *~s in a jewel/an argument/a person's character.*

flaw-less *adj* perfect.

flaw-less-ly *adv*

flax /flæks/ *n* [U] plant cultivated for the fibres obtained from its stems; these fibres (for making linen).

flaxen /'flæksən/ *adj* (of hair) pale yellow.

flay /fleɪ/ *vt* 1 take the skin or hide off (an animal). 2 (fig) criticize severely or pitilessly: *The tutor ~ed the idle students.*

flea /fleɪ/ *n* [C] small wingless jumping insect that feeds on the blood of human beings and some animals.

'flea-bite, (fig) small inconvenience.

'flea-bitten *adj* (informal) dirty; shabby.

'flea market, open-air market selling cheap and second-hand goods.

fleck /flek/ *n* [C] 1 small spot or patch: *~s of colour on a bird's breast.* 2 small particle (of dust, etc). □ *vt* mark with flecks: *a sky ~ed with clouds.*

fled /fled/ *pt, pp* of flee.

fledged /fledʒd/ *adj* (of birds) with fully-grown wing feathers; able to fly.

'fully-fledged *adj* (fig) trained and experienced: *a fully-~ engineer.*

fledg(e)-ling, (a) young bird just able to fly. (b) (fig) young, inexperienced person.

flee /fli:/ *vi, vt* (*pt, pp* fled /fled/) run or hurry away (from): *He killed his enemy and fled the country.*

fleece /fli:s/ *n* [C,U] woolly covering of a sheep or similar animal; quantity of wool cut from a sheep in one operation: *a coat lined with ~.* □ *vt* rob (a person) by trickery: *He was ~d of his money.*

fleecy *adj* (-ier, -iest) like fleece: *fleecy snow.*

'fleet /fli:t/ *n* [C] 1 number of warships under one commander; all the warships of a country. 2 number of ships, aircraft, buses, etc moving or working under one command or ownership.

'fleet /fli:t/ *adj* (*poetic*) quick-moving.

'fleet-ing /'fli:tɪŋ/ *adj* lasting for a short time: *a ~ visit; ~ happiness.*

flesh /flesh/ *n* [U] 1 soft part, esp muscle, between the skin and bones of animal bodies: *Tigers are ~-eating animals.* **flesh and blood**, human nature with its emotions, weaknesses, etc: *more than ~ and blood can stand*, more than human nature can bear. **one's own flesh and blood**, one's near relatives. **in the flesh**, in bodily form. 3 the ~, physical or bodily desires; sensual appetites: *the sins of the ~.* 4 the body (contrasted with the mind and soul): *The spirit is willing but the ~ is weak.* ⇨ also mortify (2). 5 soft, juicy part of fruits and vegetables.

'flesh-wound, one that does not reach the bone or vital organs.

fleshy *adj* (-ier, -iest) having (much) flesh.

fleur-de-lis, -lys /'flɜ: də 'li:/ *n* [C] (*pl* fleurs-de-lis, -lys with the pronunciation unchanged) heraldic lily; royal arms of France.

flew /flu:/ *pt* of fly².

'flex /fleks/ *n* [C,U] (*pl* ~es) (length of) flexible insulated cord for electric current.

'flex /fleks/ *vt* stretch, eg a muscle.

'flex-ible /'fleksəbl/ *adj* 1 easily bent without breaking. 2 (fig) (of plans, etc) easily changed to suit new conditions; (of persons) adaptable.

'flexi-bil-ity /'fleksə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

'flick /flik/ *n* [C] 1 quick light blow, eg with a whip or the tip of a finger. 2 short sudden movement; jerk. □ *vi* strike with a flick, give a flick with (a whip, etc); touch lightly: *He ~ed his whip at the horse.* *He ~ed the switch, eg for electric light.* **'flick sth away/off**, remove with a flick: *She ~ed the crumbs off the tablecloth.* **'flick through**, turn over (cards, pages) quickly with the fingers.

'flick-knife, knife with a blade (inside the handle) which can be brought into position with a flick.

'flicker /'flikə(r)/ *vi* 1 (of a light) burn or shine unsteadily: *The candle ~ed and then went out.*

2 (fig) (of hopes, etc) appear briefly: *A faint hope still ~ed in her heart.* 3 move quickly back and forth or from side to side: *~ing shadows.* □ *n* [C] (usually *sing*) flickering movement: *a ~ of hope.*

'flier /'flaɪə(r)/ ⇨ flyer.

'flight /flaɪt/ *n* 1 [U] flying through the air: *study the ~ of birds, how they fly.* **in flight**, while flying. 2 [C] journey made by air; distance covered: *a non-stop ~ from Paris to New York.* 3 [C] group of aircraft in a country's Air Force. 4 [U] movement (and path) through the air: *the ~ of an arrow.* 5 [C] number of birds or objects moving together through the air: *a ~ of swallows.* 6 [U] swift passing: *the ~ of time.* 7 [C] going beyond the ordinary: *a ~ of the imagination/fancy.* 8 [C] series of stairs between two landings: *My bedroom is two ~s up.*

'flight deck, (a) (on an aircraft-carrier) deck for taking off from and landing on. (b) (in an airliner) compartment used by the pilot, navigator, engineer, etc.

'flight lieutenant, (officer with a) commissioned rank in the Air Force.

'flight path, *n* [C] planned course of aircraft or spacecraft.

'flight-less *adj* (of birds) unable to fly.

'flight /flaɪt/ *n* [C,U] (act, instance, of) running away or fleeing (from danger, etc): *seek safety in ~.* **'take (to) flight**, run away.

'flight /flaɪt/ *vi* vary the speed and course of (arrow, cricket ball, etc).

'flimsy /'flɪmzi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) 1 (of material) light and thin. 2 (of objects) easily destroyed. 3 (fig) easily opposed: *a ~ excuse.* □ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) thin sheet of paper.

'flimsily /-əli/ *adv*

'flim-si-ness *n* [U]

'flinch /flɪntʃ/ *vi* draw or move back (because of fear, pain): *have a tooth pulled out without ~ing.*

'fling /flɪŋ/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* flung /flʌŋ/) 1 throw, move, quickly and with force: *~ a stone; ~ the doors and windows open; be flung into prison.* 2 move oneself, one's arms, etc, violently, quickly or angrily: *~ one's arms up/about; ~ one's clothes on, dress quickly.* 3 go angrily or violently: *She flung out of the room.* 4 (fig)

work at with enthusiasm: ~ oneself into an enterprise. □ *n* [C] 1 act, movement, of flinging. 2 kind of lively dance: the Highland~, as danced in Scotland. 3 have a fling, enjoy a period of great pleasure.

flint /flɪnt/ *n* 1 [U] hard kind of stone; [C] piece of this used with steel to produce sparks. 2 [C] piece of hard alloy used in a cigarette-lighter to produce sparks.

flip /flɪp/ *vt, vi* (-pp-) put (something) into motion by a snap of the finger and thumb: ~ a coin (down) on the counter. **flip through**, = flick through. □ *n* [C] quick, light blow.

'flip side, (informal) less important side (of a gramophone record).

flip-pancy /'flɪpənsɪ/ *n* [U] being flippant; [C] flippant remark, etc.

flip-pant /'flɪpənt/ *adj* not showing deserved respect: a ~ answer/remark.

flip-pant-ly *adv*

flip-per /'flɪpə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 limb of certain sea-animals (not fish) used in swimming: *Seals, turtles and penguins have ~s*. 2 similar device, usually of rubber, worn on the feet to aid swimming.

flirt /flɜ:t/ *vi* 1 try to attract a person; show affection without serious intentions: *She ~s with every man she meets*. 2 (informal) think about, but not seriously: *He's been ~ing with the idea of going to Moscow*. □ *n* [C] man or girl who flirts (1).

flirt-ta-tion /flɜ:'teɪʃn/ *n* [U] flirting; [C] instance of this: *carry on a ~ation*.

flirt-ta-tious /flɜ:'teɪʃəs/ *adj* (fond) of flirting.

flit /flɪt/ *vi* (-tt-) 1 fly or move lightly and quickly: *bees ~ting from flower to flower*. 2 (fig) pass quickly: *fancies that ~ through one's mind*. 3 (informal) move from one house to another, eg secretly, to avoid paying debts. □ *n* [C] (informal) act of flitting (3): *do a moonlight ~, run away during the night*.

float¹ /fləʊt/ *n* [C] 1 piece of cork or other light material used on a fishing-line (to show when the bait has been taken) or to support the edge of a fishing-net. 2 hollow ball, etc eg to regulate the level of water in a cistern. 3 low platform on wheels, as used for showing things in a procession. 4 money used, eg by shopkeepers, to provide change at the start of business dealings.

float² /fləʊt/ *vi, vi* 1 be held on the surface of a liquid, or up in air, gas: *Wood ~s on water*. A balloon ~ed across the sky. 2 cause to float: *There wasn't enough water to ~ the ship*. 3 (business) get (esp financial) support in order to start (something): ~ a new company. 4 allow the foreign exchange value (of a currency) to vary: ~ the dollar.

float-ing *adj* free from attachment; not fixed or settled; variable: ~ing voters, not committed to any Party.

flock¹ /flɒk/ *n* [C] 1 number of birds or animals (usually sheep, goats) of one kind, either kept together or feeding and travelling to-

gether. 2 crowd of people: *Visitors came in ~s to see the new bridge*. 3 Christian congregation: a priest and his ~. □ *vi* come or go together in great numbers: *The children ~ed round their teacher*.

flock² /flɒk/ *n* 1 [C] tuft of wool or hair. 2 (pl) wool or cotton waste.

floe /fləʊ/ *n* [C] sheet of floating ice.

flog /flɒg/ *vt* (-gg-) 1 beat severely with a rod or whip. **flog a dead horse**, waste one's efforts. **flog** (eg an idea, a joke) **to death**, try to persuade people so much that they lose interest. 2 (st) (try to) sell: ~ one's old car.

flog-ging *n* [C, U]

flood¹ /flʌd/ *n* [C] 1 (coming of a) great quantity of water in a place that is usually dry: *The rainstorms caused ~s in the low-lying areas*. 2 great outpouring or outburst: ~s of rain/tears; a ~ of anger/letters. 3 flowing in at the tide.

'flood gate, gate opened and closed to admit or keep out water, esp the lower gate of a lock² (3).

'flood-light, artificial lighting thrown in a bright and broad beam. □ *vt* (pt, pp -lit -lit/) light up by this method: a ~ lit football stadium. *The cathedral was ~lit*.

'flood tide, rising tide. ⇨ ebb.

flood² /flʌd/ *vt, vi* 1 cover or fill (as) with a flood: *Thousands of people were ~ed out, forced to leave their homes because of flooding*. *The soldiers ~ed the countryside*. *We have been ~ed with requests*. 2 (of rain) fill (a river) to overflowing.

floor¹ /flɔ:(r)/ *n* [C] 1 lower surface of a room; part on which one walks: a bare ~, one with no carpet, etc. **wipe the floor with sb**, completely defeat him, eg in an argument. 2 number of rooms, etc on the same level in a building. ⇨ first floor. 3 bottom of the sea, of a cave, etc. 4 part of an assembly hall, eg the Houses of Parliament, Congress, where members sit. **take the floor**, speak in a debate. 5 lower limit (of prices).

'floor-board, plank of a wooden floor.

'floor-cloth, piece of cloth for wiping or washing floors.

'floor show, cabaret, entertainment.

'floor-walker, (= shop-walker) person employed in a large shop or store to direct customers, detect shop-lifters, etc.

floor-ing, material, eg boards, used for making floors.

floor² /flɔ:(r)/ *vi* 1 put (a floor) in a building. 2 knock down: ~ a man in a boxing match. 3 (of a problem, argument, etc) puzzle, defeat: *Tom was ~ed by two questions in the examination*.

floozy /'flu:zi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) prostitute.

flop /flɒp/ *vi, vi* (-pp-) 1 move, fall, clumsily or helplessly: *The fish were ~ping about in the boat*. *He ~ped down on his knees*. 2 put down or drop clumsily or roughly: ~ down a heavy bag. 3 (informal) (of a book, a film, a play) fail. □ *n* [C] 1 act or sound of flopping. 2 (informal)

failure of a book, play, etc. □ *adv* with a flop: *fall ~ into the water.*

floppy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) hanging down loosely: *a ~py hat.* (b) (informal) without strength: *feeling ~py*, eg because ill.

flora /'flɔ:rə/ *n* [U] all the plants of an area or epoch.

floral /'flɔ:rəl/ *adj* of flowers: *~ designs.*

florid /'flɔ:rɪd/ *US: 'flɔ:r-/ adj* 1 (too) rich in ornament and colour: *a ~ style*, eg of writing. 2 (of a person's face) naturally red: *a ~ complexion.*

florin /'flɔ:rɪn/ *US: 'flɔ:r-/ n* [C] name of a former British coin worth one tenth of £1.

florist /'flɔ:rɪst/ *US: 'flɔ:r-/ n* [C] person who grows or sell flowers.

flo-tilla /'fləʊtɪlə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) fleet of small warships, eg destroyers.

flo-tsam /'flɔ:təm/ *n* [U] (legal) parts of a wrecked ship or its cargo floating in the sea. ☞ jetsam.

flounce /'flaʊns/ *vi* move, go, with quick, troubled or impatient movements: *~ out off/about the room.* □ *n* [C] sudden impatient movement of the body.

flound-er /'flaʊndə(r)/ *vi* 1 make wild and usually useless efforts (as when one is in deep water and unable to swim). 2 (fig) hesitate, make mistakes.

flour /'flaʊə(r)/ *n* [U] fine powder, made from grain, used for making bread, cakes, pastry, etc. □ *vi* cover or sprinkle with flour.

flour-ish /'flaʊrɪʃ/ *US: 'flaʊr-/ vi, vt* 1 grow in a healthy manner; be well and active; prosper: *His business is ~ing. I hope you are all ~ing*, keeping well. 2 wave about and show: *~ a sword.* 3 (of famous writers, etc) be alive and active (at the time indicated): *Socrates ~ed about 400 BC.* □ *n* [C] 1 flourishing movement. 2 curve or decoration, ornament in handwriting, eg to a signature. 3 loud, exciting passage of music; fanfare: *a ~ of trumpets.*

flout /flaʊt/ *vt* oppose; treat with contempt: *~ his wishes/authority.*

flow /fləʊ/ *vi* (pt, pp ~ed) 1 move along or over as a river does; move smoothly: *Rivers ~ into the sea. The tears ~ed from her eyes.* 2 (of hair, clothes, etc) hang down loosely: *~ing robes; hair ~ing down her back.* 3 come from; be the result of: *Wealth ~s from industry and economy.* 4 (of the tide) come in; rise: *The tide began to ~.* ☞ ebb. □ *n* (sing only) flowing movement; quantity that flows: *a good ~ of water; a ~ of angry words; the ebb and ~ of the sea.*

flower /'flaʊə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 that part of a plant that produces seeds. *in flower*, with the flowers out. 2 (sing only) (fig) finest part: *in the ~ of one's youth.* □ *vi* produce flowers: *~ing plants.*

'flower-bed, small area of land in which flowers are grown.

'flower-pot, pot in which a plant may be grown.

'flower show, exhibition of flowers.

flower-less *adj* not having, not producing, flowers: *~less plants.*

flow-ery *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) having many flowers: *~y fields.* (b) (fig) having an elaborate style: *~y language.*

flown /fləʊn/ *pp* of fly².

flu /flu:/ *n* [U] (informal abbr of) influenza.

fluc-tu-ate /'flʌktʃueɪt/ *vi* (of levels, prices, etc) move up and down; be irregular: *fluctuating prices.*

fluc-tu-ation /'flʌktʃʊ'eɪʃn/ *n* [U] fluctuating; [C] fluctuating movement: *fluctuations of temperature.*

flue /flu:/ *n* [C] pipe or tube for carrying heat, hot air or smoke to, from or through a boiler, oven, etc.

flu-ency /'flu:ənsɪ/ *n* [U] the quality of being fluent; (of movement, speech) smooth easy flow.

flu-ent /'flu:ənt/ *adj* (of a person) able to speak smoothly and easily: *a ~ speaker;* (of speech, movement) coming smoothly and easily: *speak ~ French.*

flu-ent-ly *adv*

fluff /flʌf/ *n* 1 [U] soft, feathery stuff that comes from blankets or other soft woolly material. 2 [C] small error when doing something. □ *vi* 1 shake, puff or spread out: *~ out a pillow. The bird ~ed (out) its feathers.* 2 make an error (in games, in speaking one's lines in a play, etc).

fluffy *adj* (-ier, -iest) of or like, covered with, fluff.

fluid /'flʌɪd/ *adj* 1 able to flow (as gases and liquids do). 2 (of ideas, etc) not fixed; capable of being changed: *~ opinions/plans.* □ *n* [C, U] liquid substance.

fluid ounce, one twentieth of a pint.

flu-id-ity /'flu:ɪdɪtɪ/ *n* [U] quality of being fluid.

fluke¹ /'flu:k/ *n* [C] something resulting from a fortunate accident; instance of luck.

fluke² /'flu:k/ *n* [C] 1 broad, triangular flat end of each arm of an anchor. 2 (lobe of a) whale's tail.

fluke³ /'flu:k/ *n* [C] parasite, a kind of flat worm, found in a sheep's liver.

flung /flʌŋ/ *pt, pp* of fling.

flunk /flʌŋk/ *vt* fail (an examination).

flu-or-es-cence /'flu:əresns/ *n* [U] emission of radiation, esp visible light; light so produced.

flu-or-es-cent /'flu:əresnt/ *adj* (of substances) taking in radiations and sending them out in the form of light: *~ lamps/lighting.*

fluor-ide /'flu:əraɪd/ *n* [U] chemical substance (eg as added to water to strengthen tooth enamel).

flurry /'flʌrɪ/ *US: 'fləri/ n* [C] (pl -ies) 1 short, sudden rush of wind or fall of rain or snow. 2 (fig) nervous hurry: *in a ~ of excitement.* □ *vi* cause to be confused, in a nervous hurry, etc.

flush¹ /flʌʃ/ *adj* 1 even; level: *doors ~ with the*

walls. **2** having plenty; well supplied: ~ with money.

flush² /flʌʃ/ *n* **1** [C] rush of water; (reddening from a) rush of blood to the face; rush of emotion, excitement caused by this: *in the first ~ of victory*. **2** [U] fresh growth, etc; first sign or part of something pleasant: *the first ~ of spring; in the first ~ of youth*.

flush³ /flʌʃ/ *n* [C] (in card-games) hand in which all the cards are of the same suit.

flush⁴ /flʌʃ/ *vi, vt* **1** (of a person, his face) become red because of a rush of blood to the skin: *She ~ed when he spoke to her*. **2** (of health, heat, emotions, etc) cause (the face) to become red in this way: *She was ~ed with exercise*. **3** (fig) fill with pride; encourage: *The men were ~ed with success*. **3** clean or wash with a rush of water: ~ the drains. **4** (of water) rush out in a flood.

flus-ter /'flʌstə(r)/ *vt* make nervous or confused. □ *n* [U] nervous state: *he all in a ~*.

flute /flʊt/ *n* [C] wooden musical wind-instrument with holes to be stopped by keys.

flut-ist /'flʊtɪst/, (chiefly US) = flautist.

flut-ter /'flʌtə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** (of birds) move the wings hurriedly or irregularly without flying, or in short flights only; cause (the wings) to move in this way: *The wounded bird ~ed to the ground*. **2** (cause to) move about in a quick, irregular way: *curtains ~ing in the breeze*. **3** (of the heart) beat irregularly. □ *n* **1** (usually *sing*) fluttering movement. **2** (*sing* with *a*) state of nervous excitement: *in a ~*. **3** [U] vibration; distortion in sound reproduced from a disc or tape caused by faulty recording or reproduction. **4** [C] (informal) small bet: *have a ~*.

flu-vial /'flu:viəl/ *adj* of, found in, rivers.

flux /flʌks/ *n* **1** [U] continuous succession of changes: *in a state of ~*. **2** (*sing* only) flowing; flowing out.

fly¹ /flaɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* flies) **1** two-winged insect, esp the common 'housefly'. **2** natural or artificial fly, used as a bait in fishing for trout, etc. **'fly-weight**, (boxer) weighing 112 lb (50.8 kg) or less.

fly² /flaɪ/ *vi, vt* (*pt* flew /flu:/, *pp* flown /fləʊn/) **1** move through the air as a bird does, or in an aircraft: *birds ~ing in the air; ~ from London to Paris*. ⇨ also pig(1). **2** direct or control the flight of (aircraft); transport goods or passengers in aircraft: *Five thousand passengers were flown to Paris during Easter weekend*. **3** go or move quickly; rush along; pass quickly: *He flew down the road. The door flew open*. **fly off the handle**, ⇨ handle. **fly into a rage/temper**, become suddenly angry. **send sb flying**, strike him so that he falls over or backwards. **4** cause (a kite) to rise and stay high in the air; raise (a flag) so that it waves in the air. **5** flee from: ~ the country.

fly³ /flaɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* flies) **1** (usually *pl*) flap of cloth to contain or cover a zip-fastener or buttonholes down the front of a pair of trousers. **2** flap of canvas at the entrance to a tent or

covered wagon. **3** outer edge of a flag farthest from the flagpole.

flyer, flier /'flaɪə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** animal, vehicle, etc going with exceptional speed. **2** pilot. **3** (informal) successful professional person.

fly-ing /'flaɪŋ/ *adj* that flies, flutters or waves swiftly.

'flying 'colours, flags on display (as during a ceremony). **come off with flying colours**, ⇨ colour¹(6).

'flying 'doctor, one visiting patients in an aircraft, as in Australia.

'flying field, (old use) airfield.

'flying-fish, (kinds of) tropical fish able to rise out of the water and move forward.

'flying officer, rank in the Royal Air Force.

'flying 'jump, one made with a running start.

'flying machine, (old use) aircraft.

'flying 'saucer, = disc-shaped unidentified flying object.

'flying-squad, part of a police force organized (with fast cars) for pursuit of (suspected) criminals.

'flying 'visit, very short visit.

fly-leaf /'flaɪli:f/ *n* [C] blank page at the beginning or end of a book.

fly-over /'flaɪəʊvə(r)/ *n* [C] (US = *overpass*) roadway, bridge, etc which crosses above another roadway, etc (as on a motorway).

fly-past /'flaɪpɑ:st/ US: -pæst/ *n* [C] flight of aircraft in formation as part of a military display.

fly-wheel /'flaɪwi:l/ US: -hwi:l/ *n* [C] heavy wheel revolving on a shaft to regulate machinery.

foal /fəʊl/ *n* [C] young horse (colt or filly). □ *vi* give birth to a foal.

foam /fəʊm/ *n* [U] white mass of small air bubbles as formed in or on a liquid. □ *vi* form, break into, foam; send out foam (at the mouth): *waves ~ing along the beach; ~ing beer*.

'foam-'rubber, spongy rubber used in upholstery.

'foamy adj (-ier, -iest)

fob /fɒb/ *vt* (-bb-) get a person to accept something of little or no value by deceit or trickery: *He ~bed me off with promises that he never intended to keep*.

fo-cal /'fəʊkəl/ *adj* of or at a focus: *the ~ length/distance of a lens, from the surface of a lens to its focus; the ~ point of a discussion/exhibition*. ⇨ focus(2).

fo-cus /'fəʊkəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es or foci /'fəʊsaɪ/) **1** meeting-point of rays of light, heat, etc; point, distance, where the sharpest outline is given (to the eye, through a telescope, through a lens on a camera, etc): *The image is out of/in ~*. **2** point at which interests, tendencies, etc meet: *the ~ of attention*. □ *vt, vi* (-s- or -ss-) **1** (cause to) come together at a focus; adjust (an instrument, etc) so that it is in focus: ~ the lens of a microscope. **2** concentrate: ~ one's

attention/efforts on a problem.

fod-der /'fɒdə(r)/ *n* [U] dried food, hay, etc for farm animals, horses, etc.

foe /fəʊ/ *n* [C] (poetic) enemy.

foe-tal, fe-tal /'fi:təl/ *adj* of, like, a foetus: *the ~ position* (in the womb).

foe-tus, fe-tus /'fi:təs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) fully developed embryo in the womb or in an egg.

fog /fɒg/ *US*: fɔ:g/ *n* 1 [U] vapour suspended in the atmosphere at or near the earth's surface, thicker than mist and difficult to see through.

2 [C] period of fog: *London used to have bad ~s in winter.* 3 [C, U] (area of) cloudiness on a photograph. □ *vi* (-gg-) 1 cover with, as with, fog. 2 bewilder: *I'm a bit ~ged*, puzzled.

'fog-bound *adj* unable to move safely because of fog.

'fog-horn, instrument used for warning ships in fog.

'fog-lamp, headlamp (on a motor-vehicle) providing a strong beam of light for use in foggy weather.

foggy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) dense, not clear, because of fog: *a ~gy evening.* (b) (fig) obscure, confused: *have only a ~gy idea.*

foible /'fɔɪbl/ *n* [C] slight peculiarity or defect of character, often one of which a person is wrongly proud.

foil¹ /fɔɪl/ *n* 1 [U] thin, flexible metal sheet: *aluminium ~*, eg as wrapped round chocolate. 2 [C] person or thing that contrasts with, and sets off, the qualities of another: *A plain old woman acts as a ~ to her beautiful daughter.*

foil² /fɔɪl/ *n* [C] light sword with a button on the point, for fencing.

foil³ /fɔɪl/ *vi* frustrate or prevent from carrying out plans: *He was ~ed in his attempt to deceive the girl.*

foist /fɔɪst/ *vi* trick a person into accepting (a useless article, etc): *~ a broken bike on a buyer.*

fold¹ /fəʊld/ *vi, vi* 1 bend one part of a thing back on itself: *~ up a newspaper; ~ back the sheets.* 2 become, be able to be, folded: *~ing doors.* **fold up**, (a) collapse; come to an end: *The business finally ~ed up last week.* (b) (informal) burst into laughter. 3 **fold one's arms**, cross them over the chest. 4 cover, wrap: *hills ~ed in mist.* 5 (in cooking) gently mix (an ingredient, eg beaten eggs) into another. □ *n* [C] 1 part that is folded. 2 hollow among hills.

folder *n* [C] (a) holder (made of cardboard, etc) for loose papers. (b) folded card or paper containing railway timetables, etc. (c) folded container, eg for matches.

fold² /fəʊld/ *n* [C] 1 enclosure for sheep. 2 (fig) body of religious believers; members of a Church. **return to the fold**, come or go back (eg rejoin a group of believers). □ *vi* enclose (sheep) in a fold.

-fold /-fəʊld/ *suffix* (used to make an adjective) 1 multiplied by: *tenfold.* 2 of (the stated parts): *twofold.*

fo-li-age /'fəʊli:dʒ/ *n* [U] all the leaves of a

tree or plant.

fo-lio /'fəʊliəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) 1 sheet of paper numbered on one side only (as in a book); page number of a printed book. 2 volume made of such sheets: *the first ~*, first edition.

folk /fəʊk/ *n* 1 (used with a *pl verb*) people in general: *Some ~ are never satisfied.* 2 (in compounds) the ordinary people of a country: *'country-~.* 3 (*pl*) (informal) relatives: *the old ~s at home.* 4 folk music.

'folk-dance, (music for a) traditional popular dance.

'folk-lore, (study of the) traditional beliefs, tales, etc of a community.

'folk music/song, popular music/song handed down from the past.

fol-low /'fɒləʊ/ *vi, vi* 1 come, go, have a place, after (in space, time or order): *You go first and I'll ~ (you).* Monday ~s Sunday. **as follows**, as now to be stated. **follow through**, (a) (in tennis, golf, etc) complete a stroke by moving the racket, club, etc after hitting the ball. Hence, **'follow-through** *n*. (b) complete a task, carry out a promise. 2 go along, keep to (a road, etc): *F~ this road for six miles.*

3 understand: *He spoke so fast that I couldn't ~ him/~ what he said.* 4 engage in as a business, trade, etc: *~ the sea*, be a seaman. 5 take or accept as a guide, an example, etc: *~ her advice/the latest fashion.* **follow suit**, ⇨ *suit*¹ (4). 6 be necessarily true: *It ~s from what you say that...* 7 **follow sth up**, pursue it, work at it further: *~ up an enquiry.* Hence, **'follow-up** *n* [C]

fol-lower, (a) supporter; disciple: *the football team and their ~ers.* (b) pursuer.

fol-low-ing *adj* (a) the one or ones coming next: *the ~ Monday.* (b) (esp as a pronoun) the ~ing, the one or ones about to be mentioned. □ *n* [C] group of supporters: *a political leader with a large ~ing.*

folly /'fɒli/ *n* (*pl* -ies) 1 [U] foolishness. 2 [C] foolish act, idea or thing.

fo-ment /fəʊ'ment/ *vi* 1 put warm water, lotions, etc on (a part of the body, to reduce pain, etc). 2 (fig) cause or increase (disorder, discontent, ill-feeling, etc).

fo-men-ta-tion /fəʊmen'teɪʃən/ *n* [C, U]

fond /fɒnd/ *adj* 1 **be fond of**, like, be full of love for, take pleasure in: *~ of music.* 2 loving and kind: *~ embraces.*

fond-ly *adv* (a) lovingly: *look ~ly at her.* (b) in a foolishly optimistic manner: *He ~ly imagined that he could learn French in six weeks.*

fond-ness *n* [U]

fondle /'fɒndl/ *vi* touch or stroke lovingly: *fondling a kitten.*

font /fɒnt/ *n* [C] basin or vessel (often in carved stone) to hold water for baptism; basin for holy water.

food /fu:d/ *n* 1 [U] that which can be eaten by people or animals, or used by plants, to keep them living and for growth: (used as an adjective)

tive) ~ poisoning. **food for thought**, something to think about. **2** [C] *a kind of* ~, particular example.

'food-stuff, material used as food.

fool¹ /fu:l/ n [C] **1** person without much sense; person whose conduct one considers silly: *What ~s we were not to see the joke! She was ~ enough (= enough of a fool) to believe him. make a fool of sb*, cause him to seem like a fool. **play the fool**, ⇨ **play²** (10). □ *adj* (informal) foolish; silly: *a scheme devised by some ~ politician*. □ *vi, vt* **1** behave like a fool; be idle and silly: *If you go on ~ing with that gun, there'll be an accident. Stop ~ing (about)!* **2** cheat; deceive: *You can't/don't ~ me!* ⇨ April. **'fool's 'paradise**, happiness that is only an illusion.

fool² /fu:l/ n [U] creamy liquid of stewed fruit mixed with cream or custard.

fool-ery /'fu:ləri/ n (pl -ies) **1** [U] foolish behaviour. **2** [C] foolish acts, ideas or words.

fool-hardy /'fu:lha:di/ *adj* taking unnecessary risks.

fool-ish /'fu:lɪʃ/ *adj* without reason, sense or good judgement; silly: *It would be ~ for us to quarrel.*

fool-ish-ly *adv*

fool-ish-ness n [U]

fool-proof /'fu:lpru:f/ *adj* incapable of failure, involving no risk.

foot¹ /fʊt/ n (pl feet /fi:t/) **1** part forming the lower end of the leg, beginning at the ankle. **on foot**, (a) walking, not riding. (b) active: *A project is on ~ to build a new tunnel here. ...my foot!* I don't believe you/it! **be on one's feet**, (a) be standing: *I've been on my feet all day.* (b) rise (to speak): *The Minister was on his feet at once to answer the charge.* (c) (fig) be in good health after an illness: *It's nice to see you on your feet again.* **be caught on the wrong 'foot**, be surprised when unprepared. **be rushed off one's feet**, be extremely busy. **fall on one's feet**, (informal) have good luck. **find one's feet**, ⇨ **find²** (2). **have one foot in the grave**, be dying. **have one's feet on the ground**, be practical, realistic. **put one's foot down**, (informal) (a) object; protest; be firm. (b) accelerate. **put one's foot in it**, (informal) say or do something wrong or stupid. **put one's feet up**, (informal) rest with the legs in a horizontal position. **stand on one's own feet**, be independent. **sweep sb off his feet**, fill him with strong enthusiasm. **2** step, way of walking: *light of ~*. **3** part of a sock, etc covering the foot. **4** lowest part; bottom: *at the ~ of the page/ladder/wall/mountain*. **5** lower end of a bed or grave. **6** measure of length, 12 inches: *George is very tall—he's six ~/feet two (6' 2").* **7** division or unit of verse, each with one strong stress and one or more weak stresses, as in: *for mèn/may còme/and mèn/may gò*. **'foot-ball** n [C] inflated leather ball used in games; [U] game played with it.

'football pools, organized gambling on the results of professional football matches.

'foot-bridge, one for the use of persons on foot, not vehicles.

'foot-fall, sound of a footstep.

'foot-hills, hills near a mountain.

'foot-hold, (a) support for the foot, eg when climbing on rocks or ice. (b) (fig) secure position.

'foot-light, screened light at the front of the stage of a theatre.

'foot-man, servant who admits visitors, waits at table, etc.

'foot-mark n = footprint.

'foot-and-mouth disease, contagious disease of cattle, sheep, goats, etc.

'foot-note, note at the bottom of a page.

'foot-path, path for the use of persons on foot.

'foot-print, impression left on a soft surface by a foot.

'foot-rule, ruler 12 inches long.

'foot-sore *adj* having sore feet, esp because of walking.

'foot-step, (sound of) a step of a person walking. **follow in sb's footsteps**, do as he did.

'foot-stool, low stool for resting the feet on.

'foot-wear, (tradesmen's term for) boots, shoes, etc.

'foot-work, manner of using the feet, eg in boxing, dancing.

foot² /fʊt/ vt, vi **1** (informal) **foot it**, walk: *We've missed the last bus, so we'll have to ~ it. 2 foot the bill*, (agree to) pay it.

-footed /-'fʊtəd/ suffix having the (kind of) feet indicated: *flat-'~*; *a four-'~ animal*.

foot-age /'fʊtɪdʒ/ n [C] length measured in feet.

foot-ing /'fʊtɪŋ/ n [C] **1** placing of the feet; surface for standing on: *He lost his ~ and fell.* **2** (sing only) position in society; relationships (with people): *be on a friendly ~ with them.* **3** conditions; state: *on a peace/war ~.*

for /fɔ:(r) strong form: fɔ:(r)/ prep **1** (showing destination, or progress towards) (a) after verbs: *set out ~ home. The ship was making ~ (= sailing towards) the open sea.* (b) after nouns: *the train ~ Glasgow.* **2** (showing what is or was aimed at): *He felt that he was destined ~ something great.* **3** (showing eventual possession): *Here's a letter ~ you.* **be 'for it**, (informal) be likely to be punished, get into trouble, etc. **4** (showing preparation): *prepare ~ an examination; get ready ~ school.* **5** (showing purpose) in order to be, have, obtain, etc: *go ~ a walk/ride/swim. What did you do that ~? What's this tool ~? It's a machine ~ cutting steel.* **6** as (if): *They left him ~ dead. They chose him ~ (= as, to be) their leader. take sb/sth for*, mistakenly think that he or it is: *He took me ~ my brother. What do you take me ~? What type of person do you think I am?* **for certain**, as being certain: *I cannot*

believe ~ certain that... **7** (followed by an object of hope, wish, search, inquiry, etc): *hope ~ the best; pray ~ peace; a cry ~ help.* **8** (showing liking, affection, etc): *a taste ~ art; no regret ~ the past.* **9** (showing ability): *a good ear ~ music.* **10** (showing suitability): *bad/good ~ your health.* **11** (with too and enough): *too beautiful ~ words; quite risky enough ~ me.* **12** considering (the circumstances, etc); in view of: *It's quite warm ~ January. She's tall ~ her age.* **13** representing; in place of: *B ~ Benjamin.* **stand for**, represent: *The letters MP stand ~ Member of Parliament.* **14** in defence or support of; in favour of: *Are you ~ or against the proposal? Three cheers ~ the President!* **15** with regard to; so far as concerns: *anxious ~ his safety. You may take my word ~ it, believe me.* **16** because of, on account of: *~ this reason; ~ my sake; win a medal ~ bravery.* **17** (after a comparative) as the result of; because of: *Are you any the better ~ your long sleep?* **18** in spite of: *F ~ all his wealth, he is unhappy.* **19** to the amount or extent of: *Put my name down ~ £5.* **20** in exchange for: *I paid 60p ~ the book.* **21** in contrast with: *F ~ one enemy he has fifty friends.* **22** (showing extent in time): *I'm going away ~ a few days.* **for good**, ⇨ good²(2). **23** (showing extent in space): *We walked (~) three miles. The road is lined with trees ~ ten miles.* (Note: *for* may be omitted if it comes immediately after the verb.) **24** (used in the pattern **for** + noun or pronoun + **to** inf): *I am anxious ~ you and my sister to become acquainted. There's no need ~ anyone to know.* **25** (showing purpose, design, determination, etc): *I have brought the books ~ you to examine. I'd have given anything ~ this not to have happened.*

for-age /'fɒrɪdʒ/ US: /'fɔːr-/ *n* [U] food for horses and cattle. □ *vi* search (for food, etc).

foray /'fɒreɪ/ US: /'fɔːreɪ/ *n* [C] raid; sudden attack (esp to get food, animals, etc): *make/go on a ~*. □ *vi* make a foray.

for-bad, for-bade /'fɔːbæd/ US: /'beɪd/ *pt* of forbid.

for-bear¹ /'fɔːbeə(r)/ *vt, vi* (*pt* forbore /'fɔːbə(r)/, *pp* forbore /'fɔːbə(r)/) (*formal*) refrain (from); not use or mention: *I cannot ~ from going into details.*

for-bear-ance /-rəns/ *n* [U] patience; self-control: *show ~ance in dealing with people.*

for-bear² (US = **fore-bear**) /'fɔːbeə(r)/ *n* [C] (usually *pl*) ancestor.

for-bid /'fɔːbɪd/ *vt* (*pt* forbade or forbad /'fɔːbæd/ US: /'beɪd/, *pp* ~den /'fɔːbɪdn/ or ~) order (a person) not to do something; order that something shall not be done: *I ~ you to use that word.*

for-bid-ding *adj* stern; uninviting; threatening: *a ~ding appearance.*

for-bore, for-borne ⇨ **forbear**¹.

force¹ /'fɔːs/ *n* **1** [U] strength; power of body or mind: *the ~ of a blow/an explosion/*

argument. The enemy attacked in (great) ~. **2** [C] person or thing that makes great changes: *the ~s of nature, eg storms, earthquakes. Is the United Nations a powerful ~ in world affairs?* **3** [C] organized body of armed or disciplined men: *the armed ~s of a country, the Army, Navy and Air Force; the po/lice ~.* **join forces (with)**, unite (with). **4** [C, U] (intensity of, measurement of) pressure or influence. **5** authority: *When does the new law come into ~? It is no longer in ~.*

force² /'fɔːs/ *vt* **1** use pressure or influence to (make somebody) get or do something; compel: *~ one's way through a crowd.* **2** break open by using force: *~ (open) a door.* **3** cause plants, etc to mature earlier than is normal, eg by giving them extra warmth. **4** produce under stress: *~ a smile, eg when one is unhappy.*

force-ful /'fɔːsfl/ *adj* (of a person, his character, of an argument, etc) convincing, believable: *a ~ speaker/style of writing.*

force-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

for-ceps /'fɔːseps/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) (also a pair of ~) pincers or tongs used by dentists (when pulling out teeth) and by doctors for gripping things: (used as an adjective) *a ~ delivery* (of a child).

forc-ible /'fɔːsəbl/ *adj* **1** done by, involving the use of, physical force: *a ~ entry into a building.* **2** (of a person) = forceful.

forc-ibly /-əbli/ *adj*

ford /fɔːd/ *n* [C] shallow place in a river where it is possible to walk or drive across. □ *vt* cross (a ford).

fore /fɔː(r)/ *adj* situated in the front: *in the ~ part of the train.* □ *n* (*sing* only) **1** front part (of a ship). **2 to the fore**, in or into a position of importance, prominence. □ *adv* (*naut*) in front. **fore and aft**, at the bow and stern of a ship; lengthwise in a ship.

fore- /fɔː(r)-/ *prefix* before, in front of: *foretell; foreground.*

fore-arm¹ /'fɔːrɑːm/ *n* [C] part of the arm from the elbow to the wrist or finger-tips.

fore-arm² /'fɔːrɑːm/ *vt* arm, prepare for trouble, in advance: *To be forewarned is to be ~ed.*

fore-bear *n* = **forbear**².

fore-bode /'fɔːbəʊd/ *vt* (*formal*) **1** be a sign of warning of: *These black clouds ~ a storm.* **2** have a feeling of, foresee, (something evil).

fore-bod-ing *n* [C, U] feeling that trouble is coming.

fore-cast /'fɔːkɑːst/ US: /-kæst/ *vt* (*pt, pp* ~ or ~ed) say what is likely to happen. □ *n* [C] such a statement: *inaccurate weather ~s.*

fore-court /'fɔːkɔːt/ *n* [C] enclosed space in front of a building.

fore-fathers /'fɔːfɑːðəz/ *n pl* = ancestors.

fore-fin-ger /'fɔːfɪŋɡə(r)/ *n* [C] index finger, next to the thumb.

fore-front /'fɔːfrʌnt/ *n* **the ~**, most forward part: *in the ~ of the battle.*

fore-gather = **foregather**.

forego = forgo.

fore-going /fɔː'gəʊɪŋ/ *adj* preceding, already mentioned.

fore-gone /fɔː'gɒn/ *US*: -gɒn/ *adj*: a ~ conclusion, ending that can be seen or could have been seen from the start.

fore-ground /fɔː'graʊnd/ *n* [C] **1** part of a view nearest to the observer. **2** (fig) most noticeable position: *keep oneself in the ~*.

fore-hand /fɔː'hænd/ *adj* (of a stroke at tennis, etc) made with the palm turned forward. □ *n* [C] such a stroke.

fore-head /fɔː'ri:d/ *US*: 'fɔːrɪd/ *n* [C] part of the face above the eyes.

foreign /fɔː'reɪn/ *US*: 'fɔːr-/ *adj* **1** of, in, from, another country, not one's own: ~ languages/countries. **2** **foreign to**, not natural to, unconnected with: *Lying is ~ to his nature*. **3** coming or introduced from outside: *a ~ body in the eye*, eg a bit of dirt.

foreigner, person born in, from, a foreign country.

fore-leg /fɔː'leg/ *n* [C] one of the front legs of a four-footed animal.

fore-lock /fɔː'lɒk/ *n* [C] lock of hair growing just above the forehead.

fore-man /fɔː'mæn/ *n* [C] (*pl* -men /-mæn/) **1** workman in authority over others. **2** chief member and spokesman of a jury.

fore-most /fɔː'məʊst/ *adj* first; most notable; chief: *the ~ painter of his period*. □ *adv* first in position. **first and foremost**, in the first place.

fore-name /fɔː'neɪm/ *n* [C] (as used, eg on forms) = first name.

for-en-sic /fə'rensɪk/ *adj* of, used in, courts of law: ~ medicine, medical knowledge as needed in legal enquiries.

fore-run-ner /fɔː'rʌnə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** sign of what is to follow: *swallows, the ~s of spring*. **2** person who foretells and prepares for the coming of another.

fore-see /fɔː'siː/ *vt* (*pt* foresaw /fɔː'sɔː/, *pp* foreseen /fɔː'siːn/) see in advance: ~ trouble.

fore-see-able *adj* which can be described, known, in advance: *the ~able future*.

fore-shadow /fɔː'ʃædəʊ/ *vt* be a sign or warning of.

fore-shore /fɔː'ʃɔː(r)/ *n* [C] part of the shore between the sea and land that is cultivated, built on, etc.

fore-shorten /fɔː'ʃɔːtn/ *vt* draw (an object) with some lines shortened to give it perspective.

fore-sight /fɔː'saɪt/ *n* [U] ability to see future needs; care in preparing for these.

fore-skin /fɔː'skɪn/ *n* [C] fold of skin covering the end of the penis.

for-est /'fɔːrɪst/ *US*: 'fɔːr-/ *n* **1** [C,U] (large area of) land covered with trees; the trees growing there: (used as an adjective) ~ fires. **2** area where game (eg deer) is or was hunted: *the deer ~s in Scotland*. **3** (fig) something like a forest: *a ~ of masts, eg in a harbour*.

for-ester, officer in charge of a forest (protecting wild animals, watching for fires, etc); man who works in a forest.

for-estry *n* [U] (science of) planting and caring for forests.

fore-stall /fɔː'stɔːl/ *vt* do something first and so prevent another from doing it.

fore-swear /fɔː'swəː/ *v* = forswear.

fore-taste /fɔː'teɪst/ *n* [C] (often short) experience (of enjoyment or suffering) in advance.

fore-tell /fɔː'tel/ *vt* (*pt, pp* foretold /-təʊld/) predict: ~ her future.

fore-thought /fɔː'θɔːt/ *n* [U] careful thought or planning for the future.

fore-warn /fɔː'wɔːn/ *vt* warn in advance.

fore-woman /fɔː'wʊmən/ *n* [C] (*pl* -women /-wɪmɪn/) woman in authority over other women workers.

fore-word /fɔː'wɔːd/ *n* [C] introductory remarks to a book, printed in it.

for-feit /fɔː'fɪt/ *vt* (have to) suffer the loss of something as a punishment or result. □ *n* [C] something (to be) forfeited: *His health was the ~ he paid for overworking*.

for-gave /fɔː'geɪv/ *pt* of forgive.

forge¹ /fɔːdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** workshop where metals are heated and shaped, esp one used by a smith for making shoes for horses, etc. **2** (workshop with a) furnace or hearth for melting or refining metal.

forge² /fɔːdʒ/ *vt* **1** shape by heating and hammering. **2** (fig) form or make: *Their friendship was ~d by poverty*. **3** make a copy of, eg a signature, a banknote, a will, in order to deceive.

forger, person who forges(3).

forg-ery /fɔː'dʒəri/ *n* (*pl* -ies) (a) [U] forging(3) of a document, signature, etc. (b) [C] forged document, signature, etc.

forge³ /fɔːdʒ/ *vi* **forge ahead**, make steady progress; take the lead (in a race, etc).

for-get /fə'get/ *vt, vi* (*pt* forgot /fə'gɒt/, *pp* forgotten /fə'gɒtn/) **1** fail to keep in the memory; fail to recall: *I ~ / I've forgotten her name*. *I shall never ~ your kindness to me*. *I forgot all about it*. **2** neglect or fail (to do something): *Don't ~ to post the letters*. **3** put out of the mind; stop thinking about: *Let's ~ our quarrels*.

for-get-ful /-fl/ *adj* in the habit of forgetting: *Old people are sometimes ~ful*.

for-get-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

for-get-ful-ness *n* [U]

forget-me-not /fə'get mɪː nɒt/ *n* [C] small plant with blue flowers.

for-give /fə'gɪv/ *vt, vi* (*pt* forgave /fə'geɪv/, *pp* ~n /fə'gɪvn/) excuse, pardon, a sin; pardon or show mercy to (a person): ~ him for being rude/his rudeness.

for-giv-able /-əbəl/ *adj*

for-giv-ing *adj* ready, willing, to forgive: *a forgiving nature*.

for-give-ness *n* [U] forgiving or being forgiven: *ask for/receive ~ness*.

for-go /fɔː'gəʊ/ *vt* (*pt* forwent /fɔː'went/, *pp* forgone /fɔː'ɡɒn/ *US*: -'ɡɒn/) do without; give up: ~ pleasures in order to study hard.

for-got, for-got-ten ⇨ forget.

fork /fɔːk/ *n* [C] 1 implement with two or more points (*prongs*), used for lifting food to the mouth, etc. 2 farm or gardening tool like a fork (1). 3 place where a road, tree-trunk, etc divides or branches; one such branch: *take the left ~*. 4 part of a bicycle frame to which a wheel is fixed. ⇨ also tuning-fork. □ *vt, vi* 1 lift, move, carry, with a fork: ~ the ground over, turn the soil over with a fork. 2 (of a road, river, etc) divide into branches. 3 (of persons) turn (left or right): *We ~ed right at the church*. 4 **fork out**, (*informal*) hand over, pay: *I've got to ~ out a lot for lessons this year*. **fork-lift truck**, powered trolley with a platform for lifting and lowering goods.

forked *adj* branching; divided into two or more parts: *the ~ed tongue of a snake*.

for-lorn /fɔː'lɔːn/ *adj* (*literary*) unhappy; uncared for.

for-lorn-ly *adv*

form¹ /fɔːm/ *n* 1 [U] shape; outward or visible appearance: *without shape or ~*. **take form**, begin to have a (recognizable) shape. 2 [C] person or animal as it can be seen or touched: *A dark ~ could be seen in the distance*. 3 [U] general arrangement or structure; way in which parts are put together to make a whole or a group: *literary ~* (contrasted with subject-matter). 4 [C] particular kind of arrangement or structure, manner in which a thing exists; species, kind or variety: ~s of government. *Ice, snow and steam are ~s of water*. 5 (*gram*) [U] shape taken by a word: *different in ~ but identical in meaning*; [C] one of the shapes taken by a word (in sound or spelling): *The word 'brother' has two plural ~s, 'brothers' and 'brethren'*. 6 [U] manner of behaving or speaking fixed, required or expected by custom or etiquette: *say 'Good morning' only as a matter of ~*, ie not because one is really pleased to see the person to whom the words are spoken. 7 [C] particular way of behaving, etc greeting, utterance, act, as required by custom: *accepted ~s of behaviour*. 8 [C] printed paper with space to be filled in: *application ~s*. 9 [U] condition of health and training (eg of horses, athletes): *Smith is out of ~/is not on ~ and is unlikely to race tomorrow*. 10 [U] spirits(9): *Jack was in great ~ at the dinner party*, very friendly, lively. 11 [C] long wooden bench, usually without a back, for several persons to sit on. 12 [C] (*GB*) = class(4).

form of address, way of referring to or of a person.

form-less *adj* without shape.

form² /fɔːm/ *vt, vi* 1 give shape or form to; make, produce: ~ the plural of a noun by adding -s or -es. 2 develop, build up, conceive: ~ good habits; ~ ideas/conclusions. 3 organize:

They ~ed themselves into a committee. 4 be (the substance of): *This series of lectures ~s part of a complete course on French history*. 5 (*mil*) (cause to) move into a particular order: ~ into line. 6 come into existence; become solid; take shape: *The idea ~ed in his mind*.

-form /-fɔːm/ *suffix* having the shape, character, of: *uniform*.

for-mal /fɔː'məl/ *adj* 1 strictly in accordance with established rules, customs and convention: *pay a ~ call on the Ambassador*. 2 (of clothes, vocabulary, etc) chosen and used in formal(1) situations. ⇨ *informal*. 3 regular or geometric in design. 4 of the outward shape or appearance (not the reality or substance): *a ~ resemblance between two things*.

for-mally /-məli/ *adv*

for-mal-ity /fɔː'mæləti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) 1 [U] strict attention to rules, forms and convention: *There was too much ~ in the University*. 2 [C] action required by custom or rules: *legal formalities*. **a mere formality**, something one is required or expected to do, but which has little meaning or importance.

for-ma-tion /fɔː'meɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] forming or shaping: *the ~ of character/of ideas in the mind*. 2 [C] that which is formed: *Clouds are ~s of condensed water vapour*. 3 [C, U] structure or arrangement: *'battle ~; rock ~s*.

for-ma-tive /fɔː'mətv/ *adj* giving, or tending to give, shape to: *the ~ years of a child's life*.

for-mer /fɔː'mə(r)/ *adj* 1 of an earlier period: *in ~ times; my ~ students*. 2 (used as a pronoun) the first (mentioned) of two: *I prefer the ~ (alternative) to the latter*.

for-mer-ly *adv* in earlier times.

for-mi-dable /fɔː'mɪdəbl/ *adj* 1 causing fear or dread: *a man with a ~ appearance*. 2 requiring great effort to deal with or overcome: ~ obstacles/opposition/enemies/debts.

for-mi-dably /-əbli/ *adv*

for-mula /fɔː'mjələ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s, or, in scientific usage, ~e /-li/) 1 fixed form of words used regularly (eg *'How d'you do?'*, *'Excuse me'*, *'Yours sincerely'*) or used in legal documents, etc. 2 statement of a rule, fact, etc esp one in signs or numbers, eg *'Water = H₂O'*. 3 set of directions, usually in symbols, as for a medical preparation.

for-mu-late /fɔː'mjuleɪt/ *vt* express clearly and exactly: ~ one's thoughts/a doctrine.

for-mu-la-tion /fɔː'mjə'leɪʃn/ *n* [U] formulation; [C] exact and clear statement.

for-ni-cate /fɔː'nɪkeɪt/ *vi* commit adultery.

for-ni-ca-tion /fɔː'nɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U] voluntary sexual intercourse between persons not married to one another. ⇨ *adultery*.

for-sake /fɔː'seɪk/ *vt* (*pt* forsook /fɔː'sʊk/, *pp* ~n /fɔː'seɪkən/) give up; break away from; desert: ~ one's wife and children.

for-swear /fɔː'sweə(r)/ *vt* (*pt* forswore /fɔː'swɔː(r)/, *pp* forsworn /fɔː'swɔːn/) give up doing or using (something): ~ bad habits.

fort /fɔːt/ *n* [C] building or group of buildings

for military defence.

forte /'fɔ:tə/ US: /fɔ:t/ *n* [C] something a person does particularly well: *Singing is not my ~.*

forth /fɔ:θ/ *adv* **1** out (which is more usual): *set ~, begin a journey.* **2** onwards; forwards: *from this day ~.* **and** *'so forth*, ⇨ so²(1). **back and forth**, to and fro (which is more usual). **3 hold forth**, ⇨ hold³(14).

forth-com-ing /fɔ:θ'kʌmɪŋ/ *adj* **1** about to appear: *~ books.* **2** ready for use when needed: *The money/help we hoped for was not ~.* We did not receive it. **3 (informal)** ready to be helpful, give information, etc: *The girl at the reception desk was not very ~.*

forth-right /'fɔ:θraɪt/ *adj* outspoken; straightforward.

forth-with /fɔ:θ'wɪθ/ US: /'wɪθ/ *adv* at once; without losing time.

for-ti-eth /'fɔ:tɪəθ/ *adj*, *n* [C] (abbr 40th) (of) one of 40 parts or the next after 39.

for-tify /'fɔ:tɪfaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) strengthen (a place) against attack (with walls, trenches, guns, etc); support or strengthen oneself, one's courage, etc: *~ a town against the enemy; ~ oneself against the cold.*

for-ti-fi-ca-tion /fɔ:tɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U] fortifying; [C] (often pl) defensive wall(s), tower(s), etc.

for-ti-tude /'fɔ:tɪtju:d/ US: /-tʊd/ *n* [U] (formal) calm courage, self-control, in the face of pain, danger or difficulty.

fort-night /'fɔ:tnaɪt/ *n* [C] period of two weeks.

fort-night-ly *adj*, *adv* happening or occurring every fortnight.

fort-ress /'fɔ:trɪs/ *n* [C] fortified building or town.

for-tu-itous /fɔ:'tju:əs/ US: /-tʊr-/ *adj* happening by chance: *a ~ meeting.*

for-tu-itous-ly *adv*

for-tu-nate /'fɔ:tʃənət/ *adj* favoured by fortune; lucky; prosperous; having, bringing, brought by, good fortune: *You were very ~ to escape being injured.*

for-tu-nate-ly *adv* in a fortunate manner; luckily: *~ly for everybody.*

for-tune /'fɔ:tʃun/ US: /-tʃʌn/ *n* **1** [C,U] chance; chance looked on as a power deciding or influencing; fate; good or bad luck coming to a person or undertaking: *have ~ on one's side*, be lucky. **tell sb's fortune**, say, from a reading of playing-cards or the lines on his hand, what will happen to him. **2** [C,U] prosperity; success; great sum of money: *a man of ~.* **come into a fortune**, inherit a lot of money. **make a fortune**, make a lot of money. ⇨ also seek(1).

'fortune hunter, man seeking a rich woman to marry.

'fortune teller, person who claims to be able to tell a person's fortune.

forty /'fɔ:tɪ/ *adj*, *n* [C] (of) 40: *under/over ~. in the forties.* (a) (of a person's age, temperat-

ure, speed, etc) between 39 and 50. (b) between '39 and '50 in a century.

forty winks, a short sleep.

fo-rum /'fɔ:rəm/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) **1** (in ancient Rome) public place for meetings. **2** any place for public discussion: *TV is an accepted ~ for the discussion of public affairs.*

for-ward ¹ /'fɔ:wəd/ *adj* **1** directed towards the front; situated in front; moving on, advancing: *a ~ march/movement; ~ planning*, for future needs, etc. **2** (of plants, crops, seasons, children) well advanced; making progress towards maturity: *a ~ spring.* **3** eager or impatient; ready and willing; too eager: *a ~ young girl.* **4** too advanced, extreme: *~ opinions.* □ *n* [C] **1** one of the attacking players in football (now often called a *striker*), hockey, etc.

for-ward-ness *n* [U]

for-ward ² /'fɔ:wəd/ *vi* **1** help or send forward; help to advance: *~ his plans.* **2** send, dispatch: *We have ~ed you our new catalogue.* **3** send a letter, parcel, etc on to a person at a new address: *Please ~ my letters to this address.*

for-ward(s) /'fɔ:wəd(z)/ *adv* (Note: ~s is not much used except as in 4 below.) **1** onward so as to make progress: *rush/step ~; go ~.* **2** towards the future; onwards in time: *from this time ~; look ~, think ahead, think about the future.* **3** to the front; into prominence. **bring forward**, ⇨ bring(5). **come forward**, ⇨ come(13). **4 backward(s) and forward(s)**, to and fro.

fos-sil /'fɒsɪl/ *n* [C] **1** recognizable (part, trace or imprint of a) prehistoric animal or plant once buried in earth, now hardened like rock. **2** (fig) person with old-fashioned attitudes.

fos-sil-ize (also **-ise**) /'fɒsəlaɪz/ *vt, vi* (a) change or turn into stone. (b) become unable to adapt to modern ideas, etc.

foster ¹ /'fɒstə(r)/ US: /'fɔ:-/ *vt* **1** help the growth and development of: *~ good relations/evil thoughts.* **2** take into one's home and care for but without legal guardianship: *~ a child.* ⇨ adopt(1).

'foster-brother/-child/-parent, etc. ⇨ 2 above

fought /fɔ:t/ *pt, pp* of fight².

foul ¹ /faʊl/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** causing disgust; having a bad smell or taste; filthy: *a ~ taste; ~-smelling drains.* **2** wicked; evil; (of language) full of oaths; obscene. **3** (of weather) stormy; rough. **fall foul of**, (a) (of a ship) run against, collide with. (b) (fig) get into trouble with: *fall ~ of the law.* □ *n* [C] (sport) action that is against the rules.

'foul 'play, (a) (sport) action that is against the rules. (b) violent crime, esp murder: *Is ~ suspected?*

foul-ly /'faʊli/ *adv*

foul ² /faʊl/ *vi, vi* **1** make or become foul: *chimneys that ~ the air with smoke.* **2** collide (with); (cause to) become entangled: *The rope ~ed the anchor chain.* **3** (sport) commit a foul(1)

against: ~ *an opponent*.

found¹ /faʊnd/ *pt, pp of find*².

found² /faʊnd/ *vi* **1** start the building of; lay the base of; establish; *The Oxford University Press was ~ed in 1478.* **2** get something started by providing money: ~ *a new school.* **3** base on: *arguments ~ed on facts.*

found-da-tion /faʊn'deɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] founding or establishing (of a town, school, church, etc). **2** [C] something that is founded, eg a college. **3** [C] fund of money for charity, research, etc: *the Ford F~.* **4** [C] (often *pl*) strong base of a building, on which it is built up: *the ~(s) of a block of flats.* **5** [C, U] that on which an idea, belief, etc is based; starting-point: *the ~s of religious beliefs; a story that has no ~ in fact/that is without ~*, is untrue.

founda-tion-stone stone laid at a ceremony to celebrate the founding of a building.

founder¹ /'faʊndə(r)/ *n* [C] person who founds or establishes a school, etc.

found-er² /'faʊndə(r)/ *vi, vt* **1** (of a ship) (cause to) fill with water and sink. **2** (of a horse) fall or stumble (esp in mud) or from overwork.

foun-dry /'faʊndri/ *n* [C] (*pl -ies*) place where metal or glass is melted and moulded.

foun-tain /'faʊntn/ *n* [C] **1** spring of water, esp one made artificially with water forced through holes in a pipe or pipes for ornamental purposes. **2** (*fig*) source or origin: *the ~ of honour.*

fountain-head, original source.

fountain-pen, pen with a supply of ink inside the holder.

four /fɔ:(r)/ *adj, n* [C] (of) 4: *a child of ~, 4 years old; an income of ~ figures.* **on all fours**, on the hands and knees.

four-fold *adj* having 4 parts. □ *adv* 4 times as much or as many.

four-pence, the sum of 4p.

four-penny /-pəni/ *adj* costing 4p.

four-ply *adj* (of wool, etc) having 4 strands or thicknesses.

four-score *adj, n* (*old use*) (of) 80.

four-square *adj* (a) square-shaped. (b) (*fig*) steady; firm.

four-teen /,fɔ:(t)ɪn/ *adj, n* [C] (of) 14.

four-teenth /,fɔ:(t)ɪnθ/ *adj, n* [C] (*abbr 14th*) (of) one of 14 parts or the next after 13.

fourth /fɔ:(θ)/ *adj, n* [C] (*abbr 4th*) (of) one of 4 parts or the next after 3.

fourthly *adv* in the 4th place.

fowl /faʊl/ *n* [C] **1** (*old use*) any bird: *the ~s of the air.* **2** (with a *prefix*) one of the larger birds: *'wild~.* **3** domestic cock or hen: *keep ~s.* **4** [U] flesh of fowls as food. □ *vi* catch, hunt, wild-fowl: *go ~ing.*

fox /fɒks/ *n* [C] (*feminine* = *vixen* /'vɪksn/) wild animal of the dog family, with red fur and a bushy tail. **as cunning as a fox**, very cunning. □ *vi* deceive by cunning; confuse; puzzle: *He was completely ~ed.*

fox-hound, kind of dog bred and trained to

hunt foxes.

'fox-hunt *n* chasing of foxes with hounds. □ *vi* chase foxes.

'fox-terrier, small and lively short-haired dog.

foyer /'fɔɪə/ *US: 'fɔɪər/ n* [C] large hall, eg an entrance hall in a hotel, cinema, etc.

frac-tion /'frækʃn/ *n* [C] **1** small part or bit. **2** number that is not a whole number (eg $\frac{1}{2}$, 0.76).

frac-tional /-ʃənl/ *adj* of or in fractions.

frac-tious /'frækʃəs/ *adj* (*formal*) irritable; bad-tempered.

frac-ture /'fræktʃə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] breaking or being broken, eg of a bone, a pipeline. **2** [C] instance of this: *compound/simple ~s*, with/without skin wounds. □ *vt, vi* break; crack: ~ *one's leg.*

frag-ile /'frædʒəl/ *US: -dʒəl/ adj* easily injured, broken or destroyed: ~ *china/health/ happiness.*

fra-gil-ity /'frædʒɪləti/ *n* [U]

frag-ment /'frægmənt/ *n* [C] part broken off; separate or incomplete part: *overhear ~s of conversation; ~s of a broken vase.* □ *vi* /'frægmənt/ break into pieces.

frag-men-tary /'frægməntri/ *US: -teri/ adj* incomplete; disconnected: *a ~ary report of an event.*

fra-grance /'freɪgrəns/ *n* [U] sweet smell.

fra-grant /'freɪgrənt/ *adj* sweet-smelling: ~ *flowers.*

frail /freɪl/ *adj* (-er, -est) weak; fragile: *a ~ child.*

frailty /'freɪlti/ *n* **1** [U] the quality of being frail: *the ~ of human life.* **2** [C] (*pl -ies*) (*literary*) fault; moral weakness: *He loved her in spite of her little frailties.*

frame¹ /freɪm/ *n* [C] **1** skeleton or main structure, eg steel girders, pieces of wood, of a ship, building, aircraft, etc which makes its shape, esp in the process of building. **2** border in which a picture, photograph, window or door is enclosed or set. **3** structure that holds the lenses of a pair of spectacles. **4** human or animal body: *a girl of slender ~.* **5** structure of wood and glass for protecting plants from the cold: *a cold/ heated ~.* **6 frame of mind**, temporary state or condition of mind: *in a cheerful ~ of mind.* **7** single exposure on a roll of photographic film.

'frame-work, that part of a structure that gives shape and support: *a bridge with a steel ~work; the ~work of a government.*

frame² /freɪm/ *vi, vt* **1** put together; shape; build up: ~ *a plan/theory/sentence.* **2** put a frame(2) round; enclose in a frame: *have a painting ~d.* **3** develop: *plans that are framing well/badly.* **4** (*sl*) make (an innocent person) appear guilty of something: *The accused man said he had been ~d.*

'frame-up, (*sl*) scheme to make an innocent person appear guilty.

fran-chise /'fræntʃaɪz/ *n* [C] **1** (usually the

~) full rights of citizenship given by a country or town, esp the right to vote at elections. **2** (chiefly US) special right given by public authorities to a person or company: *a ~ for a bus service*.

Franco- /ˈfræŋkəʊ/ prefix French: *the ~ German War of 1870–71*.

Franco-phile /ˈfræŋkəfaɪl/ *adj*, *n* [C] (person) loving France and French things to excess.

Franco-phobe /ˈfræŋkəfoʊb/ *adj*, *n* [C] (person) hating France and French things to excess.

Franco-phone /ˈfræŋkəfoʊn/ *adj* (of persons, countries) French speaking.

frank¹ /ˈfræŋk/ *adj* (-er, -est) showing clearly the thoughts and feelings: *a ~ look*; *make a ~ confession of one's guilt. I'll be quite (= completely) ~ with you (about something)*.

frank-ly *adv*

frank-ness *n* [U]

frank² /ˈfræŋk/ *vt* stamp (letters, parcels, with a ~ing-machine which shows the charge for sending).

frank-furter /ˈfræŋkfɜːtə(r)/ *n* [C] seasoned and smoked sausage made of beef and pork.

frank-in-cense /ˈfræŋkɪnsens/ *n* [U] kind of resin from trees, giving a sweet smell when burnt.

fran-tic /ˈfræntɪk/ *adj* wildly excited with joy, pain, anxiety, etc: *~ cries for help*.

fran-ti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

fra-ter-nal /ˈfrætəːnl/ *adj* brotherly: *~ love*.

fra-ter-nally /-nəli/ *adv*

fra-ter-nity /ˈfrætəːnəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] brotherly feeling. **2** [C] society of men, eg monks, who treat each other as equals; men who are joined together by common interests. **3** [C] (US) society of students, with branches in various colleges, usually with names made up of Greek letters.

frat-er-nize (also -ise) /ˈfrætənaɪz/ *vi* become friendly (with).

frat-er-nization (also -isation) /ˈfrætənaɪzəʃn/ *n* [C] (US)

frat-ri-cide /ˈfrætɪsaɪd/ *n* [C, U] (person guilty of) intentional killing of a brother or sister.

fraud /frɔːd/ *n* **1** [U] criminal deception; [C] act of this kind: *get money by ~*. **2** [C] person or thing that deceives.

fraud-u-lent /ˈfrɔːdʒələnt/ *adj* acting with, obtained by, fraud; deceitful.

fraud-u-lent-ly *adv*

fraught /frɔːt/ *adj* **1** involving; attended by; threatening (unpleasant consequences): *an expedition ~ with danger*. **2** filled with: *~ with meaning*.

frazzle /ˈfræzl/ *vt* (informal) make tired. □ *n* [U] (used with *a*): *worn/burnt to a ~*, completely.

fray¹ /freɪ/ *n* [C] fight; contest.

fray² /freɪ/ *vt, vi* **1** (of cloth, rope, etc) become worn, make worn, by rubbing so that there are

loose threads. **2** (fig) cause exhaustion, wear out: *~ed nerves*; *a ~ed temper*.

freak /friːk/ *n* [C] **1** absurd or very unusual idea, act or happening: (used as an adjective) *a ~ storm*. **2** person, animal or plant that is abnormal in form or behaviour. □ *vi* **freak (out)**, (st) react with an intense emotion as from hallucinatory drugs. Hence, **'freak-out** *n* this experience.

freak-ish /-ɪʃ/ *adj* abnormal: *~ish behaviour*.

freak-ish-ly *adv*

freaky *adj* (-ier, -iest) = freakish.

freckle /ˈfrekl/ *n* [C] one of the small light-brown spots on the human skin. □ *vi, vi* (cause to) become covered with freckles: *Some people ~ more easily than others*.

free¹ /friː/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** (of a person) not a slave; not in the power of another person. **2** not in prison; having personal rights and social and political liberty: *The prisoners were set ~*. **3** (of a State, its citizens, and institutions) not controlled by a foreign government; having representative government: *the land of the ~*. **4** not fixed or held back; able to move about; not controlled by rules, regulations or conventions: *You are ~ to go or stay as you please. Leave one end of the rope ~*, not tied or held. **have/give sb a free hand**, permission to act without consulting others. **5 free from**, (a) without: *~ from blame/error/anxiety*. (b) released or exempt from: *~ from the ordinary regulations*. **free of**, (a) away from: *as soon as the ship was ~ of the harbour*. *At last I am ~ of her*, have got away from her. (b) without: *~ of charge*. **6** without payment; costing nothing: *~ tickets for the theatre*; *give it away ~*; *admission ~*. **7** (of place or time) not occupied or engaged; (of persons) not having time occupied; not doing anything: *Her afternoons are usually ~*. *She is usually ~ in the afternoon(s)*. **8** coming or given readily: *a ~ flow of water*; *~ with his money/advice*. **9** without constraint: *He is somewhat ~ in his conversation*, not as proper or decent as he ought to be.

free-and-easy *adj* informal, casual.

'free-for-all, dispute, quarrel, etc in which all (are allowed to) express their views.

'free-hand *adj* (of drawings) done by hand, no compasses or other instrument being used: *a ~hand sketch*.

'free-hold, (legal) (holding of) land in absolute ownership. ⇨ *leasehold*.

'free-holder, person who owns freehold property.

'free-lance /-lɑːns/ *US*: -læns/ *n* [C] independent journalist, writer, etc who sells his services wherever he can. □ *vi* work this way.

'free speech, right to speak in public without interference from the authorities.

'free-style, (swimming) (race using a) style where the competitors choose their own stroke, usually the crawl.

'free-trade, trade without customs duties to

restrict imports.

free verse, without regular metre and rhyme.

free-way, (US) highway with several lanes (GB = *motorway*).

free will, individual's power of guiding and choosing his actions: *do it of one's own ~ will*, without being required or compelled.

free-ly *adv* in a free manner; readily.

free² /fri:/ *vt* (pt, pp ~d /fri:d/) make free (from): ~ an animal (from a trap); ~ oneself from debt.

free-dom /'fri:dəm/ *n* 1 [U] condition of being free (all senses). 2 [C] particular kind of freedom.

freeze /fri:z/ *vt, vi* (pt froze /'frəʊz/, pp frozen /'frəʊzn/) 1 be so cold that water turns into ice: *It was freezing last night*. 2 (of water) become ice; (of other substances) become hard or stiff from cold: *The lake froze over*, became covered with ice. 3 be or feel very cold: *I'm freezing*. 4 make cold; make hard; cover with ice: *frozen food*, preserved by being kept very cold. ⇨ **deep-freeze**. 5 stop dealings in assets, credits, etc temporarily or permanently; fix or set prices, wages: *'price-/wage-freezing*. 6 become motionless, eg of an animal that stands still to avoid attracting attention. □ *n* [C] 1 period of freezing weather. 2 severe control of prices, wages, etc: *a wage-~*.

'freeze-dry *vt* preserve (food) by rapid freezing and drying in a vacuum. Hence, **'freeze-drying** *n* [U].

freezer, machine, room, for freezing food.

'freezing-point, temperature at which a liquid (esp water) freezes.

freight /'freit/ *n* [C] (money charged for) the carrying of goods from place to place by water (in US also by land); the goods carried. □ *vt* load (a ship) with cargo; send or carry (goods): ~ a boat with fruit.

freighter, ship or aircraft that carries cargo.

French /'frentʃ/ *adj, n* (of) France or the language or the people of France.

'French horn, brass wind instrument.

French-man, man who is of French birth or nationality.

'French window, one that serves as both a window and a door, opening on to a garden or balcony.

fren-etic /'frɛnetɪk/ *adj* = frantic.

frenzy /'frenzi/ *n* [U] violent excitement: *in a ~ of despair/enthusiasm*.

fren-zied *adj* wildly excited.

fre-quency /'fri:kwənsi/ *n* (pl -ies) 1 [U] frequent occurrence: *the ~ of earthquakes in Italy*. 2 [C] rate of occurrence; number of repetitions (in a given time): *a ~ of 25 per second*, eg of an alternating electric current.

fre-quent¹ /'fri:kwənt/ *adj* often happening; numerous: *Hurricanes are ~ here in autumn*. *He's a ~ visitor*.

fre-quent-ly *adv*

fre-quent² /'fri:kwent/ *vt* go often to (a

place); be often found in or at: *Frogs ~ wet places*.

fresco /'freskəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s or ~es) 1 [U] pigment applied to damp plaster surfaces and allowed to dry; method of painting with this pigment: *painting in ~*. 2 [C] picture painted in this way. □ *vt* paint in fresco.

fresh /fref/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 newly made, produced, gathered, grown, arrived, etc: ~ paint (= still wet). 2 (of food) not stale or bad; not salted, tinned or frozen: ~ butter/meat. 3 new or different: *Is there any ~ news?* **make a fresh start**, begin again. 4 (of the air, wind, weather) cool; refreshing: *go out for some ~ air*. 5 bright and pure: ~ colours. 6 not seawater: ~-water fish.

freshen /'frefn/ *vt, vi* make or become fresh. **freshen up**, make (oneself) feel fresh by washing.

fresher, 'fresh-man, first-year student.

fresh-ly *adv* (only with a pp) recently: ~ly picked fruit.

fresh-ness *n* [U]

fret¹ /fret/ *vi, vt* (-tt-) 1 (cause to) be worried or bad-tempered: *What are you ~ting about?* 2 wear away by rubbing or biting at: *a horse ~ting its bit*. □ *n* [U] irritated state of mind: *in a ~*.

fret-ful /-fl/ *adj* irritable: *a ~ful baby*.

fret-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

fret² /fret/ *vt* (-tt-) decorate (wood) with patterns made by cutting or sawing.

'fret-saw, very narrow saw, fixed in a frame, for cutting designs in thin sheets of wood.

'fret-work *n* [U] (a) work in decorative patterns. (b) wood cut with such patterns by using a fretsaw.

fret³ /fret/ *n* [C] one of the metal ridges across the neck of a guitar, banjo, etc.

friar /'fraɪə(r)/ *n* [C] man who is a member of one of certain religious orders, esp one who has vowed to live in poverty.

fric-tion /'frikʃn/ *n* [U] the rubbing of one thing against another. 2 [C, U] (instance of a) difference of opinion leading to argument and quarrelling: *political ~ between two countries*.

Fri-day /'fraɪdi/ *n* sixth day of the week.

'Good Friday, the one before Easter Sunday.

fridge /'frɪdʒ/ *n* [C] (common abbr of) refrigerator.

fried /fraɪd/ *pt, pp* of fry.

friend /frend/ *n* [C] 1 person, not a relation, who one knows and likes well: *He has been a good ~ to me*. 2 helpful thing or quality: *Among gossip silence can be your best ~*. 3 helper or sympathizer: *a good ~ of the poor*. ⇨ also Quaker.

friend-ly /'frendli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) acting, or ready to act, as a friend; showing or expressing kindness: *be ~ with/be on ~ terms with her*.

friend-li-ness *n* [U]

friend-ship /'frendʃɪp/ *n* 1 [U] being friends; the feeling or relationship that exists between

friends: *my ~ for her*. **2** [C] instance or period of this feeling: *a ~ of twenty years*.

frieze /'fri:z/ *n* [C] ornamental band or strip along (usually the top of) a wall.

frig-ate /'frɪɡət/ *n* [C] **1** fast sailing-ship formerly used in war. **2** (modern use) fast escort vessel.

fright /fraɪt/ *n* [U] great and sudden fear: *I nearly died of ~*; [C] instance of this.

frighten /'fraɪtn/ *vt* fill with fright; alarm suddenly: *Did the noise ~ you?*

fright-ened *adj* (a) afraid: *be ~ed of him or it*. (b) alarmed: *~ed at the idea of something happening*.

fright-en-ing *adj* causing fright: *a ~ing experience*.

fright-ful /'fraɪtfl/ *adj* **1** causing fear; dreadful: *a ~ accident*. **2** (informal) very great, unpleasant.

fright-fully /-fəli/ *adv* (a) in an unpleasant or frightening way. (b) (informal) very: *I'm ~ly sorry!*

frigid /'frɪdʒɪd/ *adj* **1** cold: *a ~ climate*. **2** unfriendly: *a ~ manner*. **3** (of women) having no sexual desire.

frigid-ly *adv*

frigid-ity /'frɪdʒɪdəti/ *n* [U]

frill /frɪl/ *n* [C] **1** pleated border on a dress, etc. **2** (pl) unnecessary adornments, eg to speech or writing.

frilly *adj*: *a ~y dress*.

fringe /frɪndʒ/ *n* [C] **1** border of loose threads, eg on a rug. **2** edge (of a crowd, forest, etc): *on the ~ (s) of the desert*. **3** part of the hair cut short and allowed to hang over the forehead. □ *vt* put on, serve as, a fringe: *fringing a roadside with trees*.

frisk /frɪsk/ *vi, vt* **1** jump and run about playfully. **2** pass the hands over (a person) to search for concealed weapons.

frisky *adj* (-ier, -iest) lively.

frit-ter¹ /'frɪtə(r)/ *vt* waste on useless aims: *~ away one's time/energy/money*.

frit-ter² /'frɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] piece of fried batter with sliced fruit or meat in it.

friv-ol-ous /'frɪvələs/ *adj* **1** not serious or important: *~ remarks/behaviour*. **2** (of persons) not serious; enjoying pleasure.

friv-ol-ous-ly *adv*

friv-ol-ity /'frɪvələti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] frivolous behaviour or character. **2** [C] frivolous act or statement.

frizz /frɪz/ *vt* (of hair) form into masses of small curls.

frizzy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (of hair) frizzed.

frizzle /'frɪzl/ *vt, vi* cook, be cooked, in oil which spits: *bacon frizzling in the pan*.

fro /frəʊ/ *adv* (only in) **to and 'fro**, in, to, one direction and then the opposite: *to and ~ between London and Paris*.

frock /frɒk/ *n* [C] **1** woman's or girl's dress (now the usual word). **2** monk's long gown with loose sleeves.

frog /frɒg/ *US*: frɔ:g/ *n* [C] small, cold-

blooded, jumping animal living in water and on land.

'frog-man, person skilled in swimming under water with the aid of flippers on the feet and breathing apparatus.

'frog-march *vt* carry (a prisoner) away, face downwards, by four men holding his arms and legs.

frolic /'frɒlɪk/ *vi* (pt, pp ~ked) play about in a gay, lively way. □ *n* [C] outburst of gaiety or merrymaking.

from /frəm *strong form*: frɒm/ *prep* **1** (introducing the place, person, etc that is the starting-point): *jump (down) ~ a wall*; *travel ~ London to Rome*. **2** (showing the starting of a period of time): *~ the first of May*; *~ childhood*; *~ beginning to end*. **3** (showing the place, object, etc from which distance, absence, etc is stated): *ten miles ~ the coast*; *stay away ~ school*. **4** (showing the giver, sender, etc): *a letter ~ my brother*. **5** (showing the model, etc): *painted ~ life*. **6** (showing the limit): *There were ~ ten to fifteen boys absent*. **7** (showing the source from which something is taken): *some quotations ~ Shakespeare*; *~ this point of view*. **8** (showing the material, etc used in a process, the material being changed as a result): *Wine is made ~ grapes*. **9** (showing separation, removal, prevention, escape, avoidance, etc): *When were you released ~ prison?* **10** (showing change): *Things are going ~ bad to worse*. **11** (showing reason, cause or motive): *suffer ~ starvation and disease*. **12** (showing distinction or difference): *How would you know an Englishman ~ an American?* **13** (used in adverbial and prepositional phrases): *seen ~ above/below*.

frond /frɒnd/ *n* [C] part of a fern or palm-tree that is like a leaf.

front /frʌnt/ *n* **1** (usually *sing* with *the*; also used as an *adjective*) foremost or most important side: *the ~ of a building*; *sitting in the ~ of the class*; *the ~ page of a newspaper*, page 1. **in front**, *adv*: *Please go in ~*. **in front of**, *prep*: *There are some trees in ~ of the house*. **2** [C] (in war) part where the fighting is taking place: *at the ~*; *go/be sent to the ~*. **3** [C] road, etc bordering the part of a town facing the sea: *have a walk along the ~*. **6** [U] **put on/show/present a bold front**, face a situation with (apparent) boldness. **5** boundary between masses of cold and warm air: *a cold ~/warm ~*. □ *vt, vi* face: *hotels that ~ the sea*; *windows ~ing the street*. ⇨ also *seafront*.

front bench, seat in the House of Commons reserved for ministers or ex-ministers.

front door, main door of a building to the street or road.

front-age /'frʌntɪdʒ/ *n* [C] extent of a piece of land or a building along its front: *a building site with a road ~ of 500 metres*.

frontal /'frʌntl/ *adj* of, on or to, the front: *a ~ attack*.

fron-tier /'frʌntɪə(r) *US*: frʌn'tɪər/ *n* [C] **1**

part of a country bordering on another country; (land on each side of a) boundary. **2** (fig) extreme limit: *the ~s of knowledge*. **3** (fig) underdeveloped area (eg of scientific research).

frost /frɒst/ *US*: frɒst/ **n** **1** [U] weather condition with temperature below the freezing-point of water; [C] occasion or period of such weather: *a hard ~; ten degrees of ~*. ⇨ Jack frost. **2** [U] frozen coating of vapour on the ground, roofs, plants, etc: *white ~*. □ *vt, vi* **1** cover with, become covered with, frost(2): *~ed window-panes. The windscreen of my car ~ed over during the night.* **2** injure or kill (plants, etc) with frost(1). **3** give a roughened surface to (glass) so that it is not transparent: *~ed glass*. **4** cover (a cake, etc) with sugar.

frost-bite, injury to skin tissue from freezing.

frost-bitten *adj* having, suffering from, frost-bite.

frost-bound *adj* (of the ground) made hard by frost.

frosty /'frɒsti/ *US*: 'frɒsti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** cold with frost: *~ weather*. **2** (fig) unfriendly; without warmth of feeling: *a ~ welcome*.

froth /frɒθ/ **n** [U] mass of small bubbles; foam: *a glass of beer with a lot of ~ on it*. □ *vi* have, give off, froth: *A mad dog may ~ at the mouth*.

frothy *adj* (-ier, -iest) of, like, covered with, froth: *~y beer*.

frown /fraʊn/ *vi* draw the eyebrows together causing lines on the forehead, (to express disapproval, puzzlement, deep thought, etc). **frown on/upon** disapprove of: *Gambling is ~ed on here*. □ *n* [C] frowning look: *There was a deep ~ on his brow*.

froze, frozen ⇨ freeze.

frugal /'fru:gl/ *adj* careful, economical (esp of food, expenditure); costing little: *a ~ meal*.

frugal-ly /-gəli/ *adv*

frugal-ity /'fru:gələti/ *n* [C, U]

fruit /fru:t/ **n** **1** (usually *sing* as a collective *noun*) that part of a plant or tree that contains the seeds and is used as food, eg apples, bananas: *Do you eat much ~?* **2** [C] that part of any plant in which the seed is formed. **3** (*pl*) any plant or vegetable products used for food: *the ~s of the earth*. **4** (fig) (often *pl*) profit, result or reward (of labour, study, etc): *the ~s of industry*. □ *vi* (of trees, bushes, etc) bear fruit.

fruit-fly, (kinds of a) small fly that feeds on fermenting fruit.

fruit salad, various kinds of fruit cut up and mixed in a bowl.

fruit-er, person who sells fruit.

fruit-ful /-fl/ *adj* (a) producing fruit. (b) (fig) producing good results: *a ~ful career*.

fruit-less *adj* (a) without fruit. (b) (fig) without results or success: *~less efforts*.

fruit-less-ly *adv*

fruity *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) of or like fruit. (b) (informal) full of rough (often suggesting

something indecent) humour: *a ~y novel*. (c) (informal) rich; mellow: *a ~y voice*.

fruition /fru:'ʃʌn/ **n** [U] achievement of what was wanted or hoped for: *aims brought to/that come to ~*.

frump /frʌmp/ **n** [C] (informal) unattractive woman.

frustrate /fra'streit/ *US*: 'frastreit/ *vt* prevent (a person) from doing something; prevent (plans) from being carried out: *~ an enemy in his plans*.

frustration /fra'streɪʃn/ **n** [C, U]

fry /frai/ *vt, vi* (3rd person *sing*, present tense fries, *pt, pp* fried) cook, be cooked, in boiling fat: *fried chicken*.

frying-pan, shallow pan used for frying.

fuddy-duddy /'fʌdi dʌdi/ *adj* (informal) (of a person) old-fashioned.

fudge /fʌdʒ/ **n** [U] sort of soft sweet made with milk, sugar, chocolate, etc.

fuel /'fju:əl/ **n** [U] (*pl* = kinds of ~) **1** material for producing heat or energy, eg coal, oil. **2** (fig) something that inflames the passions. □ *vt, vi* (-ll-, *US* also -l-) supply with or obtain fuel: *a power station ~led by uranium*.

fugitive /'fju:dʒɪtv/ **n** [C] person running away from the police, danger, etc. □ *adj* of a fugitive.

-ful *suffix* **1** /-fl/ full of, having the quality of: *eventful; peaceful*. **2** /-fʊl/ amount that fills: *handful*.

ful-crum /'fʌlkɾəm/ **n** [C] (*pl* ~s) point on which a lever turns.

ful-fil (*US* also **ful-fill**) /fʊl'fɪl/ *vt* (-ll-) perform or carry out a task, duty, promise, etc: *~ one's duties/an obligation/his hopes*.

ful-fil-ment *n* [U]

full /fʊl/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** holding or having plenty (of); completely filled: *The room was ~ of people*. **2** **full of**, completely occupied with thinking of: *She was ~ of the news*. **3** plump; rounded: *a ~ figure; rather ~ in the face*. **4** (of clothes) having material arranged in wide folds: *a ~ skirt*. **5** reaching the usual or the specified extent, limit, length, etc: *wait a ~ hour, not less than an hour*. **in full**, without omitting or shortening anything: *paid in ~; write one's name in ~*, eg John Henry Smith, not J H Smith. **at full speed**, at the highest possible speed. **to the full**, to the utmost extent: *enjoy oneself to the ~*. **6** (used with *comp* and *superl*) complete: *A ~er account will be given later. This is the ~est account yet received*.

full-back, player (defender) placed farthest from the centre line (in football, etc).

full-length *adj* (a) (of a portrait) showing the whole figure. (b) of standard or usual length: *a ~length novel*.

full moon, moon seen as a complete disc.

full-page *adj* filling a whole page: *a ~page advertisement in a newspaper*.

full point, (*US*) = full stop.

full stop, the punctuation mark (.). *come*

to a full stop, stop completely.

full-scale *adj* (a) (of drawings, plans, etc) of the same size, area, etc as the object itself. (b) using every available means: a *full-scale* *war/enquiry*.

full-time *adj, adv* occupying all normal working hours: a *full-time* *worker*; *working full-time*.

fully *adv* (a) to the full; completely: *~y satisfied*. (b) altogether; at least: *The journey will take ~y two hours*.

fully-grown *adj* mature.

full-ness *n* [U]

fumble *verb* [U] *vi, vt* 1 feel about uncertainly with the hands; use the hands awkwardly: *~ in one's pockets for a key*. 2 handle or deal with nervously or incompetently: *~ a ball, eg in cricket*.

fume *verb* [U] *n* [C] 1 (often *pl*) strong-smelling smoke, gas or vapour: *petrol ~s*. 2 (formal) excited state of mind: *in a ~ of anxiety*. *vi, vt* 1 give off fumes. 2 (fig) burst with anger or irritation: *fuming at her incompetence*.

fu-mi-gate *verb* [U] *vt* disinfect by means of fumes: *~ a room*.

fu-mi-ga-tion *n* [U] *vi, vt* [U]

fun *verb* [U] *n* [U] 1 amusement, sport; playfulness: *What ~ the children had!* **make fun of**; **poke fun at**, ridicule; cause people to laugh at: *It is wrong to make ~ of a cripple*. **for/in fun**, as a joke, for amusement; not seriously: *He did it for ~*. 2 that which causes merriment or amusement: *Paul is great ~*, is very amusing. *Sailing is good ~*. 3 (informal) (as an adjective): a *~ car/fur*, used, worn, for amusement.

'fun-fair, = fair² (2).

func-tion *verb* [U] *n* [C] 1 special activity or purpose of a person or thing: *the ~s of a judge/of education; grammatical ~s*. 2 public or formal ceremony or event: *the numerous ~s that a professor must attend*. *vi* fulfill a function(1); operate; act: *The telephone was not ~ing*, was out of order.

func-tional *adj* (a) having, designed to have, functions(1). (b) in working order: *the lift isn't ~al*.

fund *verb* [U] *n* [C] 1 store or supply (of non-material things): a *~ of amusing stories*. 2 (often *pl*) sum of money available for a purpose: a *relief ~*, eg to help in a disaster. 3 (pl) resources in the form of money: *run off with the ~s*. *vi* provide a sum of money in return for the payment of interest.

fun-da-men-tal *adj* (a) of or forming a foundation; serving as a starting point; of great importance: *~ changes in education*. *n* [C] (usually *pl*) basic or most important rule or principle; essential part: *the ~s of mathematics*.

fun-da-men-tally *adv*

fu-neral *verb* [U] *n* [C] burial or cremation of a dead person with the usual ceremonies.

'funeral march, sad and solemn piece of

music.

fu-ner-eal *verb* [U] *adj* (a) of a funeral. (b) (fig) = gloomy; dark.

fun-gus *verb* [U] *n* [C, U] (*pl* -gi /-gai/) plant without leaves, flowers or green colouring matter, growing on other plants or on decaying matter, eg old wood: *A mushroom is a ~*.

fun-gi-cide *verb* [U] *n* [U] substance that destroys fungi.

fun-goid *verb* [U] *adj* of or like fungi.

fun-gous *verb* [U] *adj* of or like, caused by, fungi.

funk *verb* [U] *vi, vt* (informal) (try to) escape (doing something) because of fear.

funnel *verb* [U] *n* [C] 1 tube or pipe wide at the top and narrowing at the bottom, for pouring liquids or powders through small openings. 2 outlet for smoke of a steamer, railway engine, etc. *vi, vt* (-ll-, US -l-) (cause to) move (as if) through, a funnel.

fun-nily *verb* [U] *adv* in an odd or an amusing way: *~ (= strangely) enough*.

funny *verb* [U] *adj* (-ier, -iest) 1 causing fun or laughter: *~ stories*. 2 strange; queer; causing surprise: *There's something ~ about him/the affair*, perhaps not quite honest or straightforward.

'funny-bone, part of the elbow over which a very sensitive nerve passes.

fur *verb* [U] *n* [U] 1 [U] soft, thick hair covering certain animals, eg cats, rabbits. 2 [C] animal skin with the fur on it, esp when made into clothes: (used as an adjective) a *~ coat*. 3 [U] coating on a person's tongue when ill; crust on the inside of a kettle, boiler, etc. *vi, vt* (-rr-) cover, become covered, with fur(3): a *~red tongue/kettle*.

furry *verb* [U] *adj* (-ier, -iest) of or like fur; covered with fur.

furi-ous *verb* [U] *adj* violent; full of fury: a *~ struggle/storm/quarrel*.

furi-ous-ly *adv*

furl *verb* [U] *vt, vi* (of sails, flags, umbrellas, etc) roll up: *~ the sails of a yacht*.

fur-long *verb* [U] *n* [C] measure of 220 yards (= 201 metres); eighth of a mile.

fur-lough *verb* [U] *n* [C, U] (permission for) absence from duty (esp civil officials, the armed forces, missionaries, living abroad): a *~ every three years*. *vi* leave².

fur-nace *verb* [U] *n* [C] 1 enclosed fireplace for heating buildings with hot water or steam in pipes. 2 enclosed space for heating metals, making glass, etc.

fur-nish *verb* [U] *vt* supply or provide; put furniture in: *~ a library with books*; *~ a room/an office*.

fur-nish-ings *n* *pl* furniture and equipment.

fur-ni-ture *verb* [U] *n* [U] all those movable things such as chairs, beds, desks, etc needed in a house, office, etc.

fu-rore (US = **fu-ror**) *verb* [U] *n* [C] state of enthusiastic admiration; uproar: *The new play at the National*

Theatre created a ~.

fur-rier /'fʌrɪə(r)/ *US*: /'fɑːr-/ *n* [C] person who prepares or who deals in furs.

fur-row /'fʌrəʊ/ *US*: /'fɑːr-/ *n* [C] **1** long cut in the ground made by a plough: *newly turned ~s*. **2** wrinkle, esp on the forehead. □ *vt* make furrows in: *a forehead ~ed by old age/anxiety*.

furry /'fʌːrɪ/ ⇨ fur.

fur-ther /'fʌːðə(r)/ *adv*, *adj* **1** (often used for *farther*): *It's not safe to go any ~*. **2** (not interchangeable in this sense with *farther*) more; in addition; additional: *We must get ~ information*. *We need go no ~ into the matter*, need make no more inquiries. **3** (= *furthermore*) moreover; also; besides: *He said that the key was lost and, ~, that there was no hope of its being found*. □ *vt* help forward; promote: *~ the cause of peace*.

fur-ther-ance /'fʌːðərəns/ *n* [U] (*formal*) advancement: *in ~ance of your aims*.

fur-ther-more /'fʌːðə'mɔː(r)/ *adv* moreover; in addition. ⇨ *further* (3).

fur-ther-most /-məʊst/ *adj* most distant; furthest.

fur-theft /'fʌːðɪst/ *adj*, *adv* = *farthest*.

fur-tive /'fʌːtɪv/ *adj* done secretly so as not to attract attention: *a ~ glance; ~ behaviour*.

fur-tive-ly *adv*

fury /'fjʊəri/ *n* (*pl -ies*) **1** [U] violent excitement, esp anger; *filled with ~*. **2** [C] outburst of wild feelings: *He flew into a ~, became very angry*.

furze /fʌːz/ *n* [U] = *gorse*.

fuse /'fjuːz/ *n* [C] **1** tube, cord, etc for carrying a spark to explode powder, etc, eg in a firework, bomb. **2** (*US* = *fuze*) part of a shell or mine that detonates the explosive charge.

fuse² /'fjuːz/ *vt*, *vi* **1** make or become liquid as the result of great heat; join, become joined, as the result of melting: *~ two pieces of wire together*. **2** (of an electric circuit, or part of it) be broken through melting of the fuse: *The light has ~d*. □ *n* [C] short piece of wire which causes a fuse (2).

fu-sel-age /'fjuːzɪləːʒ/ *n* [C] body of an aircraft (to which the engine(s), wings and tail are fitted).

fus-il-lade /'fjuːzɪ'leɪd/ *n* [C] continuous discharge of firearms.

fu-sion /'fjuːʒn/ *n* [C,U] mixing or uniting of different things into one: *the ~ of copper and tin*; *a ~ of races/political parties*.

fuss /fʌs/ *n* [U] **1** (sometimes with *a*, *an*) unnecessary nervous excitement, esp about unimportant things: *Don't make so much ~/such (a) ~*. **2** excessive or needless show of anxiety, concern. **make a fuss (of)**, treat with too much affection: *Don't make so much ~ of the children*. □ *vt*, *vi* get into, (cause to) be in, a fuss; *Stop ~ing*. *Don't ~ over the children so much*.

fuss-i-ness *n* [U]

fussy *adj* (-ier, -iest) **(a)** full of, showing, nervous excitement. **(b)** too concerned with

unimportant details: *be too ~y about one's clothes*. **(c)** (of dress, style, etc) too elaborate.

fu-tile /'fjuːtɪl/ *US*: /-tɪl/ *adj* **1** (of actions) of no use; without result: *a ~ attempt*. **2** (of persons) unlikely to achieve much.

fu-til-ity /'fjuːtɪləti/ *n* [C,U]

fu-ture /'fjuːtʃə(r)/ *adj* **1** coming after the present: *his ~ wife*, the woman he will marry. **2** of or in the future: *the ~ life*, after death of the body. □ *n* [C] time, event, coming after the present: *I hope you have a happy ~ before you*. **in future**, from this time onwards: *Try to live a better life in ~*.

future tense, (*gram*) verb form showing future action, etc, eg *I shall/He will go*.

fuzz /fʌz/ *n* [U] **1** fluff (1); fluffy or frizzed hair. **2** the ~, (sl) police.

fuzzy /'fʌzɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** blurred; not clear (in shape or outline). **2** frayed or fluffy.

Gg

G, g /dʒiː/ (*pl* G's, g's /dʒiːz/) the seventh letter of the English alphabet.

gab-ar-dine /gæbədɪn/ *n* [U] material of cotton or silk with wool lining (as used for raincoats).

gabble /'gæbl/ *vi*, *vi* speak, say, sing, things, quickly and indistinctly: *The little girl ~d her prayers and jumped into bed*. *Listen to those children gabbling away*. □ *n* [U] fast, confused, unintelligible talk.

gab-er-dine /gæbədɪn/ *n* = *gabardine*.

gad /gæd/ *vi* (-dd-) **gad about**, (*informal*) go from place to place for excitement or pleasure. **'gad-about**, person who does this.

gad-ged /'gædʒɪd/ *n* [C] (*informal*) small (usually mechanical) device: *a new ~ for opening tin cans*.

gadgetry *n* [U] gadgets collectively.

gaffe /gæf/ *n* [C] indiscreet act or remark.

gag /gæg/ *n* [C] **1** something put in or over a person's mouth to prevent him from speaking or crying out. **2** joke, funny story, esp as part of a comedian's act. □ *vi*, *vi* (-gg-) **1** put a gag (1) into or over the mouth of. **2** (*fig*) prevent (a person) from speaking freely. **3** use gags (2).

gaga /'gæɡə/ *US*: /'gɑːɡə/ *adj* (sl) senile.

gage /'geɪdʒ/ ⇨ gauge.

gaggle /'gæɡl/ *n* [C] flock (of geese).

gai-ety /'geɪəti/ *n* (*pl -ies*) **1** [U] being gay; cheerfulness; bright appearance: *flags and scarves that added to the ~ of the Cup Final scene*. **2** (*pl*) merrymaking; joyful, festive occasions: *the gaieties of the Caribbean carnival*.

gaily /'geɪli/ *adv* in a gay manner.

gain /geɪn/ *n* [U] increase of possessions; acquiring of wealth: *interested only in ~, in be-*

coming rich. **2** [C] increase in amount or power: *a ~ in weight/health.*

gain-ful /-fəl/ *adj* providing money: *~ful occupations.*

gain-fully /-fəli/ *adv* in order to earn money: *~fully employed.*

gain² /geɪn/ *vt, vi* **1** obtain (something wanted or needed): *~ experience; ~ an advantage over a competitor.* **gain time**, improve one's chances by delaying something, making excuses, etc. **gain the upper hand**, be victorious. **2** make progress; be improved; benefit: *The baby ~ed five pounds (in weight).* **3** (of a watch or clock) become fast, ahead of the correct time: *The clock ~s three minutes a day.* **4 gain on/upon** (a) get closer to (the person or thing pursued): *~ on the other runners in a race.* (b) go faster than, get farther in advance of: *~ on the police.* **5** reach, arrive at (a desired place, esp with effort): *The swimmer ~ed the shore.*

gait /geɪt/ *n* [C] manner of walking or running: *an awkward ~.*

gal /gæl/ *n* (dated informal) = girl.

gala /'gɑ:lə/ *US*: /'geɪlə/ *n* [C] **1** festive occasion: (used as an adjective) *a ~ performance, eg at a theatre, with special guests.* **2** swimming ~, swimming competition between teams.

gal-lac-tic /gə'læktɪk/ *adj* of the Galaxy.

gal-axy /'gæləksi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** any of the huge groups of stars in outer space. **2** company of persons: *a ~ of beautiful women.*

the Galaxy, that which includes our solar system, visible as a luminous band known as *the Milky Way*.

gale /geɪl/ *n* [C] **1** strong and violent wind: *The ship lost her masts in the ~.* **2** noisy outburst: *~s of laughter.*

gall¹ /gɔ:l/ *n* [U] **1** bitter liquid (bile) produced by the liver. **2** bitter feeling. **3** (informal) impudence: *Of all the ~!*

'gall-bladder, vessel attached to the liver containing and discharging gall.

'gall-stone, hard mass that forms in the gall-bladder.

gall² /gɔ:l/ *n* [C] painful swelling on an animal caused by rubbing. *o vi* **1** rub sore. **2** (fig) hurt the feelings of; humiliate: *It was ~ing to have to ask for a loan.*

gal-lant /'gælənt/ *adj* **1** brave (now the usual word): *~ deeds.* **2** (dated) fine; stately: *a ~ looking ship.* **3** (also /gə'lænt/) showing special respect and courtesy to women: *He was very ~ at the ball.*

gal-lant-ly *adv*

gal-lantry *n* [U] (a) bravery. (b) courteous and honourable behaviour to women.

gal-leon /'gælən/ *n* [C] Spanish sailing-ship (15th to 17th centuries).

gal-lery /'gæləri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** room or building for the display of works of art. **2** (people in the) highest and cheapest seats in a theatre. **3** raised floor or platform extending from an inner wall of a hall, church, etc: *the*

'press ~ of the House of Commons, used by newspaper reporters. **4** covered walk or corridor, partly open at one side. **5** long, narrow room: *a 'shooting-~, for indoor target practice.* **6** horizontal underground passage in a mine. *o shaft* (5).

gal-ley /'gæli/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) **1** low, flat ship, using sails and oars, rowed by slaves or criminals. **2** ancient Greek or Roman warship. **3** ship's kitchen.

gal-li-vant /'gæli'vent/ *vi* = gad.

gal-lon /'gælən/ *n* [C] measure for liquids, four quarts.

gal-lop /'gæləp/ *n* [C] (of a horse, etc) fastest pace with all four feet off the ground at each stride; period of riding at such a pace: *He rode away at a ~/at full ~.* *o vi, vt* **1** (cause to) go at a gallop: *He ~ed across the field.* **2** hurry: *~ through one's work/lecture.*

gal-lows /'gæləʊz/ *n* pl (usually used with a *sing verb*) wooden framework on which to put criminals to death by hanging: *send a man to the ~, condemn him to be hanged.*

ga-lore /gə'lɔ:(r)/ *adv* in plenty: *a meal with beef and beer ~.*

ga-loshes /gə'lɒʃɪz/ *n* pl (also a pair of ~) rubber overshoes worn in wet weather.

gam-bit /'gæmbɪt/ *n* [C] **1** kinds of opening move in chess. **2** (fig) any initial move: *His opening ~ in the debate was a direct attack on Government policy.*

gamble /'gæmbəl/ *vi, vt* **1** play games of chance for money; take great risks for the chance of winning something or making a profit: *He lost his money gambling at cards.* **2 gamble sth away**, lose by gambling: *He has ~d away half his fortune.* *o n* [C] undertaking or attempt with risk of loss and chance of profit or advantage. **take a gamble (on sth)**, do it knowing it is risky.

gam-bler, person who gambles.

gam-bling *n* [U] playing games for money; taking risks for possible advantage: *fond of gambling.*

gam-bol /'gæmbəl/ *n* [C] (usually pl) quick, playful, jumping or skipping movements, eg of lambs, children. *o vi* (-ll-, US also -l-) make such movements.

game¹ /geɪm/ *adj* **1** brave; ready to go on fighting. **2** spirited, willing: *Are you ~ for a 10-mile walk?*

game² /geɪm/ *n* **1** [C] form of play, sport, esp with rules, eg tennis, football, cards: *play ~s.* **be off one's game**, be not playing well. **play the game**, (a) obey the rules. (b) (fig) be fair. **2** [C] apparatus, etc needed for a game, eg one played by children with a board and dice and counters. **3** (pl) athletic contests: *the Highland G~s* (in Scotland, today); (modern times) (international) athletic contests: *the Olympic/Commonwealth G~s.* **4** [C] single round in some contests, eg tennis: *win four ~s in the first set; ~, set and match.* **5** [C] scheme, plan or undertaking; trick: *I wish I knew what*

his ~ is, what he is trying to do. *None of your little ~s!* **give the 'game away**, reveal a secret plan etc. **play games**, (a) (of children) be naughty. (b) (of adults) act without sincerity. **6** [U] (flesh of) animals and birds hunted for sport and food.

'big game, the larger wild animals (elephants, lions, tigers).

'fair game, (a) what may be lawfully hunted or shot. (b) (fig) person or institution that deserves to be attacked or criticized.

'game-keeper, man employed to breed and protect game, eg pheasants, grouse, on a country estate.

gamma /'gæmə/ *n* [C] third letter (γ) of the Greek alphabet.

'gamma ray, ray of very short wavelength from radioactive substances.

gam-mon /'gæməŋ/ *n* [U] smoked or cured ham.

gammy /'gæmi/ *adj* (informal) (of a limb) lame.

gamut /'gæmət/ *n* [C] **1** whole range of musical notes. **2** (fig) complete extent or scope of anything: *the whole ~ of feeling*, eg from the greatest joy to the depths of despair or misery.

gan-der /'gændə(r)/ *n* [C] male goose.

gang /gæŋ/ *n* [C] **1** number of workmen, slaves or prisoners working together. **2** group of persons going about or working together, esp for criminal purposes. ⇨ **gangster**. **3** (children's use) group of friends: *Can I join your ~?* ⇨ *vi* act together as a gang (2): *They ~ed up on/upon against me.*

gan-gling /'gæŋɡlɪŋ/ *adj* (of a person) tall, thin and awkward.

gang-plank /'gæŋplæŋk/ *n* [C] movable bridge placed between a ship or boat and the land, or between two boats or ships.

gan-grene /'gæŋɡri:n/ *n* [U] death and decay of a part of the body, eg because the supply of blood to it has been stopped. ⇨ *vi*, *vt* affect, become affected, with gangrene.

gan-gren-ous /'gæŋɡrɪnəs/ *adj*

gang-ster /'gæŋstə(r)/ *n* [C] member of a gang of armed criminals.

gang-way /'gæŋweɪ/ *n* [C] **1** opening in a ship's side; movable bridge from this to the land. **2** passage between rows of seats, eg in a theatre, or between rows of people.

gan-try /'gæŋtri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) structure of steel bars to support a travelling crane, etc.

gaol (US = jail) /dʒeɪl/ *n* [C] public prison. **2** (without the or a, an) confinement in prison: *three years in ~*; *be sent to ~*. ⇨ *vi* put in prison.

gaoler (US = jailer, jailor) /dʒeɪlə(r)/ *n* [C] man in charge of a prison or the prisoners.

gap /gæp/ *n* [C] **1** break or opening in a wall, hedge, etc: *The sheep got out of the field through a ~ in the hedge.* **2** unfilled space; interval; wide separation (of ideas, etc): *a ~ in a conversation*; *a serious ~ between the government and the unions.* **3** gorge or pass between

mountains. ⇨ also generation gap.

gape /geɪp/ *vi* **1** open the mouth wide; stare open-mouthed and in surprise: *country visitors gaped at the neon lights.* **2** open or be open wide: *a gaping hole*, an obvious one. ⇨ *n* [C] open-mouthed stare.

garage /'gærɑ:ʒ/ US: /gə'reɪʒ/ *n* [C] **1** building in which to keep a car or cars. **2** roadside petrol and service station. ⇨ *vi* put (a motor-vehicle) in a garage.

gar-bage /'gɑ:bidʒ/ *n* [U] **1** waste food thrown out, fed to pigs, etc. **2** (US) rubbish, refuse (of any kind).

'garbage-can *n* (US) = dustbin.

garble /'gɑ:bl/ *vi* make an incomplete or unfair selection from statements, facts, etc esp in order to give false ideas: *a ~d report of a speech.*

gar-den /'gɑ:dn/ *n* **1** [C, U] (piece of) ground used for growing flowers, fruit, vegetables, etc (US = yard): *a ~ suburb*, housing area with large gardens. **2** (usually pl) public park: *zoological ~s*. **3** (pl) (with name prefixed) row(s) of houses with open spaces planted with bushes and trees: *Spring G~s*. ⇨ *vi* cultivate a garden: *He's been ~ing all day.*

'market-garden, ⇨ market.

gardener, person who works in a garden.

gar-den-ing, cultivating of gardens: *fond of ~ing*; (used as an adjective) *~ing tools*.

gargle /'gɑ:ɡl/ *vt*, *vi* wash the throat with liquid kept in motion by a stream of breath. ⇨ *n* [C] **1** liquid used for this purpose. **2** act of gargling.

gar-goyle /'gɑ:ɡoɪl/ *n* [C] stone or metal spout, usually in the form of a grotesque human or animal creature, to carry off rainwater from the roof of a building.

gar-ish /'gæərɪʃ/ *adj* unpleasantly coloured, over-decorated: *~ clothes*.

gar-ish-ly *adv*

gar-land /'gɑ:lənd/ *n* [C] circle of flowers or leaves as an ornament or decoration; this as a prize for victory, etc. ⇨ *vi* decorate, crown, with a garland.

gar-lic /'gɑ:lɪk/ *n* [U] plant like an onion with strong taste and smell, used in cooking.

gar-ment /'gɑ:mənt/ *n* [C] article of clothing (which is more usual).

gar-net /'gɑ:mit/ *n* [C] semi-precious gem of deep transparent red.

gar-nish /'gɑ:nɪʃ/ *vt* decorate, esp food for the table: *fish ~ed with slices of lemon*. ⇨ *n* [C] something used to garnish.

gar-ret /'gærət/ *n* [C] room on the top floor of a house, esp in the roof.

gar-ri-son /'gærɪsn/ *n* [C] military force stationed in a town or fort. ⇨ *vi* **1** supply a town, etc with a garrison. **2** place, troops, etc on garrison duty.

gar-rotte, ga-rotte /gə'rɒt/ *vt* execute (a person condemned to death), murder, by strangling or throttling. ⇨ *n* [C] (apparatus for) this method of execution.

gar-ru-lous /'gærələs/ *adj* (formal) talking too much about unimportant things.

gar-ru-lity /gə'ru:ləti/ *n* [U]

gar-ter /'gɑ:tə(r)/ *n* [C] (elastic) band worn round the leg to keep a stocking in place.

the Garter, (badge of) the highest order of English knighthood.

gas /gæs/ *n* 1 [C, U or *pl* meaning 'kind(s) of gas'] (*pl* ~es) any air-like substance (used chiefly of those that do not become liquid or solid at ordinary temperatures): *Air is a mixture of ~es.* 2 [U] one of the gases or mixtures of gases used for lighting and heating: 'coal-~.

3 [U] (US) = petrol. 4 (modern informal) activity, object, etc that is very exciting: *His new Ferrari is a ~!* □ *vi, vi* (-ss-) 1 poison or overcome by gas. 2 (informal) talk for a long time without saying anything that is useful or interesting.

'gas-cooker, stove (with gas-rings and an oven) for cooking by gas.

'gas-mask, breathing apparatus to protect the wearer against harmful gases.

'gas-meter, one for registering the amount of gas that passes through it.

'gas-oven, oven in a gas-cooker.

'gas-ring, metal ring with small holes, supplied with gas for cooking, etc.

'gas-stove = gas-cooker.

'gas-station, (US) = petrol station.

'gas-works, place where coal-gas is manufactured.

gas-eous /'gæsiəs/ *adj* of or like gas: *a ~ mixture.*

gash /gæʃ/ *n* [C] long deep cut or wound. □ *vt* make a gash in.

gas-ket /'gæskɪt/ *n* [C] strip of soft, flat piece of material used for packing a piston, etc to prevent steam, gas, etc from escaping.

gaso-line (also -lene) /'gæsəli:n/ *n* [U] (US) = petrol.

gas-ometer /'gæ'sɒmɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] large round tank in which gas is stored, measured and distributed.

gasp /gɑ:sp/ *US*: gæsp/ *vi, vt* 1 struggle for breath; take short, quick breaths: ~ing for breath; ~ing (= breathless) with rage/surprise. 2 say in a breathless way: *He ~ed out a few words.* □ *n* [C] catching of the breath through pain, surprise, etc.

gassy /'gæsi/ *adj* of or like gas; full of gas.

gas-tric /'gæstri:k/ *adj* of the stomach: *a ~ ulcer*; ~ juices.

gas-tron-omy /gæ'strɒnəmi/ *n* [U] (formal) art and science of choosing, preparing and eating good food.

gas-tron-omic /gæ'strɒnəmɪk/ *adj*.

gate /geɪt/ *n* [C] 1 opening in the wall of a city, hedge, fence or other enclosure, capable of being closed by a barrier. 2 barrier that closes such an opening: *a garden ~.* 3 barrier used to control the passage of water, eg into or out of a dam. 4 number of spectators in a stadium, etc. 5 (in an airport) exit from the departure

area to the aircraft.

'gate-crash *vt* enter (a building at which there is a private social occasion of some sort) without invitation or payment. Hence, **'gate-crasher** *n* [C] person doing this.

'gate-post, post on which a gate is hung or against which it is closed. **between you (and) me and the gate-post**, in strict confidence.

'gate-way, (a) way in or out that can be closed by a gate. (b) (fig) means of approach: *a ~ way to fame/knowledge.*

gâ-teau /'gætəʊ/ *US*: gɑ:'təʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~x /-təʊz/) (Fr) rich fancy cake.

gather /'gæðə(r)/ *vi, vt* 1 get, come or bring together: *A crowd soon ~ed round him.* 2 collect; form a group: ~ *one's papers and books together*; ~ *up dead leaves.* *G~ round kids, and I'll tell you a story.* 3 obtain gradually: ~ *information/speed.* 4 understand; conclude: *What did you ~ from his statement?* 5 (sewing) push together into small folds: *a skirt ~ed at the waist.*

gather-ing *n* [C] coming together of people; meeting.

gauche /gəʊʃ/ *adj* socially awkward, tactless.

gaudy /'gɔ:di/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) too bright and showy; gay or bright in a tasteless way: *cheap and ~ jewels.*

gaud-ily /-əli/ *adv*

gauge (US also **gage**) /geɪdʒ/ *n* [C] 1 standard measure; extent: *take the ~ of his character, judge.* 2 distance between rails (or between opposite wheels of a vehicle that runs on rails). 3 (instrument for measuring the) thickness of wire, sheet-metal, etc; diameter of a bullet, etc. 4 instrument for measuring, eg rainfall, strength of wind. □ *vt* 1 measure accurately: *gauging the diameter of wire/the strength of the wind.* 2 (fig) make an estimate, form a judgement, of: ~ *a person's character.*

gaunt /gɔ:nt/ *adj* 1 (of a person) thin as from hunger, ill-health or suffering. 2 (of a place) barren, desolate: *a ~ hillside.*

gaunt-ness *n* [U]

gaunt-let /'gɔ:ntlɪt/ *n* [C] 1 glove with metal plates, worn by soldiers in the Middle Ages. **throw down/pick up/take up the gauntlet**, give/accept a challenge to a fight. 2 strong glove used for driving, fencing, etc.

gauze /gɔ:z/ *n* [U] 1 thin, net-like material of cotton, etc (for medical use). 2 similar material of wire (for screening windows against insects, etc).

gave /geɪv/ *pt* of give¹.

gavel /'gævl/ *n* [C] hammer used by an auctioneer or a chairman as a signal for order or attention.

gawky /'gɔ:ki/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (of persons) awkward, shy.

gawp /gɔ:p/ *vi* stare at in a foolish way: *What are they all ~ing at?*

gay /geɪ/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 light-hearted; cheer-

ful; happy and full of fun: ~ voices/looks/laughter. **2** suggesting happiness and joy: ~ colours. **3** (informal) homosexual. ⇨ gaily.

gay-ness *n* [U]

gaze /geɪz/ *n* (sing only) long, steady look: with a bewildered ~. □ *vi* look long and steadily: gazing (out) across the hills.

ga-zelle /gə'zel/ *n* [C] small, graceful kind of antelope.

ga-zette /gə'zet/ *n* [C] **1** government periodical with legal notices, news of appointments, promotions, etc of officers and officials. **2** (as part of a title) newspaper: the Marlowe G~.

ga-zet-tee /gæzə'ti(r)/ *n* [C] index of geographical names, eg in an atlas.

gear /gɪə(r)/ *n* **1** [C] set of toothed wheels working together in a machine, eg to connect the engine of a motor-vehicle with the road wheels: change ~. **2** [C] apparatus, appliance, mechanism, arrangement, of wheels, levers, etc for a special purpose: the 'landing-~ of an aircraft. **3** [U] equipment for an activity: 'fishing-~. **4** [U] (modern informal) clothes: Carnaby Street ~. □ *vt, vi* adjust one thing to the working of another: The country's economy must be ~ed to the people's requirements.

'gear-box, case enclosing the gears in a machine or engine.

'gear-lever/-shift/-stick, device for engaging or disengaging gears.

gecko /'gekəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s or ~es) kind of small house lizard, found in warm countries.

geese /gi:s/ *n* pl of goose.

geisha /'geɪʃə/ *n* [C] Japanese girl or woman trained to entertain men by singing and dancing at parties, etc.

gel /dʒel/ *n* [C,U] semisolid like a jelly. □ *vi* (-ll-) **1** set into a jelly. **2** (informal) succeed: That new idea has really ~ed.

gela-tine /dʒelə'ti:n/ *US*: 'dʒelə'ti:n/ (also **gela-tin** /'dʒelə'ti:n/) *n* [U] clear, tasteless substance, made by boiling bones, etc, dissolved in water to make jelly.

gel-ati-nous /dʒi'lə'ti:nəs/ *adj* of or like gelatine; like jelly in consistency, etc.

geld /geld/ *vt* castrate.

geld-ing, gelded animal, esp a horse.

gel-ig-nite /'dʒelɪɡnaɪt/ *n* [U] explosive made from nitric acid and glycerine.

gem /dʒem/ *n* [C] **1** precious stone or jewel, esp cut or polished. **2** something valued, eg because of great beauty: the ~ of the collection. □ *vt* (-mm-) adorn with, or as with, gems: the night sky ~med with stars.

Gemini /'dʒemɪnaɪ/ *n* third sign of the zodiac.

gen-der /'dʒendə(r)/ *n* [C] grammatical grouping of words (nouns and pronouns) into classes (masculine, feminine and neuter).

gene /dʒi:n/ *n* [C] one of the biological factors controlling heredity.

genea-logi-cal /dʒi:niə'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* of genealogy: a ~ tree, a diagram (like a tree) showing the descent of a family or species.

genea-logi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

gene-a-logy /dʒi:niə'lɒdʒɪ/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] science of the development of plants and animals from earlier forms. **2** [C] (diagram illustrating the) descent or line of development of a plant or animal from earlier forms, or of a family from ancestors.

gen-era /'dʒenərə/ *n* pl of genus.

general /'dʒenərəl/ *adj* **1** of, affecting, all or nearly all; not special, local or particular: a matter of ~ interest, one in which all or most people are likely to be interested; a ~ meeting, one to which all members (of a society, etc) are invited; a good ~ education, in all the chief subjects; a word that is in ~ use, used by all people. **as a general rule; in general**, in most cases; usually. **2** not in detail; not definite: a ~ outline of a scheme; have a ~ idea of what a book is about. **3** (after an official title) chief: postmaster-~, inspector-~. □ *n* [C] army officer with the highest rank below Field Marshal (and also, by courtesy, of Lieutenant-~ and Major-~).

general anaes'thetic, one affecting the whole body, causing sleep.

general e'lection, one for representatives in the House of Commons from the whole country. ⇨ by-election.

general 'knowledge, of a wide variety of subjects.

general prac'titioner, (GB) doctor who is not a specialist or consultant and who treats his patients in his surgery or in their homes.

general 'strike, of all trade unionists.

gen-er-al-ity /dʒenə'ræləti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [C] general rule or statement; vague or indefinite remark, etc: I wish you would come down from generalities to particulars. **2** [U] quality of being general: a rule of great ~, one with few exceptions.

gen-er-al-ization (also -isation) /dʒenərələ'zeɪʃn/ *US*: -lɪz-/ *n* **1** [U] generalizing: It is unwise to be hasty in ~. **2** [C] statement or proposition obtained by generalizing, esp one based on too few examples.

gen-er-al-ize (also -ise) /'dʒenərəlaɪz/ *vi, vt* **1** draw a general conclusion; make a general statement. **2** state in general terms or principles: ~ a conclusion from a collection of instances or facts. **3** bring into general use: ~ the use of a new invention.

gen-er-ally /'dʒenərəli/ *adv* **1** usually; as a general rule: I ~ get up at six o'clock. **2** widely; for the most part: The new plan was ~ welcomed, was welcomed by most people. **3** in a general sense; without paying attention to details: ~ speaking/speaking ~.

gen-er-ate /'dʒenəreɪt/ *vi* cause to exist or occur; produce: ~ heat/electricity; hatred ~d by racial differences.

gen-er-ation /dʒenə'reɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] generating; bringing into existence: the ~ of electricity by steam or water-power. **2** [C] single stage or step in family descent: three ~s, children, parents and grandparents. **3** [C] average

period (regarded as 30 years) in which children grow up, marry, and have children: *a ~ ago*. **4** [C] all persons born about the same time, and, therefore, of about the same age: *the young ~*.

gene'ration gap, failure or inability of the younger and older generations to communicate or understand one another.

gen-er-at-ive /'dʒenərətɪv/ *adj* able to produce; productive.

gen-er-a-tor /'dʒenərɛtə(r)/ *n* [C] machine or apparatus that produces (electricity, gas, etc).

gen-eric /dʒɪˈnɛrɪk/ *adj* **1** of a genus. **2** common to a whole group or class.

gen-eri-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

gen-er-os-ity /dʒenəˈrɒsɪti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] the quality of being generous: *show ~ in dealing with a defeated enemy*. **2** [C] generous act.

gen-er-ous /'dʒenərəs/ *adj* **1** giving, ready to give, given, freely: *He is ~ with his money/~ in giving help*. **2** plentiful: *a ~ helping of meat and vegetables*.

gen-er-ous-ly *adv*

gen-es-is /'dʒenəˈsɪs/ *n* **1** [C] (*pl* -eses /-əsɪz/) beginning; starting-point: *the ~ of civilization*. **2** **G~**, the first book of the Old Testament.

gen-etic /dʒɪˈnetɪk/ *adj* of genes or genetics.

gen-et-ics *n pl* (used with a *sing verb*) science (branch of biology) dealing with heredity, the ways in which characteristics are passed on from parents to offspring.

gen-eti-cist /dʒɪˈnetɪsɪst/ *n* [C] specialist in genetics.

ge-nial /'dʒɪːniəl/ *adj* **1** kindly, sympathetic; sociable: *a ~ old man*; *~ smiles*. **2** favourable to growth; mild; warm: *a ~ climate*.

ge-ni-ally *adv*

ge-nial-ity /,dʒɪːniəlɪti/ *n* [C, U]

ge-nie /'dʒɪːni/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or *genii* /'dʒɪːniə/) (in Arabic stories) spirit or goblin with strange powers.

geni-tal /'dʒenɪtl/ *adj* of animal reproductive organs.

geni-tals *n pl* external sex organs.

geni-tive /'dʒenɪtv/ *adj*, *n* (*gram*) (also ~ *case*) (form of noun, etc) showing source or possession.

gen-i-us /'dʒɪːniəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es, but ⇨ **5** below) **1** [U] great and exceptional intelligence or artistic ability: *men of ~*. **2** [C] person having this capacity: *Einstein was a mathematical ~*. **3** **a genius for**... a natural ability: *have a ~ for languages/acting/making friends*. **4** (usually *sing with the*) guardian spirit of a person, place or institution, (hence, by extension) special and inborn character, spirit or principles of a language, a period of time, etc: *the ~ of the Renaissance period in Italy*. **5** (*pl* *genii* /'dʒɪːniə/) demon; supernatural being. ⇨ *genie*.

geno-cide /'dʒenəsəɪd/ *n* [U] extermination of a race or community by mass murder, or by imposing conditions that make survival impossible.

gent /dʒent/ *n* [C] (*informal abbr of*) gentleman.

gents, (used as a *sing noun*) public toilet for men and boys.

gen-tile /'dʒɛntaɪl/ *n* [C], *adj* (person) not of the Jewish race.

gentle /'dʒɛntl/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** kind, friendly; not rough or violent: *a ~ heart/look/voice/call/touch*; *a ~ breeze*. **2** gradual: *a ~ slope*.

gentle-ness *n* [U]

gentle-man /'dʒɛntlmən/ *n* [C] (*pl* -men /-mən/) **1** man who shows consideration for the feelings of others, who is honourable and well-bred: *a fine old ~*; *a true ~*. **2** (*old use*) man of a family attached to a court or the household of a great noble: *one of the king's gentlemen*. **3** any man of any social position: *A ~ has called to see you*. **4** (*pl*) polite form of address to male members of an audience: *Gentlemen! Ladies and Gentlemen!*

gentle-man-ly *adj* suiting, feeling, behaving, or looking like a gentleman: *a ~ly appearance*.

gen-tly /'dʒɛntli/ *adv* in a gentle manner: *Hold it ~, carefully. The road slopes ~ (= gradually) to the sea*.

gen-try /'dʒɛntri/ *n* (collective *pl*, usually with *the*) people of good social position next below the nobility.

genu-flect /'dʒɛnjʊflekt/ *vi* bend the knee, esp in worship.

genu-flec-tion /,dʒɛnjʊ'flekʃn/ *n* [C]

genu-ine /'dʒɛnjuɪn/ *adj* true; really what it is said to be: *a ~ picture by Rubens. Were you being ~ when you said you love me?*

genu-ine-ly *adv*

ge-nus /'dʒɪːnəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* genera /'dʒenərə/) **1** (*science*) division of animals or plants within a family. **2** sort; kind; class.

ge-og-ra-pher /dʒɪˈɒgrəfə(r)/ *n* [C] student of, expert in, geography.

geo-graphi-cal /,dʒɪə'græfɪkl/ *adj* of geography.

geo-graphi-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

ge-og-ra-phy /dʒɪˈɒgrəfi/ *n* [U] **1** science of the earth's surface, physical features, divisions, climate, products, population, etc. **2** arrangement, location, of features of an area: *the ~ of a house/a region*.

geo-logi-cal /,dʒɪə'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* of geology.

geo-logi-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

ge-ologist /dʒɪˈblɒdʒɪst/ *n* [C] student of, expert in, geology.

ge-ol-ogy /dʒɪˈblɒdʒɪ/ *n* [U] **1** science of the earth's history as shown by its rocks, etc. **2** rock structure of a specific region.

geo-met-ric, **geo-met-ric-al** /,dʒɪə'metrɪk(l)/ *adj* of geometry; of or like the lines, figures, etc used: *~ patterns*.

geo-met-ri-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

ge-om-etry /dʒɪˈɒmətri/ *n* [U] science of the properties and relations of lines, angles, surfaces and solids.

Geor-gian /'dʒɔːdʒɪən/ *adj* **1** of the time of

any of the first four Georges, Kings of England (18th century). **2** (of the period of) George V (20th century): ~ *architecture*.

geranium /dʒə'reɪniəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) kind of plant with red, pink or white flowers.

geriatrics /dʒeri'ætriks/ *n pl* (used with a *sing verb*) medical care of old people.

geriatric *adj*: a geriatric hospital.

germ /dʒɜ:m/ *n* [C] **1** portion of a living organism capable of becoming a new organism.

2 (*fig*) beginning or starting-point (of an idea, etc). **3** microbe or bacillus, esp one causing disease: ~ *warfare*, use of bacteria as a weapon in war.

Ger-man /'dʒɜ:mən/ *adj, n* [C] (of) Germany, its language and its people.

Germanic /dʒə'mænik/ *adj* of the group of languages now including German, English and Dutch.

germinate /'dʒɜ:mɪneɪt/ *vi, vt* (of seeds) (cause to) start growth.

germination /dʒɜ:mɪ'neɪʃn/ *n* [U]

gerund /'dʒerənd/ *n* [C] the -ing form of an English verb when used as a noun (as in 'fond of swimming').

gestation /dʒe'steɪʃn/ *n* [U] carrying or being carried in the womb between conception and birth; this period.

gesticulate /dʒɪ'stɪkjʊleɪt/ *vi* use movements of the hands, arms or head instead of, or to accompany, speaking.

gesticulation /dʒɪ'stɪkjʊ'leɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

gesture /'dʒestʃə(r)/ *n* **1** [C] movement of the hand or head to show feeling, etc: a ~ of refusal. **2** [C] something done to show friendship, etc: give money as a ~ of support. **3** [U] use of expressive movements: an actor who is a master of the art of ~. □ *vi* gesticulate.

get /get/ *vi, vt* (*pt* got /gɒt/, *pp* got or, in older English and in US, gotten /'ɡɒtn/) (For uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions* ⇨ 15, 16, 17, below.) **1** (cause oneself to) become: ~ dressed/wet/tired/drunk. You'll soon ~ used to the climate here. I'm ~ting too old for dancing! **Get lost!** Go away! **2** bring to a certain condition; cause to be or become: She got the children ready for school. **3** reach the stage where one is doing something: It's time we got going, started. **4** bring a person or thing to the point where he/it is doing something: Can you really ~ that old car going again, restart or repair it? **5** reach the stage where one knows, feels, etc something: When you ~ to know him you'll like him. **6** bring, persuade, cause to do or act in a certain way: You'll never ~ him to understand. **7** receive; have; obtain; acquire: ~ paid. I got (= now have) your telegram. I'll come as soon as I ~ time. If we divide 12 by 4, we ~ 3. **get the sack**, ⇨ sack². **get one's own way**, ⇨ way(4). **get wind of**, ⇨ wind¹(4). **get the worst of**, ⇨ worst. **8** catch (an illness): ~ the measles. **9** receive as a

punishment: ~ six months, be sentenced to six months' imprisonment. **get told off**, (*informal*) be warned about having done wrong: I daren't be late home again or I'll ~ told off. **10** (*informal*) understand: I don't ~ you/your meaning. She didn't ~ my jokes. **11** puzzle: Why he likes her so much ~s me! **12 has/have/had got**, eg as a possession or characteristic: What ugly teeth he's got! Have you got change for a pound? ⇨ have². **13 has/have/had got to**, must, be compelled or obliged: It has got to (= must) be done today. ⇨ have³(1). **14** deal with (as when telephoning): I'll ~ it, I'll answer the telephone. **15** (non-idiomatic uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*; for idiomatic uses, ⇨ 17 below) move to or from a point or in a particular direction: When did you ~ here, arrive? A car makes it easier to ~ about. Did you manage to ~ away (= have a holiday) this Easter? She got back into bed. I'm ~ting off (= leaving the train) at the next station. **get somewhere/anywhere/nowhere**, obtain, achieve, some/any/no result; make some/any/no progress. **16** (non-idiomatic uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*; for idiomatic uses, ⇨ 17 below) cause to move to or from a point, or in a particular direction: It was nailed to the wall and I couldn't ~ it off. G ~ (= Put) your hat and coat on. I can't ~ the nail out.

17 (idiomatic uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*):

get (sth) across (to sb), (*informal*) (cause something to) be understood: I spoke slowly, but my meaning didn't ~ across.

get ahead (of sb), go forward and pass others; make faster progress: Tom has got ahead of all the other boys in the class.

get along, (a) manage: We can't ~ along without you. (b) make progress: How is he ~ting along with his French?

get at sb/sth, reach; gain access to: The books are locked up and I can't ~ at them. **get at sb**, (a) bribe, corrupt: One of the witnesses had been got at. (b) taunt; criticize: He's always ~ting at his wife. **be getting at**, (*informal*) (be trying to) say or suggest: What are you ~ting at?

get away, manage to leave; escape: Two of the prisoners got away. Hence, 'get-away *n*: make one's get-away, escape; (as an adjective): The get-away car had been stolen. **get away with sth**, pursue successfully a course of action which might usually be expected to result in blame, punishment or misfortune: The thieves got away with the contents of the safe. If I cheat in the examination, do you think I'll ~ away with it? ⇨ murder.

get back, return to power or prominence after losing it for a time: The Democrats hope to ~ back at the next election. **get one's own back (on sb)**, have one's revenge: He

won this time but I'll ~ my own back one day.

get by. (a) (fig) pass; be accepted, without comment or criticism: *I have no formal clothes for this occasion; perhaps I can ~ by in a dark suit.* (b) manage; survive: *She can't ~ by without him.*

get sb down. (informal) depress: *Don't let this bad weather ~ you down.* **get sth down.** (a) swallow: *The medicine was horrid, and she couldn't ~ it down.* (b) write down: *Did you ~ that telephone message down?* **get down to sth.** deal (seriously) with: ~ down to one's work after the holidays. **get down to business.** ⇨ business(3).

get in. (a) arrive: *The train got in five minutes early.* (b) be elected: *He got in (= was elected MP) for Islington.* **get sb in.** call a person to one's house, etc to perform a service: *We must ~ someone in to repair the TV.* **get sth in.** (a) collect, gather: ~ in the crops/the harvest. (b) obtain a supply: ~ coal in for the winter.

get into. (a) put on: *I can't ~ into these shoes.* (b) have, develop, a particular condition: ~ into trouble/a temper/debt. (c) acquire: ~ into bad habits. (d) learn by experience or experiment: ~ into the habit of smoking. (e) become interested: *I can't ~ into the book I'm reading.*

get off. start: *We got off immediately after breakfast.* **get off lightly/cheaply.** escape severe punishment, suffering, etc. **tell sb where to get off/where he gets off.** (informal) tell him that his misbehaviour, impudence, etc will no longer be tolerated. **get sb off.** save from punishment or a penalty: *His youth and inexperience got him off.* **get off with sth.** escape more severe punishment or misfortune: *He got off with only a fine,* eg instead of possible imprisonment.

get on. make progress; advance: *He's sure to ~ on in life.* Time is ~ing on, is passing. **get on sth.** place oneself on: *He got on his bike/horse/the train.* **get on one's nerves.** ⇨ nerve(2). **be getting on for.** be approaching: *He's ~ing on for seventy.* It's ~ing on for midnight. **get on to sb.** get in touch with, eg by telephone: *If you're not satisfied, ~ on to the manager.* **get on (with sb).** work or live in a sociable way: *The new manager is easy to ~ on with.* **get on (with sth).** continue: *Please ~ on with your work.*

get out. become known: *If the news ~s out there'll be trouble.* **get out of (sth/doing sth).** (a) avoid; escape (from): *I wish I could ~ out of going to that wedding.* (b) (fig) abandon gradually: ~ out of bad habits. **get sth out of sb.** extract by force: *The police will ~ a confession out of him.*

get over sb. (informal) forget: *He never got over Jane, you know.* She stayed in his memory. **get over sth.** (a) recover from, eg illness, surprise, a loss: *I can't ~ over his rude-*

ness. (b) overcome: *She will never ~ over her shyness.*

get round sb. persuade somebody to do or to agree to something to which he was at first opposed or indifferent: *Alice knows how to ~ round her father.* **get round sth.** evade, eg a law or regulation, but without committing a legal offence: *A clever lawyer might find ways of ~ing round that clause.* **get round to sth/to doing sth.** deal with it (when more important matters have been dealt with): *I'm very busy this week but I hope to ~ round to your request next week.*

get through. reach a person, arrive: *I rang you several times yesterday but couldn't ~ through.* **get through (sth).** pass, eg an examination: *Tom failed but his sister got through.* **get through sth.** reach the end of: *He has got through (= spent) all his money.*

get to. reach a particular state. **get to grips with sth.** ⇨ grip(1). **get to the point.** ⇨ point(1)(9). **get to work.** ⇨ work(1)(1).

get together. come or meet together, eg for discussion or social purposes: *Let's ~ together one evening and talk about old times.* Hence, **'get-together** n [C] eg a social reunion of old friends. **get people/things together.** collect; organize, put in order: *The rebel leader couldn't ~ an army together.*

get under way. ⇨ way(7).

get up. (a) rise: *What time do you ~ up, ie from bed?* *He got up (= stood up) to ask a question.* (b) climb on: ~ up behind me, eg on a motor-bike. **get sb/oneself up.** (a) cause to rise, be out of bed: ~ the children up and dressed for school. (b) put on cosmetics, fine clothes: *She was got up like a pop star.* (c) dress in a certain style: ~ oneself up as a sailor. Hence, **'get-up** n [C] (unusual) style of dress. **get up to sth.** (a) reach: *We got up to page seventy-two last lesson.* (b) become involved in; plan: *What will they ~ up to next?*

geyser /'gɪzə(r) US: 'gaɪzə(r)/ n [C] 1 natural spring(2) sending up at intervals a column of hot water or steam. 2 /US: 'gɪzə(r)/ apparatus for heating water, eg by gas, in a bathroom, etc.

ghastly /'gɑːstli US: 'gæs-/ adj (-ier, -iest) 1 as if dead; pale and ill: *looking ~*; (also as an adverb): ~ pale. 2 causing horror or fear: *a ~ accident.* 3 (informal) very unsatisfactory or unpleasant: *a ~ dinner.*

gherkin /'gɜːkɪn/ n [C] small, green cucumber for pickling.

ghetto /'ɡetəʊ/ n [C] (pl ~s) 1 (formerly, in some countries) Jewish quarter of a town. 2 section of a town, lived in by underprivileged classes, or people who are discriminated against, eg because of race or religion.

ghost /ɡəʊst/ n [C] 1 spirit of a dead person appearing to a person still living: *He looked as if he had seen a ~, looked very frightened.* 2

(old use) spirit of life. **give up the ghost**, die. **3** something shadowy or without substance. **not have the ghost of a chance**, no chance at all: *They don't have a ~ of a chance of winning.*

the Holy Ghost, the Third Person of the Trinity.

'ghost town, one now abandoned, eg an area where gold was once mined.

'ghost-writer, person who does literary or artistic work for another person who takes the credit.

ghost-ly *adj* of, like, suggesting, a ghost.

gi-ant /'dʒaɪənt/ *n* [C] **1** (in fairy tales) man of very great height and size. **2** man, animal or plant much larger than normal. **3** (*fig*) person of extraordinary ability or genius. **4** (used as an *adjective*) of great size or force: *~ strength; a ~ cabbage.*

gi-ant-ess /'dʒaɪəntəs/ *n* [C] female giant.

gib-ber-ish /'dʒɪbəriʃ/ *n* [U] unintelligible talk.

gib-bet /'dʒɪbɪt/ *n* **1** [C] wooden post on which bodies of executed criminals were formerly exposed as a warning. **2** [U] death by hanging. *□ vt* put to death by hanging.

gib-bon /'gɪbən/ *n* [C] kinds of long-armed ape.

gib-bous /'dʒɪbəʊs/ *adj* (of the moon) having the bright part greater than a semicircle and less than a circle.

gibe, jibe /dʒaɪb/ *vi* make fun of: *~ at a boy's mistakes.*

gib-lets /'dʒɪblɪts/ *n pl* heart, liver, gizzard, etc of a goose, hen, etc taken out before the bird is cooked.

giddy /'ɡɪdɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** causing, having, the feeling that everything is turning round so that one cannot stand steady. **2** too fond of pleasure; not serious: *a ~ young girl.*

gid-dily *adv*

gid-di-ness *n* [U]

gift /ɡɪft/ *n* **1** [C] something given: *~s to charities.* (Note: compare birthday and Christmas presents.) *⇒* mouth¹ (**1**). **2** [C] natural ability or talent: *have a ~ for art/language.* **3** [U] right or power to give: *The property came to me by free ~, was given to me. □ vt* give, eg land, as a gift.

'gift-voucher, document to be exchanged for gifts.

gifted *adj* talented.

gig¹ /ɡɪɡ/ *n* [C] **1** small, light two-wheeled carriage pulled by one horse. **2** ship's small boat.

gig² /ɡɪɡ/ *n* [C] (*informal*) booking for musicians (esp jazz) to perform.

gi-gan-tic /dʒaɪˈɡæntɪk/ *adj* of immense size.

giggle /'ɡɪɡl/ *vi* laugh in a nervous and silly way. *□ n* [C] laugh of this kind.

gild¹ /ɡɪld/ *vt* (*pp* usually ~ed, but *⇒* gilt below) cover with gold leaf or gold-coloured paint: *~ a picture-frame.*

gilder, person who gilds (picture-frames, etc).

gild-ing *n* [U] material with which things are gilded.

gild² *⇒* guild.

gill¹ /ɡɪl/ *n* [C] (*usually pl*) organ with which a fish breathes.

gill² /dʒɪl/ *n* [C] liquid measure, one-quarter of a pint.

gilt /ɡɪlt/ *n* [U] = gilding.

gim-let /'ɡɪmlɪt/ *n* [C] small tool for boring holes in wood, etc.

gim-mick /'ɡɪmɪk/ *n* [C] (esp of actors, advertisers) trick, catchword, article of clothing, etc used to attract attention, customers, etc.

gin /dʒɪn/ *n* [U] colourless alcoholic drink.

gin-ger /'dʒɪndʒə(r)/ *n* [U] **1** (plant with a) hot-tasting root used in cooking and for making a kind of wine. **2** liveliness; energy: *a ~ group*, (in Parliament) group of MP's that urges the Government to be more active. **3** (used as an *adjective*) light reddish-yellow colour: *~ hair. □ vt* make more vigorous or lively: *~ up the supporters.*

'ginger ale/beer, non-alcoholic drink flavoured with ginger.

gin-ger-ly /'dʒɪndʒəlɪ/ *adv* with great care to avoid harming oneself, what one touches, making a noise, etc. *□ adj* cautious; careful: *move in a ~ fashion.*

ging-ham /'ɡɪŋəm/ *n* [U] printed cotton or linen cloth, with stripes or checks.

gipsy, gypsy /'dʒɪpsɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl -ies*) member of a wandering Asiatic race, now living in many parts of Europe.

gi-raffe /dʒɪˈrɑːf/ *n* [C] African animal with a very long neck and legs.

girder /'ɡɜːdə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** wood, iron or steel beam to support the joists of a floor. **2** structure of steel forming the span of a bridge, etc.

girdle /'ɡɜːdl/ *n* [C] **1** cord or belt fastened round the waist to keep clothes in position. **2** = corset. **3** something that encircles like a girdle: *a ~ of green fields round a town. □ vt* encircle: *a lake ~d with trees.*

girl /ɡɜːl/ *n* [C] **1** female child; daughter; young unmarried woman. **2** girl or woman working in a shop, office, etc (irrespective of age): *'office ~s.*

'girl-friend, regular female companion with whom one may or may not be in love.

'Girl Guide, (GB) member of an organization for girls similar to the Scouts.

'girlhood, state or time of being a girl.

girl-ish *adj* of, for, like, a girl.

girth /ɡɜːθ/ *n* [C] **1** leather or cloth band tightened round the body of a horse to keep the saddle in place. **2** measurement round anything like a cylinder in shape: *a tree 10 metres in ~.*

gist /dʒɪst/ *n* the ~, main points or substance, general sense: *Tell me the ~ of what he said.*

give¹ /gɪv/ vt, vi (pt gave /geɪv/, pp ~n /'gɪvn/)

(For uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 13 below.)

1 hand over (to a person) without payment or exchange, eg as a present or gift: *I gave David a book. G~ one to me.*

2 give for; give to + inf. cause (a person) to have (something) in exchange for something else, for payment, as compensation, etc: *How much will you ~ me for my old car? I would ~ a lot to know where she is.* **3** allow (a person or thing) to pass into the care or custody of: *G~ the porter your bags.* **4** allow, eg time; agree to; grant: *You'd better ~ yourself half an hour for the journey. They gave me a week to make up my mind. 'The car has a good engine' 'OK, I'll ~ you that (= agree) but the body's very rusty'.*

5 furnish; supply; provide: *The sun ~s us warmth and light.* **6** be the source or origin of: *You've ~n me your cold.* **7** devote; dedicate: *He gave his life to the cause of peace.* **8** (used in the imperative to show preference): *G~ me liberty or ~ me death.* If I cannot have liberty, I prefer to die. **9** (used with a noun in a pattern that may be replaced by a verb): *~ a groan/ yell, groan, yell; ~ him a kick, kick him; ~ her a ring, phone her.* **10** (in fixed phrases) **give or take...** plus or minus: *She'll be here at 4 o'clock, ~ or take a few minutes.* **give sb to understand that,** inform, assure him, that: *I was ~n to understand that you can help me to find a job.* **give way,** (a) retire, retreat: *Our troops had to ~ way.* (b) fail to support: *The rope gave way, broke.* **give way (to sth/ sb),** (a) allow priority to: *G~ way to traffic coming in from the right.* (b) be replaced by: *Sorrow gave way to smiles.* (c) abandon oneself to: *Don't ~ way to despair.* (d) make concessions (to): *We mustn't ~ way to the terrorists.* **11** lose firmness; bend; yield to pressure: *The branch gave (eg bent) but did not break. His knees seemed to ~, to feel weak (so that he fell down).* **12 given** (a) (in formal documents) delivered: *~n under my hand and seal in this fifth day of May, 1705.* (b) granting or assuming that one has, eg as a basis for reasoning: *G~n good health, I hope to finish the work this year.* (c) agreed on: *They were to meet at a ~n time and place.* ⇨ given name below. **given to (doing) sth,** devoted or addicted to; having as a habit or inclination: *He's ~n to boasting.*

13 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

give sb away, (esp) hand over (the bride) to the bridegroom at a wedding. **give sth away,** (a) allow somebody else to have; sacrifice: *You've ~n away a good chance of winning the match.* (b) distribute: *The Mayor gave away the prizes.* (c) give freely, not expecting anything in return: *He gave away all his money.* (d) reveal, intentionally or unintentionally: *His accent gave him away.* Hence,

'give-away n [C] (a) something given without charge: *various ~aways to attract new customers.* (b) something revealed, intentionally or unintentionally: *The expression on the thief's face was a ~away, showed his guilt. The last question on the exam paper was a ~away, so easy that it needed no effort, etc.* **give the game away,** ⇨ game² (5).

give sth back (to sb); give sb back sth, restore; return: *~ it back to its rightful owner.*

give in (to sb), surrender; submit: *The rebels were forced to ~ in.* **give sth in,** hand over (papers, etc) to the proper authorities: *Please ~ in your examination papers now.*

give sth off, send out, eg smoke, vapour, etc: *This chemical ~s off a horrid smell!*

give out, come to an end; be exhausted: *Our food supplies began to ~ out. His strength gave out.* **give sth out,** distribute; send out: *~ out books.*

give over, (sl) stop (doing, saying, that).

give up, abandon the attempt to do something, find the answer: *I can do nothing more; I ~ up. I can't answer that question; I ~ up.*

give sb up, (a) say that one regards him as hopeless: *The doctors have ~n him up,* say that they cannot cure him. (b) (informal) stop keeping company with him/her: *She was tired of Tom's nagging so she gave him up.* (c) no longer expect a person: *She was so late that we had ~n her up.* **give sb up for lost,** no longer expect him to be found or saved. **give sb/ oneself/ sth up,** surrender; part with: *~ up one's seat to her, eg in a crowded bus. The escaped prisoner gave himself up.* **give sth up,** stop (doing sth): *I wish I could ~ up smoking.*

give² /gɪv/ n [U] **1** quality of being elastic, of yielding to pressure: *A stone floor has no ~ in it.* **2** (fig) (of a person) quality of yielding. **give and take,** compromise; willingness on both sides to give way: *There must be ~ and take on both sides if the talks are to succeed.*

given /'gɪvən/ pp of give¹.

'given name, name chosen at birth (contrasted with surname).

giver /'gɪvə(r)/ n [C] one who gives.

giz-zard /'gɪzəd/ n [C] bird's second stomach for grinding food.

glacé /'glæseɪ/ US: glæ'seɪ/ adj **1** (of fruits) iced, sugared. **2** (of leather, cloth) smooth, polished.

glacial /'gleɪʃəl/ adj of ice or the Ice Age.

glacier /'glæɪsɪə(r)/ US: 'gleɪfə(r)/ n [C] mass of ice, formed by snow on mountains, moving slowly along a valley.

glad /glæd/ adj (-der, -dest) **1** pleased: *be/ look/ feel ~ about something. I'm ~ to see you.* **2** causing or bringing joy; joyful: *Have you heard the ~ news?*

glad-den /'glædn/ vt make glad.

glad-ly adv

glad-ness n [U]

glade /glæd/ *n* [C] clear, open space in a forest.

gladiator /'glædiə(r)/ *n* [C] (in ancient Rome) man trained to fight with weapons at public shows in an arena.

gladiolus /'glædi'əʊləs/ *n* (*pl* -li /-laɪ/ or ~es) plant with long leaves and tall stems of brightly coloured flowers.

glam-our (US also **glamor**) /'glæmə(r)/ *n* [U] 1 charm or enchantment; power of beauty to move the feelings: *a scene full of ~*. 2 attractive feminine beauty or charm.

glam-our-ize (also **-ise**) (US also **-or-**) /-aɪz/ *vt* make glamorous: *newspapers that ~ize the lives of pop stars*.

glam-our-ous (US also **-or-**) /-əs/ *adj* full of glamour: *glamorous film stars*.

glance /glɑːns/ *US*: glæns/ *vi, vt* 1 take a quick look: *glancing at the clock*; ~ *over/through* a letter; ~ *round* a room. 2 **glance off**, (of a weapon or a blow) strike and bounce off: *The bullet ~d off his helmet*. 3 (of bright objects, light) flash: *Their helmets ~d in the sunlight*. □ *n* [C] 1 quick look: *take a ~ at the newspaper headlines*. **at a glance**, immediately. 2 quick turning of the eyes: *loving ~s*. 3 (sudden movement producing a) flash of light: *a ~ of spears in the sunlight*.

gland /glænd/ *n* [C] organ that separates from the blood substances that are to be used by or expelled from the body: *sweat ~s*.

glandular /'glændjələ(r)/ *US*: -dʒu-/ *adj* of or like a gland: *~ular fever*.

glare /gleə(r)/ *n* 1 [U] strong, fierce, unpleasant light: *the ~ of the sun on the water*. 2 (fig) *in the full ~ of publicity*, with public attention directed towards one. 3 [C] angry stare: *looking at her with a ~*.

glare /gleə(r)/ *vi, vt* 1 shine in a dazzling or disagreeable way: *The tropical sun ~d down on us all the day*. 2 stare angrily or fiercely: *They stood glaring at each other*.

glaring *adj* (a) dazzling: *a car with glaring headlights*. (b) angry; fierce: *glaring eyes*. (c) huge; obvious: *a glaring mistake*; *glaring injustice*. (d) (of colours) too bright and showy.

glass /glɑːs/ *US*: glæs/ *n* 1 [U] hard, brittle substance (as used in windows): *made of ~*. 2 [C] article made of this substance. (a) drinking vessel or its contents: *a ~ of milk*. (b) mirror. (c) telescope: *The sailor looked through his ~*. (d) barometer: *The ~ is falling*. (e) (*pl*) spectacles: *She can't read without ~es*. (f) (*pl*) binoculars. ⇨ looking-glass, magnifying-glass. □ *vt* fit with glass; glaze.

'glass-blower, workman who blows molten glass to shape it into bottles, etc.

'glass-cutter, (a) workman who cuts designs on glass. (b) tool for cutting glass.

'glass-house, building with glass sides and roof (for growing plants).

'glass-ware, articles made of glass.

'glass-wool, fine glass fibres used for filtering and in man-made fibres.

'glass-works, factory where glass is manufactured.

glass-ful /-fʊl/ *n* [C] as much as a drinking glass can hold.

glassy *adj* (-ier, -iest) like glass in appearance: *a ~y stare/look/eye*, lifeless, expressionless, fixed.

glaze /gleɪz/ *vt, vi* 1 fit glass into: ~ *a window/house*. 2 cover with a glass-like surface: ~ *pottery*. 3 (of the eyes) become glassy: *His eyes ~d over*. □ *n* [C, U] (substance used for, surface obtained by giving, a) thin glassy coating.

glazier /'gleɪzə(r)/ *US*: -ʒər/ *n* [C] workman who fits glass into the frames of windows, etc.

gleam /gliːm/ *n* [C] 1 beam or ray of soft light, esp one that comes and goes: *the ~s of the morning sun*. 2 (fig) brief show of some quality or emotion: *an occasional ~ of intelligence*; *a ~ of hope*. □ *vi* send out gleams: *reflector studs ~ing in the roadway*.

glean /gliːn/ *vi, vt* 1 pick up grain left in a harvest field by the workers. 2 (fig) collect news, facts in small quantities.

gleaner, person who gleanes.

glean-ings *n pl* (usually fig) small items of knowledge from various sources.

glee /gliː/ *n* [U] feeling of joy caused by success or triumph: *shout with ~*.

glee-ful /-fʊl/ *adj* full of glee; joyous.

gleefully /-fʊli/ *adv*

glen /glɛn/ *n* [C] narrow valley.

glib /glɪb/ *adj* (-ber, -best) (of a person, what he says or how he says it) eager and fluent, but not sincere: *a ~ talker*; ~ *excuses*.

glib-ly *adv*

glide /glɑɪd/ *vi* move along smoothly and continuously: *The pilot ~d skilfully down to the landing-field*. □ *n* [C] gliding movement.

glider, aircraft without an engine.

gliding *n* [U] sport of flying in gliders.

glim-mer /'glɪmə(r)/ *vi* send out a weak, uncertain light: *lights ~ing in the distance*. □ *n* [C] 1 faint, unsteady light: *a ~ of light through the curtains*. 2 (fig) *a ~ of hope*.

glimpse /'glɪmps/ *n* [C] 1 quick, imperfect view: *get/catch a ~ of something from the window of a train*. 2 short look (at). □ *vt* catch a glimpse of.

glint /glɪnt/ *vi* gleam. □ *n* [C] gleam or flash: ~ *s of gold in her hair*.

glis-ten /'glɪsn/ *vi* (esp of wet or polished surfaces) shine brightly; sparkle: *eyes ~ing with tears*; *snow ~ing in the sunlight*.

glit-ter /'glɪtə(r)/ *vi* shine brightly with flashes of light: ~ *ing with jewels*. □ *n* [U] brilliant light: *the ~ of the decorations*.

glit-ter-ing *adj* brilliant; attractive: ~ *ing jewels*; ~ *ing prizes*.

gloat /gləʊt/ *vi* look at with selfish delight: ~ *over one's wealth*.

gloat-ing-ly *adv*

glo-bal /'gləʊbl/ *adj* **1** world-wide: ~ war. **2** of the whole of a group of items, etc.

globe /gləʊb/ *n* [C] **1** object shaped like a ball, esp a model of the earth. **2 the ~**, the Earth. **3** spherical glass vessel, esp a lampshade or a fishbowl.

glob-ule /'glɒbjʊl/ *n* [C] tiny drop.

globu-lar /'glɒbjʊlə(r)/ *adj* **(a)** globe-shaped. **(b)** made of globules.

glock-en-spiel /'glɒkənspi:l/ *n* [C] musical instrument consisting of metal bars which are struck with two light hammers.

gloom /glu:m/ *n* [C] **1** semi-darkness. **2** feeling of sadness and hopelessness: *The news cast a ~ over the village.*

gloomy /'glu:mi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** dark, unlit: *a ~ room.* **2** depressed; depressing: *feeling ~ about the future; ~ news.*

gloom-ily /-əli/ *adv*

glor-ify /'glɔ:rɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** give adoration and thanksgiving to (God); worship. **2** give honour and glory to (a hero). **3** change (something simple) into something more beautiful, etc; (try to) make (a person or thing) seem more splendid: *His weekend cottage is only a glorified barn.*

glori-fi-ca-tion /'glɔ:rɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U]

glori-ous /'glɔ:riəs/ *adj* **1** splendid; magnificent: *a ~ sunset/view.* **2** illustrious; honourable; possessing or conferring glory: *a ~ victory.* **3** (informal) very enjoyable: *have a ~ time; ~ fun.* **4** (ironic) dreadful: *What a ~ mess!*

glori-ous-ly *adv*

glory /'glɔ:ri/ *n* [U] **1** high fame and honour won by great achievements. **2** adoration and thanksgiving offered to God: *'G~ to God in the highest.'* **3** quality of being beautiful or magnificent: *the ~ of a sunset.* **4** (sometimes [C] *pl* -ies) reason for pride; something deserving respect and honour: *the glories of ancient Rome.* □ *vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) **glory in**, rejoice in, take great pride in: *~ in one's strength/in her success.*

gloss¹ /glɒs/ *n* **1** [U] smooth, bright, shining surface: *the ~ of silk and satin.* **2** (fig) (usually *sing* with *a, an*) deceptive appearance: *a ~ of respectability.* □ *vt* give a bright surface to.

'gloss paint, paint which, when dry, leaves a glossy surface.

glossy *adj* (-ier, -iest) smooth and shiny: *a ~ surface; a ~ magazine*, one with colour photographs of clothes, food, etc.

gloss² /glɒs/ *n* [C] explanation (in a footnote, etc) of a word in the text; comment. □ *vt* write glosses on; make comments on. **gloss over**, **(a)** avoid explaining fully: *~ over a subject.* **(b)** hide (an error, etc): *~ over her faults.*

gloss-ary /'glɒsəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** collection of glosses. **2** list and explanations of special, eg technical or commercial vocabulary.

glove /glʌv/ *n* [C] covering of for the hand. **fit like a glove**, fit perfectly. **be hand in glove (with)**, be in close relations (with).

glow /gləʊ/ *vi* **1** send out brightness or warmth without flame: *~ing logs/coal/charcoal.* **2** (fig) be, look, feel, warm or flushed (as after exercise or when excited): *~ing with enthusiasm/health/pride.* **3** show strong or warm colours: *trees ~ing with autumn tints.* □ *n* (*sing* only, with *the, a* or *an*) glowing state; warm or flushed look; warm feeling: *in a ~ of enthusiasm; the ~ of the sky at sunset.*

'glow-worm, insect of which the wingless female gives out a green light at its tail.

glow-ing *adj* showing warm colour or (fig) enthusiasm: *give a ~ing account of what happened.*

glow-ing-ly *adv*

glower /'gləʊə(r)/ *vi* look in an angry or threatening way: *~ at her.*

glower-ing-ly *adv*

glu-cose /'glu:kəʊs/ *n* [U] grape sugar.

glue /glu:/ *n* [U] adhesive substance used for joining (esp wooden or paper) things. □ *vt* (*pt, pp* ~d; *gluing*) **1** stick, make fast, with glue: *~ two pieces of wood together; gluing a piece of paper on to something.* **2** put tightly or closely: *His eyes were/His ear was ~d to the keyhole. Why must you always be ~d to the TV, Why do you always watch it?*

gluey /'glu:ɪ/ *adj* sticky, like glue.

glum /glʌm/ *adj* (-mer, -mest) gloomy; sad.

glum-ly *adv*

glut /glʌt/ *vi* (-tt-) **1** supply too much to: *~ the market (with fruit)* **2** overeat; satisfy to the full; fill to excess: *~ one's appetite; ~ted with pleasure.* □ *n* [C] supply in excess of demand: *a ~ of pears in the market.*

glut-ton /'glʌtn/ *n* [C] person who eats too much: *You've eaten the whole pie, you ~! He's a ~ for work, (fig) is always willing and ready to work.*

glut-ton-ous /'glʌtənəs/ *adj* very greedy.

glut-ton-ous-ly *adv*

glut-ty /-tʌni/ *n* [U] habit or practice of eating too much.

gly-cer-ine (US = **gly-cer-in**) /'glɪsərɪn/ *n* [U] thick, sweet, colourless liquid made from fats and oils, used in medical and toilet preparations and explosives.

gnarled /nɑ:ld/ *adj* (of tree trunks) twisted and rough; covered with knobs: *a ~ old oak; ~ (= knotty, deformed) fingers.*

gnash /næʃ/ *vi, vt* **1** (of the teeth) strike or grind together, eg in rage. **2** (of a person) cause (the teeth) to do this.

gnat /næt/ *n* [C] small two-winged fly that bites.

gnaw /nɔ:/ *vt, vi* **1** bite steadily at: *The dog was ~ing (at) a bone.* **2** torment; waste away: *fear and anxiety ~ing (at) the heart.*

gnome /nəʊm/ *n* [C] (in stories) small beard-

ed goblin; statue of this.

gnu /nu:/ n [C] kind of antelope like an ox (= wildebeest).

go¹ /gəʊ/ vi (3rd person, present tense goes /gəʊz/, pt went /went/, pp gone /gɒn US: gɔ:n/) (For idiomatic uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 24 below.) **1** (with a preposition or adverb of place or direction; ⇨ come) move, pass, from one point to another and away from the speaker, etc: *He has gone to see his sister. G~ and get your hat. Let's ~ to the cinema. They came at six and went (= left) at nine. I wish this pain would ~ (away).* **'go places**, be successful. **2** (a) be placed; have as a usual or proper position: *Where do you want your piano to ~? Where shall we put it?* (b) be fitted or contained in: *My clothes won't ~ into this small suitcase. 7 into 15 won't ~, 15 does not contain exact multiples of 7.* **3** reach, extend; last; (of a person's behaviour, remarks, achievements, etc) reach certain limits: *This road ~es to London. go a long way*, last: *She makes a little money ~ a long way. go a long way/far towards doing sth*, make a considerable contribution towards: *The Prime Minister's statement went a long way towards reassuring the nation. go (very) far*, (a) last: *A pound doesn't ~ far nowadays.* (b) (used in the future tense) (of a person) succeed: *He will ~ far in the diplomatic service*, will win promotion, etc. **go too far**, go beyond acceptable limits: *That's ~ing too far*, saying or doing more than is right. **go to great lengths/trouble/pains (to do sth)**, take care to do something well: *He went to great trouble to make his guests comfortable. go to one's head*, ⇨ head¹ (20). **4 go on a journey/trip/an outing**, make a journey, take a trip, have an outing, etc. **go for a walk, etc.**, go out in order to walk, etc. **go swimming / shopping, etc.**, swim / shop, etc. **5** (in the pattern, go + prep + noun) (a) pass into/from the state described by the noun: *~ from bad to worse; ~ out of fashion; ~ to pieces; ~ to sleep.* ⇨ the noun entries. (b) go to the place, etc described by the noun for the purpose associated with it: *~ to church*, attend a church service; *~ to school/college/university*, attend school, etc in order to learn or study. **6 go to sb**, pass into somebody's possession; be given to: *The first prize went to Mr Hill.* **7** become; pass into a specific condition: *~ blind/mad. His hair went grey with worry. go bad*, ⇨ bad¹ (5). **8** be moving, working, etc: *This clock doesn't ~. Is your watch ~ing? go like a bomb*, ⇨ bomb. **9** be or live habitually in a specific state or manner: *Refugees often ~ hungry.* **10** (showing manner of progress; sometimes after 'How'): *How's everything ~ing (= progressing)? How's your work ~ing? Things went better than had been expected. go slow*, (of workers in factories,

etc) work slowly esp to reduce output, as a protest or to draw attention to demands: (as an adjective) *a ~slow (policy).* **be going strong**, be proceeding vigorously; be still flourishing: *He's ninety and/but still ~ing strong.* **11** work; operate: *This machine ~es on electricity.* **12 go (to sb) for**, be sold (to a person) for: *The house went cheap. I shan't let mine ~ (= sell it) for less than £8000.* **13 go on/in**, (of money) be spent on: *All his spare money ~es on books. Half the money he inherited went in debts.* **14** be given up, abandoned, lost: *I'm afraid the car must ~. My sight is ~ing, I'm losing my ability to see.* **15 as men/things, etc go**, considering the average men, etc: *They're good workers, as workers ~ nowadays.* **16** fail; collapse; give way; break off: *First the sails and then the mast went in the storm. let oneself go, relax, enjoy oneself, etc. **17** (gone and phrases) die: *He's dead and gone*, dead and buried. **18** be decided: *The case (ie in a law court) went against him, he lost. How did the election ~ at Hull? Who was elected?* **19** (various phrases) **go bail (for sb)**, offer bail¹. **go shares/halves, (with sb) (in sth)** ⇨ share¹ (1), half (1). **go it alone**, act by oneself, without support. **20** have a certain wording or tune: *I'm not quite sure how the tune ~es.* **21** make a specific sound: *The clock ~es 'tick-tock, tick-tock'. 'Bang! went the gun'.* **22** begin an activity: *One, two, three, ~! or Ready, steady, ~!* (eg as a signal for competitors in a race to start). *Well, here ~es!* (used to call attention to the fact that one is about to start to do something). **23 be going to do sth**, (a) (showing what is intended, determined or planned): *We're ~ing to spend our holidays in Wales this year. I was ~ing to buy a house but prices rose too much.* (b) (showing what is considered likely or probable): *Look at those black clouds—we're ~ing to have/there's ~ing to be a storm.* (c) about to: *I'm ~ing to tell you a story. I'm ~ing to be twenty next month.* **24** (idiomatic uses with adverbial particles and prepositions): **go about**, (a) move from place to place; pay visits: *He's ~ing about with that Polish girl now, is often seen with her in public.* (b) (of rumours, stories, etc) pass from person to person: *A rumour is ~ing about that... There's a flu virus ~ing about.* (c) (of a ship) change course. **go about sth**, set to work at: *You're not ~ing about that job in the right way.* **go after sb/sth**, try to win or obtain: *He's gone after a job in the City.* **go against sb**, (a) oppose: *Don't ~ against your father.* (b) have an unsatisfactory outcome: *The war is ~ing against them, They seem likely to be defeated.* ⇨ also 18 above. **go against sth**, be contrary to: *It ~es against my principles/interests.**

go ahead, proceed without hesitation: *'May I start now?' 'Yes, ~ ahead'*. Hence, **'go-ahead'** *n* permission to proceed: *give them the ~-ahead*.

go along, proceed: *You may have some difficulty first but you'll find it easier as you ~ along*. **go along with sb**, (a) accompany: *I'll ~ along with you as far as the corner*. (b) agree with: *I can't ~ along with you on that point*.

go at sb/sth, (a) rush at; attack: *They went at each other for nearly an hour*. (b) deal with something energetically: *They were ~ing at the job for all they were worth, making the greatest effort*.

go away, leave.

go back, (a) return. (b) extend backwards in space or time: *His family ~es back for hundreds of years*. **go back on**, fail to keep; break or withdraw from, eg a promise: *He's not the sort of man who would ~ back/to ~ back on his word*.

go behind sb's back, do or say something without their knowledge.

go beyond sth, exceed: *You've gone beyond your instructions*. *That's ~ing beyond a joke*, is too serious to be amusing.

go by, pass: *Time went by slowly*. *We waited for the procession to ~ by*. **'go by sth'**, be guided or directed by: *That's a good rule to ~ by*. *Have we enough evidence to ~ by?* **go by/under the name of**, be called: *My dog ~es by the name of Rover*.

go down, (a) (of a ship, etc) sink. (b) (of the sun, moon, etc) set. (c) (of food and drink) be swallowed. (d) leave a university for the vacation, having graduated, etc. (e) (of the sea, wind, etc) become calm. (f) (of prices) go lower: *The price of eggs/The cost of living has gone down*. **go down (in sth)**, be written, recorded or remembered in: *It all ~es down in his notebook*. *He'll ~ down in history as a great statesman*. **go down to**, be continued or extended as far as: *This 'History of Europe' ~es down to 1970*. **go down with sb**, (a) (of an explanation or excuse, of a story, play, etc) be accepted or approved: *The new teacher doesn't ~ down well with his pupils*. (b) fall ill with: *Poor Peter—he's gone down with flu*.

go for sb, (a) fetch: *Shall I ~ for a doctor?* (b) attack: *The dog went for the postman as soon as he opened the garden gate*. (c) be applicable to: *What I have said about Smith ~es for you, too*. (d) (informal) like, enjoy: *I ~ for his new sports car*.

go in, (a) enter: *The key won't ~ in (the lock)*. *She went in (the house, kitchen) to cook the dinner*. (b) (of the sun, moon, etc) be obscured by clouds: *The sun has gone in and it's getting cold*. **go in for sth**, (a) take, sit for: *~ in for an examination*. (b) enter a competition: *~ in for the hurdles*. (c) have an interest in, etc: ~

in for golf.

go into sth, (a) enter: *~ into the Army/the Church/Parliament*. *When did Britain ~ into Europe*, join the Common Market? (b) busy or occupy oneself with: *~ into (the) details/particulars*; *~ into the evidence*. *This problem will need a lot of ~ing into*, will need thorough investigation. (c) (allow oneself to) pass into (a certain state): *~ into fits of laughter*.

go off, (a) explode; be fired: *The gun went off by accident*. (b) = go bad. ⇨ *bad*¹(5). (c) become unconscious, either in sleep or in a faint: *Hasn't the baby gone off yet?* (d) (of events) proceed well, etc: *The concert/performance went off well*. (e) (as a stage direction in a printed play) leave the stage: *Hamlet ~es off*. **go off sb/sth**, lose interest in or one's taste for: *Jim seems to have gone off Maggie*. *I've gone off beer*. **go off one's head**, ⇨ *head*¹(20). **go off with sb/sth**, go away with: *He's gone off to Oslo with Paul/with my coat in his car*.

go on, (a) (of time) pass: *As the months went on, he became impatient*. (b) behave, esp in a wrong, shameful or excited way: *If you ~ on like this you'll be expelled*. (c) happen; take place; be in progress: *What's ~ing on here?* (d) appear on the stage: *She doesn't ~ on until Act Two*. (e) take one's turn at doing something: (eg cricket) begin bowling: *The captain told Snow to ~ on next*. **'go on sth'**, take or accept, eg as evidence: *What have we got to ~ on?* **go on about sth**, talk persistently and often irritatingly about: *I wish you'd stop ~ing on about your problems*. **go on (at sb)**, nag; scold: *She ~es on at her husband terribly*. **be going on for**, be approaching: *He's ~ing on for seventy*. **go on to sth/to do sth**, do or say next: *Let's now ~ on to the next item on the agenda*. **go on (with sth/doing sth)**, continue, persevere, with: *G~ on with your work*. *That's enough to be ~ing on with*, enough for our immediate needs.

go out, (a) leave the room, building, etc: *She was (all) dressed to ~ out*. *Out you ~!* (b) attend social functions, go to parties, dances, etc: *She still ~es out a great deal, even at seventy-five*. (c) be extinguished: *The fire/lights went out*. (d) become unfashionable: *Have mini-skirts gone out?* **go out to**, leave, eg one's own country, and go to: *He couldn't get work at home (eg in England) so went out to Australia*. **go out to sb**, (of the heart, feelings) be extended to: *Our hearts/sympathies ~ out to those poor children orphaned by war*. **go out with sb/out together**, (informal) be regularly in a person's company: *How long has Jane been ~ing out with David?* *How long have Jane and David been ~ing out together?*

go over sth, (a) examine the details of: *We must ~ over the accounts carefully before we settle them*. (b) look at; inspect: *We should*

like to ~ over the house before deciding whether we want to buy it. (c) rehearse; study or review carefully: *Let's ~ over this chapter/lesson/the main facts/Scene 2 again.* Hence, **going-over** *n* (pl goings-over) (a) (informal) process of examining or putting in good working order: *The document will need a careful ~ing-over before we can make a decision.* (b) (sl): *The thugs gave him a thorough ~ing-over, struck him repeatedly.* **go over to sb/sth**, change one's political party, side, a preference, etc: *He has gone over to the Democrats.*

go round, (a) be enough, in number or amount, for everyone to have a share: *There aren't enough apples/isn't enough whisky to ~ round.* (b) reach one's destination by using a route other than the usual or nearest way: *The main road to Worcester was flooded and we had to ~ (the long way) round.* **go round (to a place/to do sth)**: *We're ~ing round to my mother's/to see my mother at the weekend.* **go round the bend**, (informal) become very angry, mad, etc.

go through, (a) (= get through) be passed or approved: *The Bill (ie in Parliament) did not ~ through.* (b) be concluded: *The deal did not ~ through.* **go through sth**, (a) discuss in detail: *Let's ~ through the arguments again.* (b) search: *The police went through his pockets.* (c) perform; take part in: *She made him ~ through both a civil and religious wedding.* (d) undergo; suffer: *If you only knew what she has to ~ through with that husband of hers!* (e) reach the end of; spend: *~ through a fortune/all one's money.* **go through with sth**, do it: *He's determined to ~ through with the marriage in spite of his parents' opposition.*

go to/towards sth, contribute to, be contributed to: *What qualities ~ to the making of a statesman? This money can ~ towards the motor-bike you're saving up for.*

go together, accompany; go in a group: *Let's ~ (to the disco) together.*

go under, (a) sink. (b) (fig) fail; become bankrupt: *The firm will ~ under unless business improves.*

go up, (a) rise: *The temperature is ~ing up. Everything went up in the budget except pensions.* (b) be erected: *New office blocks are ~ing up everywhere.* (c) be destroyed by explosion or fire: *The whole building went up in flames.* (d) enter a university or travel to a town, esp the capital: *~ up to London/to town.* *When will you ~ up (eg to Cambridge university)?* **go up sth**, climb: *~ up a tree/ladder/wall/hill.* **go up the wall**, ⇨ wall(1).

go with sb/sth, (a) accompany: *I'll ~ with you.* (b) be a normal accompaniment of: *Five acres of land ~ (together) with the house, become the property of the buyers or are for the use of the tenant.* (c) match; be fitting and suitable with: *These new curtains don't ~ well*

with your rugs, don't suit them. or, These curtains and rugs don't ~ together.

go without (sth), put up with not having: *There's no money for a holiday this year — we'll just have to ~ without.* **go without saying**, be understood without actually being stated: *It ~es without saying that she's a good cook.*

go² /gəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl goes /gəʊz/) (informal) **all the go**, very popular, fashionable: *Pop festivals were all the ~ last year.* **be full of go**; **have plenty of go**, be full of energy, enthusiasm. **be on the go**, be very busy, active: *She's been on the ~ all day.* **have a go (at sth)**, make an attempt: *He had several ~es at the high jump before he succeeded in clearing it.* *The police warned the public not to have a ~ because the bank raiders were armed, not to try to intercept, catch them.* **make a go of sth**, make a success of it. **at one go**, at one attempt: *He blew out all the candles on his birthday cake at one ~.*

goad /gəʊd/ *n* [C] **1** pointed stick for urging cattle on. **2** (fig) something urging a person to action. □ *vi* urge; incite: *~ him on; ~ him into stealing.*

goal /gəʊl/ *n* [C] **1** (in games such as football) posts between which (~mouth) the ball is to be driven in order to score; point(s) made by doing this: *score/kick a ~; win by three ~s to one.* **2** (fig) object of efforts or ambition: *one's ~ in life.*

goal-keeper, player whose duty is to keep the ball out of the goal.

goat /gəʊt/ *n* [C] small horned animal: *'she-~ (or 'nanny-~) being kept for its milk; 'he-~ (or 'billy-~), male goat.* ⇨ kid¹(1).

'goat-herd, person who looks after a flock of goats.

'goat-skin, skin of a goat.

gobble¹ /'gɒbl/ *vi, vi* eat quickly, noisily and greedily: *~ up an ice-cream.*

gobble² /'gɒbl/ *vi* (of a male turkey) make the characteristic sound in the throat. □ *n* [U] this sound.

go-between /'gəʊ bitwi:n/ *n* [C] person who makes arrangements for two persons who do not meet at first: *In some countries marriages are arranged by ~s.*

gob-let /'gɒblɪt/ *n* [C] glass or pottery drinking-vessel with a stem and base and no handle.

gob-lin /'gɒblɪn/ *n* [C] mischievous demon; ugly evil spirit.

god /gɒd/ *n* [C] **1** being regarded or worshipped as having power over nature and control over human affairs; image in wood, stone, etc to represent such a being. **2 God**, the Supreme Being, creator and ruler of the universe. **God willing**, if circumstances permit. **3** person greatly adored or admired; very influential person; something to which excessive attention is paid.

'god-child, **'god-daughter**, **'god-son**, person for whom a godparent acts as sponsor at baptism.

'god-father, **'god-mother**, **'god-parent**, person who undertakes, when a child is baptized, to take an active interest in its welfare.

'god-fearing *adj* living a good life and sincerely religious.

'god-forsaken *adj* (of places) dismal; poor.

'god-send, something (unexpected and) welcome because it is a great help in time of need.

god-dess /'gɒdis/ *n* [C] female god, esp in Greek and Latin mythology: *Venus, the ~ of love*.

god-less /'gɒdlis/ *adj* wicked; not having belief in God; not recognizing God.

god-like /'gɒdlaɪk/ *adj* like God or a god in some quality; suitable for a god.

god-ly /'gɒdli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) loving and obeying God; deeply religious.

god-li-ness *n* [U]

goggle /'gɒɡl/ *vi* roll the eyes about (or at something): *He ~d at her in surprise*.

goggles /'gɒɡlz/ *n* *pl* (also *a a pair of* ~) large glasses with special rims to protect the eyes from the wind, dust, etc (worn by motorcyclists, etc).

go-ing /'gəʊɪŋ/ *n* ⇨ also **go**¹. **1** [U] condition of the ground, a road, a race-course, etc, for walking, riding, etc: *The ~ is hard over this mountain road*. **2** [U] method or speed of working or travelling: *For a car this old, 50 miles an hour is good ~*. **3** (usually *pl*) **'comings and 'goings**, (literally or fig) arrivals and departures: *the comings and ~s in the corridors of power*. □ *adj* **the going rate**, the current price, value. **a going concern**, profitable, active, business.

goitre (US = **goi-ter**) /'ɡɔɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] swelling of the thyroid gland (in the neck).

gold /ɡəʊld/ *n* [U] **1** precious yellow metal used for making coins, ornaments, jewellery, etc: *£500 in ~*, in gold coins; (used as an adjective) *a ~ watch/bracelet*. **2** money in large sums; wealth. **3** (fig) brilliant or precious things or qualities: *a heart of ~*. **4** (also used as an adjective) colour of the metal, yellow.

'gold-field, area in which gold is found.

'gold-finch, bright-coloured songbird with yellow feathers in the wings.

'gold-fish, small red carp kept in bowls or ponds.

'gold-leaf, gold beaten into thin sheets.

'gold-mine, (a) place where gold is mined. (b) (fig) source of wealth, eg a shop that is very successful in making money.

'gold-smith, worker who makes articles of gold.

'gold standard, system by which the value of money is based on gold.

golden /'ɡəʊldən/ *adj* **1** of gold or like gold in value or colour: *~ hair*. **2** precious; excellent;

important: *a ~ opportunity*.

'golden handshake, sum of money given to a high-ranking member of a company when he retires (in recognition of good work).

the golden rule, any important rule of conduct.

golf /ɡɒlf/ *n* [U] game played by two or four persons with small, hard balls, hit with **'golf-clubs** into a series of 9 or 18 holes on smooth greens² (3) over a stretch of land called a **'golf-course** or **'golf-links**. □ *vi* play golf.

golfer, person who plays golf.

golly /'ɡɒli/ *int* (dated *sl*) (used to express surprise).

-gon /-ɡən/ *suffix* angle, corner: *polygon*.

gon-dola /'ɡɒndələ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) long, flat-bottomed boat with high peaks at each end, used on canals in Venice.

gon-do-li-er /'ɡɒndə'liə(r)/ *n* [C] man who propels a gondola.

gone /ɡɒn/ *pp* of **go**¹.

goner /'ɡɒnə(r)/ *US*: /'ɡɔ:-/ *n* [C] (*sl*) person who, thing that, is ruined or doomed.

gong /ɡɒŋ/ *n* [C] metal disc with a turned rim giving a resonant note when struck with a stick. □ *vi* strike a gong.

gon-or-rhea (also **-rhea**) /'ɡɒnə'riə/ *n* [U] contagious venereal disease.

good¹ /ɡʊd/ *adj* (better, **best**) **1** having the right or desired qualities; giving satisfaction: *That is a ~ (eg sharp) knife, but this one is better*. This is ~ (= fertile) soil. *She's a ~ cook*. **2** beneficial; wholesome: *Milk is ~ for children*. *Exercise is ~ for you*. **3** efficient; competent; able to do satisfactorily what is required: *a ~ teacher/driver/worker*; ~ at mathematics/languages. **4** pleasing; agreeable: *~ news*. *It's ~ to be home again*. **be a good thing**, be something that one approves of, enjoys: *Do you think lower taxes are a ~ thing?* **put in/say a good word for sb**, say something in his favour. **have a good time**, enjoy oneself. (**all**) **in good time**, at a suitable or advantageous time. **in good time**, early. **5** kind; benevolent; willing to help others: *It was ~ of you to help them*. *Will you be ~ enough to be so ~ as to come early?* **so far, so 'good**, ⇨ **far**² (2). **6** (used in exclamations of surprise, shock, etc): *'G~ 'God! 'G~ 'Gracious! 'G~ 'Heavens!* **7** thorough; sound; complete: *give her a ~ beating/scolding*; *find a ~ excuse*. **have a good mind to do sth**, ⇨ **mind**¹ (2). **8** strong; vigorous: *His eyesight is still ~*. **9** fresh; eatable: *Fish does not stay ~ in hot weather*. **10** reliable; safe; sure: *a car with ~ brakes*. **good for**, (a) safely to be trusted for (the amount stated): *His credit is ~ for £5000*. (b) having the necessary strength, inclination, etc: *My car is ~ for another year*. (c) valid: *The return half of the ticket is ~ for three months*. **11** (esp of a child) well behaved; not giving trouble: *Try to be a ~ boy*. **as**

good as gold, well-behaved. **12** morally excellent; virtuous: *live a ~ life*. **13** (used in forms of greeting and farewell): *G~ morning/afternoon/evening/night*. **14** considerable in number, quantity, etc: *a ~ deal of money; a ~ many people; a ~ few, many*. *We've come a ~ way, a long way*. **15** not less than; more than: *We waited for a ~ hour*. **16 as good as**, practically, almost: *He as ~ as said I was a liar*, suggested that I was a liar without actually using the word 'liar'. ⇨ also **new(1)**. **17 make good**, accomplish what one attempts; prosper: *He went to Canada, where he soon made ~*. **'good-for-nothing** *adj*, *n* [C] worthless (person).

'good 'humour, cheerful mood; happy state of mind. Hence, **'good-'humoured** *adj*. **'good-looking** *adj* beautiful; handsome. **'good-natured** *adj* kind; ready and willing to help others.

'good 'sense, soundness of judgement.

good² /ɡʊd/ *n* [U] **1** that which is good; what is morally right, beneficial, advantageous, profitable, etc; that which has use, worth, value: *It's no ~ (my) talking to him*. *Was his advice ever any ~? What ~ was it?* This gadget isn't much ~. **do good**, help (through charitable works, etc). **(do sth) for the good of**, in order to benefit: *He works for the ~ of the country*. **for sb's own good**, for his benefit: *Is it right to deceive people, even if it's for their own ~?* **do (sb) good**, help or benefit him: *Eat more fruit — it will do you ~*. **2 for good (and all)**, permanently; finally: *He says that he's leaving the country for ~, intending never to return to it*. **3** good or virtuous persons: *G~ and bad alike respected the parson*. **4** (pl) movable property; merchandise: *He buys and sells leather ~s*. **deliver the goods**, (informal) produce what is expected; fulfil a promise. **5** (pl) things carried by rail, etc (contrasted with passengers): *a ~s agent/station/train*.

good-bye /ˌɡʊd'baɪ/ *int*, *n* [C] (expression) (used when leaving).

good-ish /ˌɡʊdɪʃ/ *adj* quite large, extensive, etc: *It's a ~ walk from here*.

good-ness /ˌɡʊdnɪs/ *n* [U] **1** quality of being good; virtue: *~ of heart*. **have the good-ness to**, (formal) be kind enough to: *Have the ~ to come this way, please*. **2** strength or essence: *meat with all the ~ boiled out*. **3** (in exclamations) used instead of God: *G~ Gracious! G~ me! For ~ sake! Thank ~!*

goods /ɡʊdz/ *n* pl ⇨ **good²** (4,5).

good-will /ˌɡʊd'wɪl/ *n* [U] **1** friendly feeling: *a policy of ~ in international relations*. **2** good relationship of a business with its customers: *The ~ is to be sold with the business*.

goofy /ˈɡuːfi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (sl) **1** having long, protruding top teeth. **2** silly.

goose /ɡuːs/ *n* (pl geese /ɡiːs/) **1** [C] water bird larger than a duck; female of this, ⇨

gander. **2** [U] its flesh as food. **3** [C] (dated informal) mildly foolish person.

'goose-flesh, rough bristling skin caused by cold or fear.

'goose-step, way of marching without bending the knees.

goose-berry /ˈɡʊzbəri/ *US*: /ˈɡʊsberi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (bush with a) green, hairy berry. **play gooseberry**, be present with two persons, eg lovers, who prefer to be alone.

gore /ɡɔː(r)/ *vt* pierce, wound, with the horns or tusks: *~d to death by a bull*.

gorge /ɡɔːdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** narrow opening, usually with a stream, between hills or mountains. **2** gullet; contents of the stomach: *His ~ rose at the sight/It made his ~ rise*. He was disgusted. □ *vi*, *vt* eat greedily: *~ on rich food; gorging oneself with meat*.

gorg-eous /ˈɡɔːdʒəs/ *adj* **1** richly coloured; magnificent: *a ~ sunset*. **2** (informal) giving pleasure and satisfaction: *~ weather; a ~ dress*.

gorg-eous-ly *adv*

gor-illa /ɡə'ri:lə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) man-sized, tree-climbing African ape.

gor-man-dize (also -ise) /ˈɡɔːməndaɪz/ *vi* (formal) eat greedily for pleasure.

gorse /ɡɔːs/ *n* [U] evergreen shrub with sharp thorns and yellow flowers growing on waste land.

gory /ˈɡɔːri/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) covered with blood.

gosh /ɡɒʃ/ *int* (sl) exclamation of surprise.

gos-ling /ˈɡɒzlɪŋ/ *n* [C] young goose.

gos-pel /ˈɡɒspl/ *n* **1** **G~**, (the life and teachings of Jesus Christ as recorded in the) first four books of the New Testament; any one of these four books. **2** [C] thing that may be believed with confidence; principle or set of principles that one acts upon or believes in: *the ~ of health*.

'Gospel'oath, oath sworn on the Gospels.

'Gospel'truth, truth contained in the Gospels or as true as the Gospels.

gos-sa-mer /ˈɡɒsəmə(r)/ *n* **1** [C,U] (thread of the) fine silky substance of webs made by small spiders. **2** [U] soft, light, delicate cloth: *a ~ veil*.

gos-sip /ˈɡɒsɪp/ *n* **1** [U] idle, often critical, talk about the affairs of other people: *Don't believe all the ~ you hear*. **2** [U] informal writing about persons and social happenings, eg in letters or in newspapers: (as an adjective) *the ~ column*, of a newspaper; *a ~ writer*. **3** [C] instance of gossip: *have a good ~ with a neighbour over the garden fence*. **4** [C] person who is fond of gossip(1): *She's an old ~*. □ *vi* (-pp-) talk or write gossip.

got *pt, pp* of get. ⇨ also **have²,³**.

Gothic /ˈɡɒθɪk/ *adj* **1** of the style of architecture common in Western Europe in the 12th to 16th centuries, characterized by point-

ed arches, groups of columns, etc. **2** of the 18th century style of romantic literature: ~ novels. □ **n** [U] Gothic language or architecture.

got-ten *pp* (in US) of get.

gouache /gu:'æʃ/ **n** **1** [U] opaque watercolour paint. **2** [U] method of painting using this material. **3** [C] picture painted by this method.

gouge /gaʊdʒ/ **n** [C] tool with a sharp semi-circular edge for cutting grooves in wood. □ *vt* cut, shape, force out, (as) with a gouge: ~ out a person's eye with one's thumb.

gour-lash /'gu:læʃ/ **n** [C,U] (dish of) stew of steak and vegetables, seasoned with paprika.

gourd /gʊəd/ **n** [C] **1** (large, hard-skinned fleshy fruit of) kinds of climbing or trailing plant. **2** bottle or bowl made from the dried skin of this fruit.

gour-mand /'gu:mənd/ **n** [C] lover of food.

gour-met /'gu:meɪ/ **n** [C] person who enjoys, and is expert in the choice of, delicate food, wines, etc.

gout /gaʊt/ **n** [U] disease causing painful swellings in joints, esp toes, knees and fingers.

gov-ern /'gʌvən/ *vt, vi* **1** rule (a country, etc).

2 control or direct the public affairs of (a city, country, etc). **3** control: ~ one's temper. **3** (usually passive) determine; influence: be ~ed by the opinions of others. **4** (gram) (esp of a verb or preposition) require, make necessary (a certain case or form of another word).

gov-ern-ing *adj* having the power or right to govern: the ~ing body of a school/college.

gov-ern-ess /'gʌvənɪs/ **n** [C] woman who is employed to teach young children in a private family.

gov-ern-ment /'gʌvnmənt/ **n** **1** [U] governing; power to govern: What the country needs is strong ~. **2** [U] method or system of governing: We prefer democratic ~. **3** [C] ministry; body of persons governing a State: The Prime Minister has formed a G~, has selected Ministers for the Cabinet. The G~ was criticized by the Opposition.

gov-ern-mental /'gʌvnməntl/ *adj* connected with government.

gov-ernor /'gʌvənə(r)/ **n** [C] **1** person who governs a province or colony or (US) a State: the G~ of New York State. **2** member of the governing body of an institution (eg a school in England, a college, a hospital).

gov-ernor-'general, (in the British Commonwealth) representative of the British Government, having no special powers: the G~General of Canada.

gown /gaʊn/ **n** [C] **1** woman's dress, esp one for special occasions: a 'dressing-~/'night-~. **2** loose, flowing robe worn by members of a university, judges, etc.

grab /græb/ *vt, vi* (-bb-) take roughly, selfishly or eagerly: The dog ~bed the bone and ran off with it. He ~bed at the opportunity of going

abroad. □ **n** [C] **1** sudden snatch: make a ~ at something. **2** mechanical device for taking up and holding something to be lifted or moved. **up for grabs**, (informal) available for anyone to take, buy, etc: The house is up for ~s.

grab-ber, person who grabs or whose chief aim in life appears to be making money.

grace /greɪs/ **n** **1** [U] quality of being pleasing, attractive or beautiful, esp in structure or movement: She danced with ~/with a ~ that surprised us. **2** (usu pl) pleasing manner; elegance. **airs and graces**, ways of speaking and behaving that are intended to impress and attract people. **3** [U] favour; goodwill. **give sb a week's, etc grace**, allow him an extra week, etc before requiring him to fulfil an obligation. **4 do sth with a good/bad grace**, do it willingly/reluctantly. ⇨ also saving. **5** short prayer of thanks before or after a meal: say (a) ~. **6** [U] God's mercy and favour towards mankind; influence and result of this. **in a state of grace**, being influenced by the strength and inspiring power of God; having received the Sacraments. **fall from grace**, fall to a lower moral state. **7** as a title, used when speaking of or to an archbishop, duke or duchess: His/Her/Your G~. □ *vt* add grace to; confer honour or dignity on; be an ornament to: The occasion was ~ed by the presence of the Queen.

grace-ful /'greɪsfʊl/ *adj* having or showing grace(1,4): a ~ dancer; a ~ letter of thanks.

grace-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

grace-less /'greɪslɪs/ *adj* without grace(1,4); without a sense of what is right and proper: ~ behaviour.

gra-cious /'greɪʃəs/ *adj* **1** (of persons and their behaviour) pleasant; kind; agreeable: It was ~ of her to come. **2** (of God) merciful. **3** (in exclamations) expressing surprise: Good G~! Goodness G~!

gra-cious-ly *adv*

gra-cious-ness **n** [U]

gra-da-tion /grə'deɪʃn/ **n** **1** [C] step, stage, degree in development. **2** [U] gradual change from one thing to another or from one state to another.

grade¹ /greɪd/ **n** [C] **1** step, stage or degree in rank, quality, value, etc; number or class of things of the same kind: The rank of major is one ~ higher than that of captain. This pupil has a high ~ of intelligence. **2** (US) division of the school course; one year's work; pupils in such a division. **3** the mark, eg 80%, or rating, eg 'Excellent' or 'Fair', given to a pupil for his work in school. **make the grade**, (informal) reach a good standard; do as well as is required. **4** (US) = gradient.

grade² /greɪd/ *vt* **1** put in order in grades or classes: ~d by size. **2** make land (esp for roads) more level by reducing the slope.

gradient /'greɪdɪənt/ *n* [C] degree of slope.

grad-ual /'grædʒuəl/ *adj* **1** taking place by degrees. **2** (of a slope) not steep.

grad-ually /-dʒuəl/ *adv* by degrees.

grad-uate¹ /'grædʒuət/ *n* [C] **1** (GB) person who holds a university degree, esp the first, of Bachelor's, degree: *London ~s*; *a ~ student*; *post-~ studies*. **2** (US) person who has completed a course at an educational institution: *high school ~s*.

grad-uate² /'grædʒuət/ *vt, vi* **1** mark with degrees for measuring: *a ruler ~d in both inches and centimetres*. **2** arrange according to grade. **3** successfully complete an academic course.

gradu-ation /'grædʒu'eɪʃn/ *n* [C, U] (a) graduating or being graduated. (b) ceremony at which degrees are conferred.

graf-fiti /grə'fɪtɪ/ *n pl* (It) drawing, words, scratched or written on a hard surface, esp a wall.

graft¹ /grɑ:ft/ *US*: græft/ *n* [C] **1** shoot from a branch or twig of a living tree, fixed in another tree to form a new growth. **2** (in surgery) piece of skin, bone, etc from a living person or animal, transplanted on another body or another part of the same body. □ *vt, vi* put a graft in or on: *~ one variety on/upon/in/into another*; *~ new skin*.

graft² /grɑ:ft/ *US*: græft/ *n* [C, U] (instance of) getting business advantages, profit-making, etc by taking wrong advantage of connections in politics, municipal business, etc. □ *vi* practise graft.

grain /greɪn/ *n* **1** [U] (collective *sing*) small, hard seed of food plants such as wheat and rice: *a cargo of ~*. **2** [C] single seed of such a plant: *eat up every ~ of rice*. **3** [C] tiny, hard bit: *~s of sand/sugar*. **4** [C] (fig) small amount: *a boy without a ~ of intelligence*. **5** [C] smallest unit of weight, 1/7000 lb or 0.065 gr. **6** [U] natural arrangement or pattern of the lines of fibre in wood, etc as seen on a surface that has been sawn or cut: *woods of fine/coarse ~*. **be/go against the grain**, (fig) be undesirable, unpleasant.

gram /græm/ ⇨ *gramme*.

-gram /-græm/ *suffix* something written down or drawn: *telegram*; *diagram*.

gram-mar /'græmə(r)/ *n* [U] study or science of rules for the combination of words into sentences (*syntax*), and the forms of words (*morphology*).

'grammar school, (in GB) secondary school for more intelligent children.

gram-mar-ian /grə'meəriən/ *n* [C] expert in grammar.

gram-mati-cal /grə'mætɪkl/ *adj* of, conforming to, the rules of grammar: *a ~ error*.

gram-mati-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

gramme /græm/ (also **gram**) *n* [C] metric unit of weight; weight of one cubic centimetre of water at maximum density.

gramo-phone /'græməfəʊn/ *n* [C] (dated) but still used in the expression *~ record* = record-player.

gran-ary /'grænəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** storehouse for grain. **2** region producing large amounts of grain.

grand /grænd/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (in official titles) chief; most important: *G~ Master*, *eg of many orders of knighthood*; *a ~ master*, chess champion. **2** of most or greatest importance: *the ~ finale*. **3** magnificent; splendid: *living in ~ style*. **4** self-important; proud: *He puts on a very ~ manner/air*. **5** (informal) very fine or enjoyable: *We had a ~ time*. *What ~ weather!* **6** full; complete: *a ~ orchestra*, one with all kinds of instruments (not strings only); *the ~ total*, including everything. □ *n* [C] (informal) **1** grand piano. **2** thousand pounds or dollars.

grand pi-ano, large piano with horizontal strings.

Grand Prix /grɑ:n 'pri:/, (motor-racing) one of several international races.

'grand-stand, rows of roofed seats for spectators at races, sports meetings, etc.

grand-ly *adv*

grand- *prefix* one generation more remote.

'grand-aunt/-uncle, aunt/uncle of either of one's parents.

'grand-child/-daughter/-son, daughter/son of one's son or daughter.

'grand-father/-mother, father/mother of one's father or mother.

'grand-father ('s) **'clock**, clock worked by weights in a tall wooden case.

'grand-nephew/-niece, son/daughter of one's nephew or niece.

grandad, grand-dad /'grændəd/ *n* [C] (informal) grandfather.

grand-deur /'grændʒə(r)/ *n* [U] greatness; magnificence: *the ~ of the Swiss Alps*; *a man with delusions of ~*.

gran-di-ose /'grændiəʊs/ *adj* planned on an impressive scale; imposing.

grand-ma /'grænma:/ *n* [C] (informal) grandmother.

grand-pa /'grænpa:/ *n* [C] (informal) grandfather.

grange /greɪndʒ/ *n* [C] country house with farm buildings attached.

gran-ite /'græni:t/ *n* [U] hard, usually grey, stone used for building.

granny, grannie /'græni/ *n* [C] (informal) grandmother.

grant /grɑ:nt/ *US*: grænt/ *vt* **1** give or allow (what is asked for): *~ a favour/request*. **2** agree (that something is true): *He's a nice person, I'll ~ you that*. **take sth for granted**, accept it as true or as certain without discussion. □ *n* [C] something granted, eg money from a government: *~s towards the cost of a university education*.

granu-lar /'grænjulə(r)/ *adj* of or like grains.

granu-late /'grænjuleit/ *vt,vi* form into grains; roughen the surface of.

granulated ¹**sugar**, sugar in the form of small crystals.

gran-ule /'grænju:l/ *n* [C] small grain.

grape /greip/ *n* [C] green or purple berry growing in clusters on vines, as used for making wine: *a bunch of ~s*.

'grape-vine *n* [C] (a) kind of vine on which grapes grow. (b) (*fig*) means by which news gets about, eg in an office, school or a group of friends: *I heard on the ~-vine that Jill is to be promoted.*

grape-fruit /'greipfru:t/ *n* [C] (*pl* with or without -s) (usually yellow) fruit like a large orange but with a sour taste.

graph /græf/ *n* [C] diagram consisting of a line or lines showing the variation of two quantities, eg the temperature at each hour.

'graph paper, paper with small squares of equal size.

-graph /-græf/ *US*: -græf/ *suffix* something written down: *autograph*.

-graphic /-græfik/ *telegraphic*.

-graphy /-græfi/ *calligraphy*.

graphic /'græfik/ *adj* 1 of visual symbols (eg lettering, diagrams, drawings): *a ~ artist*. 2 (of descriptions) giving a clear and easily understood image: *a ~ account of the battle*. □ *n* (*pl*) lettering, drawings, etc.

graphi-cally /-kli/ *adv* (a) by writing or diagrams. (b) vividly.

graph-ite /'græfait/ *n* [U] soft, black substance (a form of carbon) as used in making lead pencils.

grap-nel /'græpnəl/ *n* [C] 1 anchor with many hooks. 2 instrument like this formerly used in sea battles for holding enemy ships.

grapple /'græpl/ *vi* 1 seize firmly; struggle with at close quarters: *~ with an enemy*. 2 (*fig*) try to deal with (a problem, etc): *grappling with staff problems*.

'grappling-iron, grapnel.

grasp /græsp/ *US*: græsp/ *vt,vi* 1 seize firmly with the hand(s) or arm(s): *~ his hand/a rope*.

2 understand: *~ an argument/her meaning*. 3 **grasp at**, try to seize; accept eagerly: *~ at an opportunity*. □ *n* [C] (usually *sing*) firm hold or grip; (power of) grasping: *in the ~ of a wicked enemy*; *have a thorough ~ of the problem*; *a problem within/beyond my ~*, that I can/cannot understand.

grasp-ing *adj* greedy (for money, etc): *a ~ing cousin*.

grass /græs/ *US*: græs/ *n* 1 [U] kinds of common, wild, low-growing, green plant. 2 [C] (with *pl* -es) any species of this plant (including, in botanical use, cereals, reeds and bamboos). 3 [U] grazing land; pasture.

'grass-land, area of land covered with grass where there are few trees.

'grass-roots *n pl* (often used as an *adjective*) ordinary people especially in relation to politics: *a ~roots rebellion*.

'grass-widow, wife whose husband is temporarily not living with her.

grassy *adj* (-ier, -iest) covered with grass.

grass-hopper /'græ:shopə(r)/ *US*: 'græs-/ *n* [C] jumping insect which makes a shrill, chirping noise.

grate¹ /greit/ *n* [C] (metal frame for holding coal, etc in a) fireplace.

grate² /greit/ *vt,vi* 1 rub into small pieces, usually against a rough surface; rub small bits off: *~ cheese*. 2 make a harsh noise by rubbing: *The gate ~s on its hinges*. 3 (*fig*) have an irritating effect (on a person, his nerves): *His bad manners ~d on everyone*. □ *n* [C] (usually *sing*) harsh noise made by rubbing: *the ~ of a door on its hinges*.

grater, device with a rough surface for grating food, etc.

grating-ly *adv*

grate-ful /'greitfl/ *adj* feeling or showing thanks: *We are ~ to you for your help*.

grate-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

grat-ify /'grætɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt,pp* -ied) 1 give pleasure or satisfaction: *I'm gratified to know that you have been successful*. 2 give what is desired to: *~ a child's curiosity*.

grat-ify-ing *adj* pleasing: *It is very ~ing to know that you like this dictionary*.

grati-fi-ca-tion /'grætɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

grat-ing /'greɪtɪŋ/ *n* [C] framework of wooden or metal bars, either parallel or crossing one another, placed across an opening, eg a window, to keep out burglars or to allow air to flow through.

gra-tis /'grætɪs/ *adv, adj* free of charge: *be admitted ~*.

grati-tude /'grætɪtju:d/ *US*: -tu:d/ *n* [U] being grateful: *We showed our ~ for his help by buying him a present*.

gra-tu-itous /græ'tju:ɪtəs/ *US*: -tu:-/ *adj* 1 given, obtained or done, without payment: *~ service/information/help/advice*. 2 done or given, acting, without good reason: *a ~ insult*.

gra-tu-itous-ly *adv*

gra-tu-ity /græ'tju:ɪti/ *US*: -tu:-/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) 1 gift (of money in addition to pay or pension) to a retiring employee for services. 2 money given to a member of the armed forces at the end of his period of service. 3 tip (for service).

grave¹ /greɪv/ *adj* (-r, -st) serious; requiring careful consideration: *~ news*.

grave-ly *adv*

grave² /greɪv/ *n* [C] hole dug in the ground for a dead body; the earth or the monument over it. **have one foot in the grave**, be nearing death, be very old.

'grave-stone, stone over a grave, with the name, etc of the person buried there.

'grave-yard burial ground; cemetery.

grave³ /græv/ *n* [C] (also ~ *accent*) mark (') placed over a vowel to indicate how it is to be sounded (as in French *mère*).

gravel /'grævl/ *n* [U] small stones with coarse sand, as used for roads and paths. □ *vt* (-ll-, U/S also -l-) cover with gravel.

graven /'greɪvn/ *adj* carved: *a ~ image*, an idol.

gravi-tate /'grævɪteɪt/ *vi* move or be attracted: ~ *towards the cities*.

gravi-ta-tion /'grævɪteɪʃn/ *n* [U] (a) process of gravitating. (b) gravity(1).

grav-ity /'grævəti/ *n* [U] 1 force of attraction between any two objects, esp that force which attracts objects towards the centre of the earth. 2 weight: *centre of ~*. 3 quality of being serious or solemn: *the ~ of the international situation*.

gravy /'greɪvi/ *n* [U] juice which comes from meat while it is cooking; sauce made from this.

'gravy-boat, vessel in which gravy is served at table.

gray /greɪ/ *adj*, *n* ⇨ grey.

graze¹ /greɪz/ *vi*, *vt* 1 (of cattle, sheep, etc) eat growing grass: *cattle grazing in the fields*. 2 put (cattle, etc) in fields to graze.

graze² /greɪz/ *vi*, *vi* touch or scrape lightly in passing; rub the skin from: *The bullet ~d his cheek*. *The boy ~d his knees when he fell*. □ *n* [C] place where the skin is grazed.

grease /grɪs/ *n* [U] 1 animal fat, esp when semi-liquid. 2 any similar semi-liquid substance. □ *vt* put or rub grease on or in (esp parts of a machine). **grease sb's palm**, bribe him.

'grease-gun, device for forcing grease into the parts of an engine, machine, etc.

'grease-paint *n* [U] make-up used by actors.

greasy /'greɪsi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) covered with grease; slippery: ~ *fingers*; *a ~ road*.

greas-ily /-əli/ *adv*

great /greɪt/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 well above the average in size, quantity or degree: *take ~ care of*; *a ~ friend of mine*, one for whom I feel more than ordinary friendship; *a ~ work of art*. 2 of remarkable ability or character: ~ *men*; *a ~ painter/musician*. 3 important; of high rank or position: *a ~ occasion*; *Alexander the G~*. 4 (informal) implying surprise, indignation, contempt, etc according to context: *Take your ~ big head out of my light!* 5 the larger of two. 6 (used with words showing quantity, etc): *a ~ deal*, very much; *a ~ number*, very many. 7 (informal) splendid: *We had a ~ time in Paris*. **great at**, clever or skilful at.

Great Bear, a constellation.

,Great Britain, England, Wales and Scotland, excluding Northern Ireland.

Great Lakes, series of five large lakes in N America along the border between Canada and the US.

the Great War, that of 1914–18.

great-ly *adv* much; by much: ~ *ly amused*.

great-ness *n* [U]

great- /greɪt/ *prefix* showing one more generation remote than *grand-*: ~ *grandfather*, one's mother's or father's grandfather; ~ *grandfather*, one's grandmother's or grandfather's grandfather.

greaves /'greɪvz/ *n pl* pieces of armour to protect the shins.

grebe /gri:b/ *n* [C] kinds of diving bird.

Gre-cian /'gri:ʃn/ *adj* (eg of architecture, pottery, culture and features of the face) Greek.

greed /gri:d/ *n* [U] strong desire for more food, wealth, etc, esp for more than is right or reasonable.

greedy /'gri:di/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) filled with greed: *I'm not hungry, just ~*. *He's ~ for gain/honours*.

greed-ily /-əli/ *adv*

greedi-ness *n* [U]

Greek /gri:k/ *n* member of the Greek race, either of ancient Greece or modern Greece; the Greek language. **It's Greek to me/him**, I/He can't understand it. □ *adj* of Greece, its people, or the Greek language.

green¹ /grɪn/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 of the colour between blue and yellow, the colour of growing grass. 2 (of fruit) not yet ripe: ~ *apples*; (of wood) not yet dry enough for use: *G~ wood does not burn well*. 3 (a) inexperienced; untrained: *He's still ~ at his job*. (b) easily deceived: *I'm not so ~ as to believe that*. 4 (fig) flourishing; full of vigour: *keep a person's memory ~*, not allow it to fade. 5 (of the complexion) pale; sickly looking. **green with envy**, jealous.

'green belt, wide area of land round a town, where building is controlled (by town-planning) so that there are fields, woods, etc.

green fingers, (informal) skill in gardening.

'green-fly, kinds of small insect.

'green-gage /-geɪdʒ/, kind of plum with greenish-yellow skin and flesh.

'green-grocer, shopkeeper selling vegetables and fruit.

'green-grocery, business of, things sold by, a greengrocer.

'green-house, building with sides and roof of glass, used for growing plants.

green light, give sb/get the green light, permission to do something, etc.

'green room, room in a theatre for actors and actresses when they are not on the stage.

'green-stuffs, vegetables.

'green tea, tea made from steam-dried leaves.

green² /grɪn/ *n* 1 [C,U] green colour: *a girl dressed in ~*; *a picture in ~s and blues*. 2 (pl) green leaf vegetables, eg cabbage, before or after cooking. 3 area of land with growing grass: (a) as public or common land: *the vil-*

lage ~. (b) for the game of bowls: a *'bowling-* ~. (c) surrounding a hole on a golf-course: a *'putting* ~.

greenery /'grɪnəri/ *n* [U] green foliage: *the ~ of the woods in spring.*

green-ish /'grɪnɪʃ/ *adj* a little green: (used in compounds) ~ *'yellow.*

Greenwich /'grɪndɪʒ/ *n* suburb of London east and west of which longitude is measured.

Greenwich (Mean) Time, (abbr GMT), mean² time for the meridian of Greenwich, used as a basis for calculating time in most parts of the world (now called *Universal time*).

greet /grɪt/ *vt* **1** welcome; express one's feelings on receiving (news, etc); write (in a letter) words expressing respect, friendship, etc: ~ *a friend by saying 'Good morning!'; ~ someone with a smile.* **2** (formal) (of sights and sounds) meet the eyes and ears: *the view that ~ed us at the hill-top.*

greet-ing, first words or act used on seeing a person or in writing to a person; this expression or act: *'Good morning' and 'Dear Sir' are ~ings; a ~ings telegram, one sent with, eg birthday greetings.*

greg-ari-ous /grɪ'geəriəs/ *adj* **1** living in groups or societies. **2** liking the company of others.

Greg-or-ian /grɪ'gɔːriən/ *adj* of the kind of church music named after Pope Gregory I (540–604): ~ *chant.*

Gregorian 'calendar, the calendar introduced by Pope Gregory XIII (1502–85), with the days and months arranged as now.

gre-nade /grɪ'neɪd/ *n* [C] small bomb thrown by hand.

gre-na-dier /grɪ'nɛɪdɪə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (formerly) soldier who threw grenades. **2** soldier in **the G's**, the **G~ Guards**, British infantry regiment.

grew /gruː/ *pt* of grow.

grey, (also **gray**) /greɪ/ *adj* (-er, -est) between black and white, coloured like ashes: *His hair has turned ~.* □ *n* [U] grey colour: *dressed in ~, grey clothes.* □ *vt, vi* make or become grey.

'grey matter, (a) nervous tissue of the brain. (b) (fig) intellect.

grey-hound /'greɪhaʊnd/ *n* [C] thin, long-legged dog, able to run fast, used in racing.

grey-ish /'greɪʃ/ *adj* a little grey.

grid /grɪd/ *n* [C] **1** system of overhead cables carried on pylons, for distributing electric current over a large area. **2** network of squares on maps, numbered for reference. **3** grating: *a 'cattle ~, one placed in the ground at a gate, etc to prevent cattle from getting out.*

griddle /'grɪdl/ *n* [C] circular iron plate used for cooking cakes.

grid-iron /'grɪdaɪən/ *n* [C] **1** framework of metal bars used for cooking meat or fish over a clear fire. **2** field for American football.

grief /grɪf/ *n* **1** [U] deep or violent sorrow: *die*

of ~. **2** [C] something causing grief: *His failure was a great ~ to his parents.* **3** **bring sb/ come to grief**, cause him/oneself to experience misfortune, injury or ruin.

griev-ance /'grɪvəns/ *n* [C] real or imagined cause for complaint or protest (against): *A strike seemed to be the only way of expressing their ~s.*

grieve /grɪv/ *vt, vi* cause grief to; feel grief: ~ *for the dead/over his death.*

griev-ous /'grɪvəs/ *adj* **1** causing grief or suffering: *a ~ railway accident; ~ wrongs.* **2** severe: ~ *pain; ~ bodily harm*, (as when a person injures another in a robbery, etc).

griev-ous-ly *adv*

grif-fin /'grɪfɪn/ (also **gry-phon** /'grɪfn/) *n* (in Greek myth) creature with the head and wings of an eagle and a lion's body.

grill /grɪl/ *n* [C] **1** = grating; grille; gridiron. **2** dish of meat, etc cooked directly over or under great heat. □ *vt, vi* **1** cook, be cooked, under or over great heat. **2** (fig) expose oneself to great heat: *lie ~ing in the hot sun.* **3** (eg of the police) question relentlessly and severely: *They ~ed him for hours but he refused to give any names.*

grille /grɪl/ *n* [C] **1** screen of parallel bars used to close an open space, eg in a convent. **2** similar screen over a counter, eg in a post office or bank as a protection.

grim /grɪm/ *adj* (-mer, -mest) stern; severe; without mercy: *a ~ struggle; a ~ smile/ expression.* **hold on like 'grim 'death**, very firmly.

grim-ly *adv*

grim-ness *n* [U]

gri-mace /grɪ'meɪs/ *US: 'grɪmɪs/ n* [C] ugly, twisted expression of pain, disgust, etc or intended to cause laughter: *Only rude children make ~s.* □ *vi* make grimaces.

grime /graɪm/ *n* [U] dirt, esp a coating on the surface of something or on the body: *a face covered with ~ and sweat.* □ *vi* make dirty with grime: ~ *d with dust.*

grimy /'grɑɪmɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -est) covered with grime.

grin /grɪn/ *vi, vt* (-nn-) **1** smile broadly so as to show the teeth, expressing amusement, foolish satisfaction, contempt, etc: ~ing *with delight; ~ from ear to ear.* **grin and bear it**, put up with pain, disappointment, etc uncomplainingly. **2** express by grinning: *He ~ned his approval.* □ *n* [C] act of grinning.

grind /graɪnd/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp ground /graʊnd/) **1** crush to grains or powder between millstones, the teeth, etc: ~ *coffee beans; ~ corn into flour.* **2** be capable of grinding: *This wheat ~s well.* **3** (fig) wear down the spirit: *people who were ground (down) by poverty.* **4** polish, shape or sharpen by rubbing on or with a rough, hard surface: ~ *a knife/ lens.* **5** rub harshly together, esp with a circular motion: ~ *one's teeth (together); ~ one's heel into the ground.* **6** work by turning; produce by turning: ~ *a barrel-organ.* **grind to a halt**, (a)

(of a vehicle) stop noisily. **(b)** *(fig)* (of a process) stop slowly: *The strikes brought industry ~ing to a halt.* **7** (cause to) work or study hard and long: *~ away at one's studies.* □ **n** **1** [C] act, noise of grinding. **2** [U] *(informal)* long, monotonous task: *Do you find learning English a ~?*

grinder /'grɑ:ndə(r)/ **n** [C] thing or person that grinds, eg an apparatus for grinding coffee: *a ~ coffee-~*; *an ~ organ-~*, person who produces tunes by turning the handle of a barrel-organ.

grind-stone /'grɑ:ndstəʊn/ **n** [C] stone shaped like a wheel, turned on an axle, used for sharpening tools. **keep sb's nose to the grindstone**, force him to work hard without rest.

grip /grɪp/ **vt, vi** (-pp-) **1** take and keep a firm hold of; seize firmly: *The frightened child ~ped its mother's hand. The brakes failed to ~ and the car ran into a wall.* **2** hold the attention of: *The speaker ~ped the attention of his audience. The film is a ~ping story of love and hate.* □ **n** **1** (sing only except as shown) act, manner or power of gripping: *let go one's ~ of a rope; have a good ~ (fig = understanding) of a problem; have a good ~ on an audience, hold their attention and interest. be at/come to/get to grips with*, be attacking, begin to attack: *get to ~s with a problem.* **2** [C] (in a machine, etc) part that grips or clips. **3** [C] small bag for travelling: *a leather ~.*

gripes /graɪps/ **n pl** the ~, *(informal)* violent pains in the abdomen.

gris-ly /'grɪzli/ **adj** causing horror or terror.

gristle /'grɪsl/ **n** [U] tough, elastic tissue in animal bodies, esp in meat.

grit /grɪt/ **n** [U] **1** (collective sing) tiny, hard bits of stone, sand, etc: *spread ~ on icy roads.* **2** quality of courage and endurance: *have plenty of ~.* □ **vt** (-tt-) spread grit on: *~ the road when it snows. grit one's teeth*, keep the jaws tight together to show effort, will.

gritty **adj** (-ier, -iest)

grizzle /'grɪzl/ **vi** *(informal)* (esp of children) cry irritably.

groan /grəʊn/ **vi, vt** **1** make a deep sound forced out by pain, or expressing despair or distress: *The wounded men lay there ~ing. The teacher ~ed with dismay.* **2** (of things) make a noise like that of groaning: *The ship's timbers ~ed during the storm.* **3** express with groaning: *He ~ed out a sad story.* □ **n** [C] deep sound of groaning: *~s of disapproval.*

grocer /'grəʊsə(r)/ **n** [C] shopkeeper who sells food in packets, tins and bottles, and household requirements such as polish, soap-powders, etc.

grocery, **n** (pl -ies) **(a)** [U] grocer's trade: *a ~y business.* **(b)** (pl) things sold by a grocer.

groggy /'grɒɡi/ **adj** (-ier, -iest) unsteady; likely to collapse or fall: *You look rather ~.*

groin /grɔɪn/ **n** [C] **1** part of the body near the thigh. **2** curved edge where two vaults meet (in a roof). □ **vt** build with groins.

groom /ɡru:m/ **n** [C] **1** person in charge of horses. **2** = bridegroom. □ **vt** **1** feed, brush and in other ways look after (horses). **2** (of animals) clean the fur and skin of: *a female ape ~ing her mate.* **3** (used in the pp) (of persons): *well/badly ~ed*, looking clean and smart, with the hair tidy. **4** *(informal)* prepare (for success, etc): *~ed for stardom.*

groove /ɡru:v/ **n** [C] **1** long, hollow channel in the surface of hard material, esp one made to guide the motion of something that slides along it, eg a sliding door or window. **2** spiral cut on a gramophone record (in which the needle or stylus moves). **3** way of living that has become a habit. **get into/be stuck in a groove**, become set in one's ways. □ **vt** make grooves in: *a ~ed shelf.*

groovy **adj** (sl) up-to-date (esp of young people): *groovy clothes/people.*

grope /ɡrəʊp/ **vi, vt** feel about, search, as one does in the dark: *He was groping for the door-handle.*

gross¹ /ɡrəʊs/ **n** [C] (pl unchanged) twelve dozen; 144.

gross² /ɡrəʊs/ **adj** **1** vulgar; coarse in mind or morals: *~ morals.* **2** (of the senses) heavy and dull. **3** glaring; clearly seen: *~ injustice/negligence.* **4** (of persons) extremely fat. **5** (opposite of net) total, whole: *his ~ income; ~ profit.* □ **vt** make or earn as a total amount: *His last film ~ed five million pounds.*

gross-ly **adv**

gross-ness **n** [U]

grotesque /ɡrəʊ'tesk/ **adj** **1** absurd; laughable because strange and incongruous: *a ~ appearance; ~ manners.* **2** (art) combining human, animal and plant forms in a fantastic way; made up of comically distorted figures and designs. □ **n** [C] grotesque person, animal, style or design.

grotesque-ly **adv**

grotto /'grɒtəʊ/ **n** (pl ~es or ~s) cave, esp one made artificially as a garden shelter.

groty /'grɒti/ **adj** (-ier, -iest) (sl) dirty; useless; bad.

grouch /ɡrəʊtʃ/ **vi** *(informal)* complain. □ **n** [C] fit of bad temper.

ground¹ /ɡraʊnd/ **n** **1** (sing with the) solid surface of the earth: *lie on/sit on/fall to the ~.* **get off the ground**, **(a)** (of an aircraft) rise into the air. **(b)** *(fig)* (of an undertaking or scheme) pass from the planning stage and make a start. **above ground**, alive. **below ground**, dead and buried. **2** [U] position, area or distance on the earth's surface. **cover (much, etc) ground**, **(a)** travel: *We've covered a great deal of ~ today*, have come a long way. **(b)** *(fig)* (of a lecture, report, inquiry, etc) deal with a variety of subjects: *The committee's report covers much new ~.* **deals with many new matters. gain ground**, **(a)** make progress. **(b)** win a success or an advantage. **give/lose ground**, fail to keep one's position or advantage. **hold/stand/keep**

one's ground, stand firm; not yield; maintain one's claim, intention, argument, etc.
common ground, subject on which two or more persons or parties are in agreement or on which they have similar views. **3** [U] soil; earth: *The frost has made the ~ hard.* **4** [C] area or piece of land for a special purpose or a particular use: a *'football/cricket/sports ~*; a *pa'rade/recre'ation ~*; a *'play~*. **5** (always *pl*) land, gardens, round a building, often enclosed with walls, hedges or fences: *the ~s of the University/the hospital.* **6** (*pl*) particles of solid matter that sink to the bottom of a liquid: *'coffee~s.* **7** (*pl* or [U]) reason(s) for saying, doing or believing something: *On what ~s do you suspect him?* **be/have/give grounds for**, be, have, give a cause or reason for: *I have good ~s for believing him. What are the ~s for the divorce?*

'ground 'floor, the floor of a building level with the ground.

'ground-nut, peanut.

'ground rule, basic principle.

'ground-sheet, waterproof sheet spread on the ground, eg in a tent.

'ground-work, (usually *fig*) foundation; basis.

ground² /graʊnd/ *vt, vi* **1** (of a ship) (cause to) touch the sea bottom. **2** (of aircraft, air-men) compel to stay on the ground: *All aircraft at London Airport were ~ed by fog yesterday.* **3** base (the more usual word) (a belief, etc) on: *a well~ed theory.*

ground³ /graʊnd/ *pt, pp* of grind.

ground-ing, thorough teaching of the elements of a subject: *a good ~ing in grammar.*

ground-less /'graʊndlis/ *adj* without good reason: *~ fears.* ⇨ **ground¹**(7).

group /gru:p/ *n* [C] number of persons or things gathered or placed together, or naturally associated; number of jointly-controlled business companies: *a ~ of islands/trees/houses/girls; the Germanic ~ of languages.* □ *vt, vi* form into, gather in, a group or groups: *We were ~ed according to age and ability.*

grouse¹ /'graʊs/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) (sorts of) bird with feathered feet, shot for sport and food.

grouse² /'graʊs/ *vi* (*informal*) grumble; complain. □ *n* [C] complaint.

grove /grəʊv/ *n* [C] group of trees; small wood.

grovel /'grəʊvl/ *vi* (-ll-; *US* also -l-) **1** lie down on one's face, crawl, in fear, (as if) begging for mercy. **2** (*fig*) behave in a way that shows one has no self-respect: *You can stop ~ling; it won't make me change my mind about sacking you.*

grov-el-ler, person who grovels.

grow /grəʊ/ *vi, vt* (*pt* grows /gru:/, *pp* ~n /grəʊn/) **1** develop; increase in size, height, length, etc: *Rice ~s in warm climates. How tall you've ~n!* **grow out of**, (a) become too big for: *~ out of one's clothes.* (b) become too old

for; cease to practise: *He has ~n out of playing with toys.* (c) have as a source: *His troubles grew out of his bad temper.* **grow up**, (a) (of persons, animals) become adult or mature: *When the boys ~ up, ...* (b) develop: *A warm friendship grew up between them.* **2** become: *~ older. It began to ~ dark.* **3 grow to be/like, etc**, reach the point or stage where one is/likes, etc: *He grew to like his mother-in-law.* **4** cause or allow to grow: *~ roses. He's ~ing a beard.* **5 grow on**, (a) become more deeply rooted: *a habit that ~s on you.* (b) become more attractive to: *I didn't like modern jazz at first but it certainly ~s on you.*

'grown-up, adult person (contrasted with children).

grower, (a) person who grows things: *a fruit~er; 'rose~ers.* (b) plant, etc that grows in a certain way: *a fast ~er.*

growl /graʊl/ *vi, vt* **1** (of animals, men, thunder) make a low, threatening sound: *The dog ~ed at me. We heard thunder ~ing in the distance.* **2** say in a growling manner: *He ~ed (out) his answer.* □ *n* [C] low threatening sound; angry complaint.

grown /grəʊn/ *pp* of grow: *a ~ man*, a (physically and mentally) matureman.

growth /grəʊθ/ *n* **1** [U] growing; development; process of growing: *the rapid ~ of our economy.* **2** [U] cultivation: *apples of foreign ~, grown abroad.* **3** [C] something that grows or has grown: *a three-days' ~ of beard.* **4** [C] diseased formation in the body, eg a cancer.

grub¹ /grʌb/ *n* **1** [C] larva of an insect. **2** [U] (*sf*) food.

grub² /grʌb/ *vt, vi* (-bb-) turn over the soil, esp in order to get something: *~bing about among the bushes.*

grubby /'grʌbi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** dirty; unwashed: *a boy with ~ fingers.* **2** having grubs in it.

grudge /grʌdʒ/ *vt* be unwilling to give or accept: *I don't ~ him his success.* □ *n* [C] feeling of resentment, envy or spite: *I bear him no ~. He has a ~ against me.*

grudg-ingly *adv*: *to agree grudgingly.*

gruel /'gruəl/ *n* [U] liquid food of oatmeal, etc boiled in milk or water.

gruel-ing, (*US* **gruel-ing**) *adj* severe; exhausting: *a ~ling race.*

grue-some /'gru:səm/ *adj* horrible, repulsive: *~ details of the murder.*

grue-some-ly *adv*

gruff /grʌf/ *adj* (of a person, his voice, behaviour) rough and abrupt.

gruff-ly *adv*

grumble /'grʌmb/ *vi, vt* **1** complain or protest, say, in a bad-tempered way: *He's always grumbling. He ~d (out) a reply.* **2** make a low, growling sound: *hear thunder grumbling in the distance.* □ *n* [C] complaint or protest: *That girl is full of ~s.*

grum-bler, person who grumbles.

grumpy /'grʌmpi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) bad-

tempered.

grump-ily *adv*

grumpy-ness *n* [U]

grunt /grʌnt/ *vi*, *n* **1** (of animals, esp pigs) make a low, rough sound. **2** (of persons) make a similar sound expressing disagreement, boredom, irritation, etc: *~ one's approval*. □ *n* [C] low, rough sound.

gryphon /'grɪfn/ *n* = griffin.

guarantee ¹ /'gærən'ti:/ *n* [C] **1** (legal = **guaranty**) promise or undertaking that certain conditions agreed to in a transaction will be fulfilled: *under ~; a watch with a year's ~*. **2** (legal = **guaranty**) undertaking given by one person to another that he will be responsible for something eg payment of a debt, by a third person. **3** (legal = **guarantor**) person who gives such an undertaking: *be ~ for a friend's good behaviour*. **4** (legal = **guaranty**) something offered, as security for the fulfilling of conditions in a guarantee (1,2): *'What ~ can you offer?'* **5** (informal) something that seems to make an occurrence likely: *Blue skies are not always a ~ of warm weather*.

guarantee ² /'gærən'ti:/ *vi* **1** give a guarantee (1,2,3) for: *a man's debts; ~ to pay a man's debts*. *We can't ~ our workers regular employment*. **2** (informal) promise (without legal obligation): *Many shopkeepers ~ satisfaction to customers*.

guarantor /-tɔ:(r)/, ⇨ **guarantee** ¹ (3).

guaranty, ⇨ **guarantee** ¹ (1,2,4).

guard ¹ /'gɑ:d/ *n* **1** [U] state of readiness or watchfulness against attack, danger or surprise: *The sentry/soldier is on ~/was ordered to keep ~*. **2** [U] position of readiness to defend oneself, eg in fencing, boxing: *be on one's ~ against being hit*. **3** [C] soldier or party of soldiers keeping guard; sentry. **4** (GB) official in charge of a railway train. **5** (*pl*) (in GB and some other countries) troops employed to protect the sovereign: *the G~s; the Royal Horse G~s*. **6** [C] body of soldiers with the duty of protecting, honouring or escorting a person: *The Duke, on his arrival, inspected the ~ of honour at the station*. **7** person (also called **warder**) or body of people in charge of a prison. **8** (esp in compounds) (part of) an article or apparatus designed to prevent injury or loss: *a 'fire-~, in front of a fireplace; a 'mud~, over the wheel of a bicycle, etc*.

guard-house, building for a military guard or one in which soldiers who are prisoners are kept.

guard-room, room for soldiers on guard.

guardsman, soldier of the Guards.

guard ² /'gɑ:d/ *vt*, *vi* **1** protect; keep from danger: *~ a camp; ~ one's life/one's reputation*. **2** watch over (a person) to prevent escape: *~ prisoners*. **3** use care and caution to prevent: *~ against disease*.

guarded *adj* (of statements, etc) cautious: *a ~ed answer*.

guard-ian /'gɑ:diən/ *n* [C] (official or pri-

vate) person who guards, esp (legal use) one who is responsible for the care of a young or incapable person and his property.

guardian angel, spirit watching over a person or place.

guard-ian-ship /-ʃɪp/, position of a guardian.

guava /'gwa:və/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) (tropical tree with) acid fruit used for making jelly.

guer-rilla, **guer-illa** /'gə'rɪlə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) man engaged in a guerrilla war.

guer-rilla 'war, fighting by small groups of civilians, usually for a political cause.

guess /ges/ *vt*, *vi* form an opinion, give an answer, make a statement that is not based on careful thought, calculation or definite knowledge: *Can you ~ my weight/what my weight is/how much I weigh?* □ *n* [C] opinion formed by guessing: *make/have a ~ at who took the money*.

'guess-work, (result of) guessing.

guest /gest/ *n* [C] person staying at or paying a visit to another's house or being entertained at a meal: *We're having ~s to dinner*.

'guest-house, superior boarding-house.

'guest-room, bedroom kept for guests.

guff-faw /'gʌfɔ:/ *vi*, *n* [C] (give a) noisy laugh.

guid-ance /'gaɪdəns/ *n* [U] **1** act of guiding; leadership. **2** advice, counsel.

guide /gaɪd/ *n* [C] **1** person who shows others the way, esp a person employed to point out interesting sights on a journey or visit. **2** something that directs or influences (conduct, etc): *Instinct is not always a good ~*. **3** (also **'guide-book**) book for travellers, tourists, etc with information about a place: *a ~ to the British Museum*. **4** book of information; manual: *a ~ to growing roses*. □ *vt* act as guide to: *~ a person to a place*. *You must be ~ed by common sense*.

'Girl 'Guide, ⇨ **girl**.

'guided 'missile, rocket (for use in war) which can be directed while in flight by electronic devices.

guild /gɪld/ *n* [C] (older spelling **gild**) society of persons for helping one another, forwarding common interests, eg trade, social welfare.

guile /gaɪl/ *n* [U] deceit; cunning: *full of ~*.

guile-less *adj*

guille-mot /'gɪlmɒt/ *n* [C] kinds of arctic seabird.

guillo-tine /'gɪləti:n/ *n* [C] **1** machine for beheading (criminals) with a heavy blade sliding in grooves dropped from a height. **2** machine for cutting the edges of books, trimming sheets of paper, etc. **3** (in Parliament) method of stopping obstruction of a bill (by excessive debate) by fixing times for taking votes. □ *vt* use a guillotine on.

guilt /gɪlt/ *n* [U] feeling or condition of having done wrong; responsibility for wrong-doing: *The ~ of the accused man was in doubt*.

guilt-ily /-əli/ *adv*

guilt-less *adj* innocent.

guilty *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) having done wrong: *plead ~y to a crime; be ~y of a crime.* (b) showing or feeling guilt: *a ~y conscience.*

guinea /'ɡɪni/ *n* [C] (abbr **gns**) formerly the sum of twenty-one shillings, for which there was neither coin nor banknote, used in stating prices (eg when buying a horse), etc.

guinea-fowl /'ɡɪni faʊl/ *n* [C] domestic fowl of the pheasant family.

guinea-pig /'ɡɪni piɡ/ *n* [C] **1** short-eared animal like a big rat, often used in experiments. **2** person allowing himself to be used in medical or other experiments.

guitar /ɡɪ'tɑ:(r)/ *n* [C] kinds of stringed musical instrument, played by pulling the strings with the fingers or a piece of plastic, etc.

guitarist, guitar-player.

gulf /ɡʌlf/ *n* **1** part of the sea almost surrounded by land: *the G ~ of Mexico.* **2** deep hollow; chasm; abyss. **3** (fig) dividing line, division (between opinions, etc).

gull¹ /ɡʌl/ *n* [C] (kind of) large, long-winged seabird.

gull² /ɡʌl/ *vi* cheat; deceive: *~ a fool out of his money.* □ *n* [C] person easily gulled.

gullible /-əbl/ *adj* easily deceived.

gulli-bil-ity /ɡʌlə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

gul-let /'ɡʌlɪt/ *n* [C] food passage from the mouth to the stomach; throat.

gully /'ɡʌli/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) narrow channel cut or formed by rainwater, eg on a hillside, or for carrying water away from a building.

gulp /ɡʌlp/ *vi, vi* **1** swallow (food or drink) quickly or greedily: *~ down a cup of tea.* **2** hold back or suppress (as if swallowing); make a gulping motion. □ *n* [C] act of gulping; amount that is gulped.

gum¹ /ɡʌm/ *n* [C] (usually *pl*) firm, pink flesh round the teeth.

gum-boil /'ɡʌmbɔɪl/ *n* [C] boil or abscess on the gums.

gum² /ɡʌm/ *n* **1** [U] sticky substance obtained from some trees, used for sticking things together. **2** [U] gum that has been specially prepared for chewing: *'chewing-~.* **3** (also 'gum-tree) (kinds of) eucalyptus tree. **up a gum-tree**, (sl) in difficulties. **4** [U] rubber. □ *vi* (-mm-) **1** stick together with gum; spread gum on the surface of: *~ two things together* **2 gum up**, (informal) ruin (an activity): *~ up the works.*

'gum boots, high rubber boots.

gummy *adj* (-ier, -iest) sticky.

gump-tion /'ɡʌmpʃn/ *n* [U] (informal) common sense and initiative; qualities likely to bring success.

gun /ɡʌn/ *n* [C] **1** general name for any kind of firearm that sends shells or bullets from a metal tube: *a machine-~.* **stick to one's guns**, maintain one's position against attack or argument. **2** person using a sporting gun, as a member of a shooting party. □ *vi* **gun sb (down)**, shoot with a gun. **be gunning for sb**, seeking to harm, destroy him, his reputa-

tion.

'gun-boat, small warship carrying heavy guns, or long-range missiles.

'gun-carriage, wheeled support of a big gun, or part on which a gun slides when it recoils.

'gun dog, dog trained to retrieve killed birds.

'gun-man, man who uses a gun to rob or kill people.

'gun-metal, alloy of copper and tin or zinc.

'gun-powder, explosive powder used in guns, fireworks, etc.

'gun-room, (in a warship) room for junior officers.

'gun-runner, person engaged in gun-running.

'gun-running, introduction of firearms, secretly and illegally, into a country, eg to help a revolt.

'gun-shot, range of a gun: *be out of/within ~shot.*

'gun-smith, person who makes and repairs small firearms.

gun-ner /'ɡʌnə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (in the army) officer or man in the artillery; (official term) private soldier in an artillery regiment. **2** (in the navy) warrant officer in charge of a battery of guns.

gun-nery, construction and management or firing of large guns.

gun-wale /'ɡʌnl/ *n* [C] upper edge of the side of a boat or a small ship.

gurgle /'ɡɜ:ɡl/ *n* [C,U] bubbling sound as of water flowing from a narrow-necked bottle: *~s of delight.* □ *vi* make this sound: *The baby was gurgling happily.*

guru /'ɡʊrʊ:/ *n* [C] Hindu spiritual teacher.

gush /ɡʌʃ/ *vi* **1** burst, flow, out suddenly: *oil ~ing from a new well; blood ~ing from a wound.* **2** talk with excessive enthusiasm: *girls who ~ over handsome pop stars.* □ *n* [C] sudden outburst or outflow: *a ~ of oil/anger/enthusiasm.*

gush-ing *adj*: *~ing compliments.* ⇨ **2** above.

gus-set /'ɡʌsɪt/ *n* [C] (usually triangular or diamond-shaped) piece of cloth inserted in clothing to add strength or size.

gusty *adj* (-ier, -iest) stormy.

gut /ɡʌt/ *n* [C] **1** (pl) intestines; bowels. **hate sb's guts**, (sl) hate him intensely. **2** (pl) (informal) courage and determination: *a man with plenty of ~s.* **3** [U] strong cord made from the intestines of animals, used for the strings of violins, etc. ⇨ **catgut**. **4** (informal) important parts of something: *the ~s of a car.* □ *vi* (-tt-) **1** take the guts(1) out of (a fish, etc). **2** destroy the inside of or the contents of: *a building ~ted by fire.*

gut-ter /'ɡʌtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** channel or trough fixed under the edge of a roof to carry away rainwater; channel at the side of a road for the same purpose. **2** (fig) streets, esp of a poor district: *the language of the ~, low and vulgar language.*

gutter-snipe poor, badly-dressed child.

gut-tural /'gʌtərəl/ *n* [C] *adj* (sound) produced in the throat.

guy¹ /gaɪ/ *n* [C] rope or chain used to keep something steady or secured, eg to hold a tent in place.

guy² /gaɪ/ *n* [C] 1 figure in the form of a man, dressed in old clothes (eg as burned on 5 Nov in Britain.) 2 (*sl*) man. □ *vt* (*pt, pp* ~ed) ridicule.

guzzle /'gʌzl/ *vi, vt* (*informal*) eat or drink greedily: *guzzling beer*.

gym /dʒɪm/ *n* [C] (*sl*) (short for) gymnasium, gymnastics.

'gym-shoes, = plimsolls.

'gym-slip, sleeveless tunic sometimes worn by girls in GB as part of school uniform.

gym-khana /dʒɪm'kɑ:nə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) public display of sports competitions, esp with horses.

gym-nasium /dʒɪm'neɪzɪəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) room or hall with apparatus for gymnastics and sports.

gym-nast /'dʒɪmnæst/ *n* [C] expert in gymnastics.

gym-nas-tic /dʒɪm'næstɪk/ *adj* of bodily training.

gym-nas-tics *n pl* (forms of) exercises for physical training.

gynae-col-ogy (*US* = **gyne-**) /'gaɪni-'kɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] science of the diseases of women and pregnancies.

gynae-co-logi-cal (*US* = **gyne-**) /'gaɪni-'kɒlədʒɪkəl/ *adj*

gynae-colo-gist (*US* = **gyne-**) /-dʒɪst/ *n* [C] expert in gynaecology.

gypsy /'dʒɪpsɪ/ *n* [C] = gipsy.

gy-rate /'dʒaɪ'reɪt/ *US*: 'dʒaɪ'reɪt/ *vi* move round in circles or spirals; revolve.

gy-ra-tion /'dʒaɪ'reɪʃn/ *n* [C,U] revolving; revolution.

gyro-scope /'dʒaɪrəskəʊp/ *n* [C] heavy wheel which, when spinning fast, keeps steady the object in which it is fixed.

Hh

H, h /eɪtʃ/ (*pl* H's, h's /'eɪtʃɪz/), the eighth letter of the English alphabet. **drop one's h's**, omit the sound /h/, eg by saying 'ot for hot.

ha /ha:/ *int* (used to express surprise, joy, triumph, suspicion, etc. When repeated in print ('Ha! Ha! Ha!') it indicates laughter).

hab-er-dasher /'hæbəðæʃə(r)/ *n* [C] shop-keeper who sells clothing, pins, cotton, etc.

hab-er-dash-ery *n* [U] haberdasher's trade or goods.

habit /'hæbɪt/ *n* 1 [C] person's usual or normal practice, esp one that cannot easily be

given up: *the ~ of smoking*. **fall/get into bad habits**, acquire them. **get out of a habit**, abandon it. 2 [U] usual behaviour: *Are we all creatures of ~?* Do we do things because of habit? 3 [C] dress worn by members of a religious order: *a monk's ~*.

hab-it-able /'hæbɪtəbl/ *adj* fit to be lived in: *The old house is no longer ~*.

habi-tat /'hæbɪtæt/ *n* [C] (of plants, animals) usual natural place and conditions of growth.

habi-tation /'hæbɪteɪʃn/ *n* [U] living in: *houses that were not fit for ~*.

ha-bit-ual /hə'bɪtʃuəl/ *adj* 1 regular, usual: *He took his ~ seat in the train*. 2 behaving by habit; having a regular habit: *a ~ liar*.

ha-bit-ually /-tʃuəl/ *adv* as a habit: *~ly late for school*.

ha-bitu-ate /hə'bɪtʃuət/ *vt* accustom (the usual word): *~ oneself to hard work*.

habi-tude /'hæbɪtju:d/ *US*: -tu:d/ *n* [U] custom; tendency; usual way of acting or doing things.

haci-enda /'hæsi'endə/ *n* (*pl* ~s) (in Latin American countries) large estate with a dwelling house.

hack¹ /hæk/ *vi, vt* cut roughly or clumsily; chop: *He ~ed at the branch until it fell to the ground*.

'hack-saw, one with a replaceable blade in a frame, for cutting through metal.

hack² /hæk/ *n* [C] 1 horse that may be hired. 2 person paid to do hard and uninteresting work as a writer.

hackles /'hæklz/ *n pl* long feathers on the neck of the domestic cock. ⇨ **make**¹ (13).

hack-ney /'hæknɪ/ *n* [C] kind of horse for riding or driving.

'hackney-carriage, vehicle, eg a taxi, that may be hired.

hack-neyed *adj* (esp of sayings) too common; repeated too often.

had /həd/ ⇨ **have**¹.

had-dock /'hædək/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) sea-fish much used for food.

Hades /'heɪdɪz/ *n* (in Greek myth) place where the spirits of the dead go.

Hadji /'hædʒɪ/ *n* (title of a) Muslim pilgrim who has been to Mecca.

hæ-mo-glo-bin /'hi:mə'gləʊbɪn/ *n* [U] = hemoglobin.

hæ-mo-phil-ia /'hi:mə'fɪliə/ *n* [U] = hemophilia.

hæ-m-or-rhage /'hemərɪdʒ/ *n pl* = hemorrhage.

hæ-m-or-rhoids /'hemərɔɪd/ *n pl* = hemorrhoids.

haft /hɑ:ft/ *n* [C] handle of an axe, knife, dagger, etc.

hag /hæg/ *n* [C] witch; ugly old woman, esp one who does, or is thought to do, evil.

hag-gard /'hægəd/ *adj* (of a person, his face) looking tired and lined, esp from worry, not sleeping.

hag-gis /'hæɡɪs/ *n* [C,U] Scottish dish of

parts of a sheep, mixed with oatmeal, and cooked in a sheep's stomach.

haggle /'hægl/ *vi* argue, dispute: *haggling with the Manager over/about one's salary.*

hail /'heɪl/ *n* 1 [U] frozen rain-drops falling from the sky. 2 (usually with *a, an*) something coming in great numbers and force: *a ~ of blows.* □ *vi, vt* 1 (of hail) come down: *It ~ed during the morning.* 2 (of blows, etc) come, send down: *They ~ed curses down on us.*

'hail-stone, small piece of hail.

'hail-storm, storm with a fall of hail.

hail² /'heɪl/ *vt, vi* 1 greet; call out to (so as to attract attention): *He was ~ed as a hero. Let's ~ a taxi, shall we?* 2 come from: *Where does the ship ~ from?* □ *n* [C] greeting.

hair /heə(r)/ *n* 1 [U] (collective *sing*) all the growths like threads esp on the human head and on the skin of animals; growth like a thread as on the stems and leaves of some plants: *brush one's ~; have one's ~ cut.* **keep your 'hair on**, (*sl*) don't lose your temper. **let one's 'hair down**, (*fig*) relax after a period of being formal. **make one's 'hair stand on end**, fill one with fright or horror. 2 [C] single thread of hair: *find a ~ in the soup.* **split hairs**, make or pretend to see differences of meaning, distinctions, etc, so small as to be unimportant. **not turn a hair**, give no sign of being troubled.

'hair('s)-breadth, very small distance: *escape by a ~'s breadth.*

'hair-brush, brush for the hair.

'hair-cut, act or style of cutting the hair.

'hair-do, (*informal*) style of a woman's hair.

'hair-dresser, person who styles hair.

'hair-line, (a) area where the line of roots of hair join the forehead. (b) width of a hair: (used as an adjective) *a ~line fracture.*

'hair-net, net for keeping the hair in place.

'hair-pin, (woman's) bent pin for keeping the hair in place.

'hairpin 'bend, sharp bend on a road.

'hair-raising *adj* terrifying.

'hair-slide, ornamental clip for keeping hair in place.

'hair-spring, very delicate spring in a watch, controlling the balance-wheel.

'hair-style, way in which hair(1) is cut, curled, etc.

hair-less *adj* bald.

hairy *adj* (-ier, -iest) of or like, covered with, hair: *a ~y chest.*

hale /heɪl/ *adj* (only in) **hale and hearty**, strong and healthy.

half /hɑ:f/ *US: hæf/ n* (*pl* halves /hɑ:vz *US: hævz/*) *adj, adv* 1 one of two equal or corresponding parts into which a thing is divided: *H~ of 6 is 3. Two halves make a whole. Two pounds and a ~|Two and a ~ pounds; ~ an hour.* **go halves (with sb) (in sth)**, share equally. **too clever, etc by half**, far too clever, etc. 2 (as an *adv*) to the extent of a half; to a considerable degree: *meat that is only ~*

cooked. half-dead, (informal) exhausted, very tired. not half bad, ⇨ bad¹(4).

'half-back, (in football/hockey, etc) (position of a) player (defender) between the forwards and the backs.

'half-baked *adj* (*informal*) foolish; crude and inexperienced: *a ~baked 'deal/plan.*

'half-breed, (a) person with parents of different races (*half-caste* is preferred). (b) offspring of two animals or plants of different species.

'half-brother/-sister, brother/sister by one parent only.

'half-caste, half-breed (a).

'half a 'dozen, half-'dozen, six.

'half-'hearted *adj* done with, showing, little interest or enthusiasm: *a ~hearted at'tempt.* Hence, **'half-'heartedly** *adv*

'half-'holiday, day of which half is free from work or duty.

'half-'hourly *adj, adv* (done, occurring) every half hour.

'half-'mast, (of a flag) the position, near the middle of a mast, to indicate mourning: *Flags were at ~-mast for the President's funeral.*

'half-'measures *n pl* reduced contribution, effort, (making something, eg a policy, ineffective).

halfpenny /'heɪpəni/ *US: 'hæfəpni/ n* [C] British coin worth half a penny.

'half-'price *adv adj* (at) half the usual price.

'half-'starved, very hungry.

'half-'time, (a) work and pay for half the usual time: *The workers are on ~time this month.* (b) interval between the two halves of a game of football, etc: *The score at ~time was 2-2.*

'half-truth, statement that conveys only a part of the truth.

'half-'way *adj* (a) (of a house, etc) at an equal distance from two towns, etc. (b) going half the way; not thorough: *In an emergency ~-way measures are usually unsatisfactory.* □ *adv* to or at half the distance. **meet a person half-way**, ⇨ meet¹(4).

'half-'witted *adj* having low intelligence. Hence, **'half-wit** *n* [C]

'half-'yearly *adj, adv* (done, occurring) every half year.

hall /hɔ:l/ *n* [C] 1 (building with a) large room for meetings, concerts, public business, etc: *the Festival H~, for concerts, in London; 'dance-~s.* 2 (in castles, universities) large room for meals. 3 building for university students: *a ~ of residence.* 4 (in England) large country house, usually one that belongs to the chief landowner in the district. 5 passage, space, into which the main entrance or front door of a building opens: *Leave your hat and coat in the ~.*

'hall-mark *n* [C] (a) mark used at Goldsmiths' Hall for marking the standard of gold and silver in articles (as a guarantee of quality). (b) any indication of quality or excel-

lence. □ vt stamp a hallmark on.

hal-le-lu-jah /hæl'lʊ:dʒə/ n [C], int praise to God.

hallo /hə'ləʊ/ int, n [C] cry to attract attention; greeting.

hal-low /'hæləʊ/ vt (usually passive) make holy; regard as holy: ~ed ground.

Hal-low-e'en /hæləʊ'i:n/ 31 Oct, eve of All Saints' Day.

hal-luci-na-tion /hə'lʊ:s'i:neɪʃən/ n [C, U] (instance of) seeming to see something not actually present: *Some drugs cause ~s.*

hal-luci-na-tory /hə'lʊ:sɪnətəri/ US: -tɔ:ri/ adj

halo /'heɪləʊ/ n [C] (pl ~es or ~s) 1 circle of light round the sun or moon. 2 (in paintings) ring round or above the heads of Christ or sacred figures.

halt¹ /hɔ:lt/ n [C] 1 **call a halt (to)**, (a) order a short stop on a march or journey. (b) (fig) order an end: *It's time to call a ~ to vandalism.* 2 stop or pause: *The train came to a ~.* □ vi, vt 1 stop marching. 2 bring to an end.

halt² /hɔ:lt/ vi hesitate; act in a hesitating way: *speak in a ~ing voice.*

halt-ing-ly adv in a hesitating way.

hal-ter /'hɔ:ltə(r)/ n [C] 1 rope or leather strap put round a horse's head (for leading or fastening the horse). 2 rope used for hanging a person.

halve /hæv/ US: hæv/ vt 1 divide into two equal parts: ~ an apple. 2 lessen by one half: *The supersonic plane has ~d the time needed for crossing the Atlantic.*

halves /hæ:vz/ US: hævz/ pl of half.

hal-yard /'hæljəd/ n [C] rope for raising or lowering a sail or flag.

ham /hæm/ n 1 [C] upper part of a pig's leg, salted and dried or smoked; [U] this as meat: a ~ sandwich. 2 [C] (of animals) back of the thigh, buttock. 3 [C] (sth) poor actor or performer. 4 [C] amateur operator who sends and receives radio messages: a 'radio ~. □ vt, vi (-mm-) (informal) overact.

ham-'handed/-'fisted adj clumsy in using the hands.

ham-burger /'hæmbɜ:gə(r)/ n [C] 1 minced or chopped meat, made into round flat cakes and fried. 2 sandwich or bread roll filled with this.

ham-let /'hæmlɪt/ n [C] group of houses in the country; small village, esp one without a church.

ham-mer /'hæmə(r)/ n [C] 1 tool with a heavy metal head used for driving in nails, etc. **be/go at it hammer and 'tongs**, fight, argue, etc with great energy and noise. 2 athletic competition in which a heavy metal ball fixed to a long wire is thrown as far as possible. 3 (in a piano, etc) part like a hammer that strikes the strings. 4 part of a gun that strikes and explodes the charge. 5 wooden mallet used by an auctioneer. **be/come under the hammer**, be sold by auction. 6 bone in the ear. □ vt, vi 1 strike or beat (as if) with a

hammer: ~ in a nail/~ a nail in; ~ at the door, eg with a stick or one's fists; ~ at the keys, play the piano loudly, without feeling. 2 (fig) work hard: ~ away at a problem/a solution. 3 (fig) force: ~ an idea into his head. 4 (informal) heavily defeat (a person) in war or in games.

ham-mock /'hæmək/ n [C] hanging bed of canvas or rope network.

ham-per¹ /'hæmpə(r)/ n [C] basket, etc with a lid, esp one used for carrying food: a 'picnic ~.

ham-per² /'hæmpə(r)/ vt prevent free movement or activity: ~ed by heavy boots.

ham-ster /'hæmstə(r)/ n [C] rodent like a large rat, kept as a pet.

ham-string /'hæmstriŋ/ vt (pt, pp -strung /-straŋ/) 1 cripple (a person or animal) by cutting the tendon(s) at the back of the knee(s). 2 (fig) destroy the power or efficiency of. □ n [C] tendon at the back of the knee.

hand¹ /hænd/ n [C] 1 part of the human arm beyond the wrist. **close/near at/to hand**, near; within reach: *He lives close at ~.* **by hand**, (a) without the use of machinery: *Are your socks knitted by ~/~-'knitted?* (b) without the use of a post office: *a letter delivered by ~*, brought by a messenger. **from hand to hand**, from one person to another: *pass buckets of water from ~ to ~.* **in hand**, (a) reserved; ready for use: *have money in ~ for paying the bill.* (b) receiving attention: *the work is in ~.* **hand in hand**, (a) holding hands: *walk ~ in hand.* (b) in cooperation: *work ~ in ~ with the police.* **go hand in hand**, be connected: *War and misery go ~ in ~.* **in the hands of**, being looked after, managed by: *evidence in the ~s of the police.* **in good hands**, being well cared for. **Hands off!** Don't touch/interfere! **off one's hands**, free from one's responsibility. **on hand**, available: *have new designs on ~ in the shops.* **on one's hands**, being one's responsibility or burden: *I've too many children on my ~s.* **out of hand**, out of control: *He has got out of ~.* **Hands up!** Raise your hands! **eat/feed out of sb's hand**, (a) (of an animal) be tame. (b) (fig) be ready to obey without hesitation. **give/lend a hand**, help with, take part in, doing something: *Please give me a ~ with this suitcase.* **have/give sb a free hand**, ⇨ free¹(4). **have/take a hand in sth**, be involved: *Did he have a ~ in the burglary?* **have sth (well) in hand**, be dealing with something (well). **have one's hands full**, be very busy. **have/get the upper hand**, have/get control, an advantage, over. **lay (one's) hands on**, ⇨ lay²(2). **not lift a hand**, make no attempt (to help). **live from hand to mouth**, spend all one's money as soon as it is earned. **(rule) with a heavy hand**, with great force, discipline. **shake hands (with sb)**, grasp his hand as a greeting, to show agreement, etc. **take a hand (in)**, accept an involvement in. **take sb/sth in hand**, accept control of: *These*

noisy children must be taken in ~. **wait on sb hand and foot**, do whatever he asks. **wash one's hands of**, refuse to be involved, responsible, any longer. **wit hands down**, win easily and convincingly. **2 (pl)** power; possession; responsibility: *The matter is in your ~s*, you must decide how to deal with it. **change hands**, pass to another owner. **3 (sing only)** influence or agency: *The ~ of an enemy has been at work here*. **play into sb's hands**, give him the advantage. **4 at first/second, etc hand**, directly/indirectly. ⇨ second-hand. **5 (sing only)** skill in using one's hands: *Why don't you try your ~ at embroidery?* **keep one's hand in**, practise in order to be skilled: *practise the piano every day to keep one's ~ in*. **try one's hand at**, attempt something to see if you can do it. **6** person who does what is indicated by the context; performer: *He's an old ~ at this sort of work*, has long experience of it. **7** workman; member of a ship's crew: *The factory has taken on 200 extra ~s*. *All ~s on deck!* All seamen are needed on deck! **8** pointer or indicator on the dial of a watch, clock or other instrument: *the 'hour/minute/second' ~ of a watch*. **9** position or direction (to right or left). **on the, one hand (and) on the other hand**, (used to indicate contrasted points of view, arguments, etc). **10 (sing only)** handwriting: *He writes a good/legible ~*. **11** (in card-games, eg bridge) (a) (number of) cards dealt to, held by, a player at one time: *a good/bad/poor ~*. (b) player at cards: *We have only three players—we need a fourth ~*. (c) one round in a game of cards: *Let's play one more ~*. **12 [C]** unit of measurement, about four inches (10-16 cm), used for the height of a horse (from the ground to the top of the shoulder). **13 (informal)** applause by clapping; *give a performer a good ~*.

'hand-bag, woman's bag for her money, keys, etc.

'hand-ball, game played by hitting a ball with the hand against a wall or between two goals.

'hand-brake, brake in a motor-vehicle, used when the vehicle is stationary.

'hand-cart, small cart pushed or pulled by hand.

'hand-clap, clapping.

'hand-cuff *n* [C] one of a pair of metal rings joined by a chain, fastened round a prisoner's wrists. □ *vt* put handcuffs on.

hand-ful, (a) as much or as many as can be held in one hand. (b) small number: *Only a ~ful of people came*. (c) (informal) person or animal difficult to control: *That young boy of hers is quite a ~ful*.

'hand-made *adj* made by hand (contrasted with machine-made).

'hand-picked *adj* carefully selected.

'hand-rail, railing along the side of a staircase, etc.

'hand-shake, greeting given by grasping a

person's hand with one's own.

'hand-stand, acrobatic feat of supporting oneself in an upright position on the hands: *do a ~stand*.

'hand-writing, (person's style of) writing by hand.

hand² /hænd/ *vt* give or pass (to a person); help with the hand(s): *Please ~ me that book/ ~ that book to me*. **hand sth down (to sb)**, pass by tradition, inheritance, etc: *We cannot always observe the traditions ~ed down to us from the past*. **hand sth on (to sb)**, send, give, to another: *Please ~ on the magazine to your friends*. **hand sth out**, distribute. **hand sb over**, deliver a person to authority: *~ him over to the police*. **hand sth over (to sb)**, transfer: *H ~ over that knife at once*. **hand it to sb**, (informal) give him the credit that is his due: *He's done well! You've got to ~ it to him*.

'hand-out, (a) printed statement, leaflet, eg political, distributed free of charge. (b) something given free of charge, eg money, clothes.

handi-cap /'hændikæp/ *n* [C] **1** (competition, race, in which there is a) disadvantage imposed on a competitor to make the chances of success more equal for all. **2** anything likely to lessen one's chance of success: *Poor eyesight is a ~ to a student*. □ *vt* (-pp-) give or be a handicap to: *~ped children*, suffering from a (physical or mental) disability.

handi-craft /'hændikra:ft/ *US*: -kræft/ *n* [C] art or craft needing skill with the hands, eg needlework, pottery.

handi-work /'hændiwɜ:k/ *n* **1** [U] work done by hand. **2** [C] thing made, by hand. **3** [U] something done by a named person: *That's some of Smith's ~*.

hand-ker-chief /'hæŋkətʃif/ *n* [C] **1** square piece of cotton, etc for blowing the nose into or wiping the face. **2** similar square worn, eg round the neck.

handle /'hændl/ *n* [C] part of a tool, cup, bucket, door, drawer, etc by which it may be held in the hand. **fly off the handle**, (informal) get into a rage and lose self-control. □ *vi* **1** touch with, take up in, the hands: *Gelignite is dangerous stuff to ~*. **2** manage; deal with: *control: Can you ~ the situation?* **3** treat; behave towards: *The speaker was roughly ~ed by the crowd*. **4** buy and sell: *This shop does not ~ imported goods*.

'handle-bar, (often *pl*) bar with a handle at each end, for steering a bicycle, etc.

han-dler, person who trains and controls an animal, eg a police dog.

hand-some /'hænsəm/ *adj* **1** of fine appearance; (of men) good-looking: *What a ~ old building it is!* *He's so ~*. **2** (of gifts, behaviour) generous: *He said some very ~ things about you*. *She made a ~ gift to the school*.

hand-some-ly *adv* in a generous manner.

handy /'hændi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** (of persons) clever with the hands. **2** (of things) convenient to handle; easily used: *A good toolbox is a ~*

thing to have in the house. **come in handy**, be useful at some time or other: *Don't throw that plastic bag away; it may come in ~.* **3** (of things, places) not far away; available for use: *Always keep a first-aid kit ~.*

handy-man, person clever at doing odd jobs of various kinds.

handily /-əli/ *adv*

hang¹ /hæŋ/ *n* (sing only) **1** way in which a thing hangs: *the ~ of a coat/skirt.* **2 get the hang of sth.** (a) see how something works or is managed: *I've been trying to get the ~ of this new typewriter.* (b) see the meaning or significance of what is said or written: *I don't quite get the ~ of your argument.*

hang² /hæŋ/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp hung /hʌŋ/ or, for 2 below, ~ed) (For uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 5 below.) **1** support, be supported, from above so that the lower end is free: *~ a lamp from the ceiling. H~ your coat on that hook.* **2** (pt, pp ~ed) put, be put, to death by hanging with a rope around the neck: *He was ~ed for murder.* **3** (various uses) ~ wallpaper, attach it to a wall with paste: *~ a door, fasten it on hinges.* **hang fire**, (of events) be slow in developing. **hang by a hair/a single thread**, (of a person's fate, etc) be in a delicate or critical state. **4** leave, eg meat, birds, hanging until in the right condition for eating: *How long has this meat hung for?*

5 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

hang about/(a)round, stand doing nothing definite, loiter: *boys ~ing about at street corners.*

hang back, show unwillingness to act or advance: *When volunteers were asked for, not one man hung back.*

hang on, (a) hold tight: *He hung on until the rope broke.* (b) persevere: *It's hard work, but if you ~ on long enough you'll succeed.* (c) (informal) wait (esp when telephone).

hang sth out, (a) hang (wet clothes, etc) from a line to dry. (b) display: *~ out flags for the Queen's visit.*

hang together, (a) (of persons) support one another; act in unison: *If we all ~ together, our plan will succeed.* (b) fit well together: *Their accounts don't ~ together, are inconsistent.*

hang up, replace the receiver at the end of a telephone conversation. **be hung up**, (informal) be frustrated; feel inhibited: *Everything seems to have gone wrong—I feel really hung up about things.*

hang-man, executioner who hangs criminals.

hang-over, (a) unpleasant after-effects of drinking too much alcohol. (b) survival of out-of-date news, rules, etc.

hang-up, (feeling of) frustration, etc. ⇨ be hung at 5 above.

hang-gar /'hæŋɡə(r)/ *n* [C] building for keeping

aircraft.

hang-er /'hæŋɡə(r)/ *n* [C] device, loop, etc to, on or by which something is hung: *a 'coat-~.* **hanger-lon**, (pl ~s-on) person who forces his company on another or others in the hope of profit or advantage.

hang-ing /'hæŋŋ/ *n* 1 [C] death by hanging: *There were three ~s here last month.* **2** (usually pl) curtains, tapestry (to be) hung on a wall.

hank /hæŋk/ *n* [C] coil of wool, silk, etc.

han-ker /'hæŋkə(r)/ *vi* have a strong desire: *~ for sympathy/after wealth.*

han-ker-ing *n*: have a ~ing for/after fame.

hanky /'hæŋki/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (informal) = handkerchief.

hap-haz-ard /hæp'hæzəd/ *adj, adv* accidental; (by) chance.

hap-pen /'hæpən/ *vi* **1** take place; come about: *How did it ~? If anything ~s to him (= If he meets with an accident), let me know.* **2** chance; have the fortune: *I ~ed to be out when he called.* **3** find by chance: *I ~ed on just the thing I'd been looking for.*

hap-pen-ing, (a) (often pl) event: *There have been strange ~ings here lately.* (b) (sl) spontaneous entertainment involving frenzied outbursts of excitement.

happy /'hæpi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** fortunate; lucky; feeling or expressing pleasure, contentment, satisfaction, etc: *Their marriage has been a ~ one.* **2** (in polite formulas) pleased: *We shall be ~ to accept your kind invitation.* **3** (of language, conduct, suggestions) well suited to the situation: *a ~ thought/idea.*

happy-go-lucky *adj* carefree.

hap-pily /-pəli/ *adv*

hap-pi-ness *n* [U]

hara-kiri /,hərə'kiri/ *n* [C] suicide by disembowelment as was practised by Japanese men when they believed they had failed in their duty.

har-angue /hə'ræŋ/ *n* [C] long, loud (often scolding) talk or speech. □ *vt, vi* make such a speech (to).

har-ass /'hærəs US: hɑ'res/ *vt* **1** trouble; worry: *~ed by the cares of a large family.* **2** make repeated attacks on: *Long ago England was ~ed by the Vikings.*

har-ass-ment *n* [U]

harbour (US = -bor) /'hɑ:bə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** place of shelter for ships: *a natural ~, eg an inlet of the sea.* **2** (fig) any place of safety or shelter. □ *vt, vi* **1** give lodging or shelter to; protect; conceal: *~ an escaped criminal.* **2** hold in the mind: *~ thoughts of revenge.* **3** come to anchor (in a harbour).

har-bour-age /-ɪdʒ/, (place of) shelter.

hard¹ /hɑ:d/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (contrasted with soft) firm; not yielding to the touch; not easily cut; solid: *as ~ as rock.* **2** (contrasted with easy) difficult (to understand or explain): *She found it ~ to make up her mind. That man is ~ to please/He is a ~ man to please.* **3** causing unhappiness, discomfort, or pain; difficult to

bear: *have/be given a ~ time*, experience difficulties, misfortunes, etc. **learn sth the hard way**, by suffering, making a tiring effort, etc. **4** severe; harsh: *a ~ father*; ~ words, showing no sympathy. **take a hard line**, be uncompromising. **5** (of the body) having hard muscles and not much fat: *Exercises soon made the boys ~*. **6** done, doing, (something) with much effort or force; strenuous: *a ~ worker*. **7** (of the weather) severe: *a ~ winter/frost*. **8** (of sounds) *The letter 'c' is hard in 'cat'. The letter 'g' is ~ in 'gun' and soft in 'gin'*. **9** (various uses) **hard and fast (rules, etc.)**, that cannot be altered. **hard of hearing**, deaf.

'hard-back, book bound in a hard (= stiff) cover (contrasted with *paperback*).

'hard-board, kind of material like plywood in appearance and use.

'hard 'cash, coins and notes, not a cheque or a promise to pay.

'hard court, tennis court with a hard surface, not of grass.

'hard 'currency, one which, because of an adverse balance of trade, a country has difficulty in getting enough of.

'hard 'drugs, those likely to lead to addiction, eg *heroin*.

'hard 'facts, reliable facts.

'hard-'headed *adj* not sentimental; business-like.

'hard-'hearted *adj* not showing sympathy.

'hard 'labour, hard physical work (done by criminals as a punishment).

'hard 'liquor/'drink, with high alcoholic content eg *whisky, gin, brandy*.

'hard 'luck/'lines, worse fortune than is deserved.

'hard 'shoulder, hard surface at the side of a motorway, to be used in an emergency.

'hard-ware, (a) metal goods for domestic use, eg *pans, locks*. (b) (computers) mechanical equipment (contrasted with information and programmes, called *software*).

'hard-wood, heavy wood, eg *oak, teak*.

'hard-working, working hard (6).

hard² /'hɑ:d/ *adv* **1** with great energy; strenuously; with all one's force: *try ~ to succeed*. **2** severely; heavily: *freezing/raining ~*. **3** with difficulty; with a struggle; painfully: *my ~ earned 'money*. **be hard up**, be short of money. ⇨ also die² (1). **4** so as to be hard (1), solid: ~-boiled; ~-boiled 'eggs.

harden /'hɑ:dn/ *vt, vi* make or become hard, strong, hardy, etc: *a ~ed criminal*, one who shows no signs of shame or repentance.

hard-ly /'hɑ:dl/ *adv* **1** only just; not quite; scarcely: *I ~ know her. I'm so tired I can ~ walk*. **2** (used to suggest that something is improbable, unlikely or unreasonable): *You can ~ expect me to lend you money again. I need ~ say* (= It is almost unnecessary for me to say) *that I am innocent*. **3** (negative in meaning) almost no, not, never: *He ~ ever goes to bed be-*

fore midnight. There's ~ any coal left. H~ anybody (= Very few people) *came to the meeting*.

hard-ship /'hɑ:dfɪp/ *n* **1** [C] circumstance that causes discomfort or suffering: *the ~s of war*. **2** [U] severe suffering: *bear ~ without complaining*.

hardy /'hɑ:di/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** strong; able to endure suffering or hardship: *A few ~ men broke the ice on the lake and had a swim*. **2** (of plants) able to survive frost: ~ annuals. **3** bold; ready to face danger.

hardi-ness *n* [U]

hare /'heə(r)/ *n* [C] fast-running field animal with long ears and a divided upper lip, like but larger than a rabbit. **mad as a (March) hare**, very mad. ⇨ *vi* run fast: *They ~d off*.

'hare-'brained *adj* rash; wild: *n ~brained scheme*.

'hare-'lip, person's upper lip divided (from birth) like that of a hare.

harem /'heərəm/ *n* [C] women's part of a Muslim household: women living in it.

hari-cot /'hærɪkɒt/ *n* [C] (also ~ *bean*) kidney bean; French bean.

hark /'hɑ:k/ *vi* **1** (informal) listen to: *Just ~ at him!* **2** **hark back (to)**, refer to something done or said earlier.

har-le-quin /'hɑ:ləkɪn/ *n* [C] character as in Italian comedy or English pantomime.

har-lot /'hɑ:lɒt/ *n* [C] (archaic, or abusive) prostitute.

harm /'hɑ:m/ *n* [U] damage; injury: *It will do you no ~. He meant no ~. out of harm's 'way*, safe. ⇨ *vi* cause harm to.

harm-ful /-fl/ *adj* causing harm (to).

harm-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

harm-less *adj* (a) not doing harm (to): ~less snakes. (b) innocent; inoffensive: *Several ~less spectators were hurt*.

harm-less-ly *adv*

har-mon-ica /'hɑ:mənɪkə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) kinds of musical instruments using metal bars, eg the mouth-organ.

har-moni-ous /'hɑ:məniəs/ *adj* **1** pleasingly or satisfactorily arranged: *a ~ group of buildings*. **2** in agreement; friendly: ~ neighbours. **3** tuneful.

har-moni-ous-ly *adv*

har-mo-nium /'hɑ:məniəm/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) musical instrument with a keyboard and metal reeds, supplied with wind by means of bellows.

har-mon-ize (also -ise) /'hɑ:mənaɪz/ *vt, vi* **1** bring (one thing) into, be in, harmony (with another). **2** (music) add notes (to a melody) to make chords. **3** (music) sing or play an instrument in harmony.

har-mon-iz-ation (also -isation) /'hɑ:mənaɪ'zeɪʃn/ *n* [U]

har-mo-ny /'hɑ:məni/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] agreement (of feeling, interests, opinions, etc): *rac-ial ~*. **2** [C, U] (instance or example of) pleasing combination of related things: *the ~ of*

colour in nature. **3** [C,U] (music) pleasing combination of notes sounded together to make chords.

har-ness /'hɑ:nɪs/ *n* [U] **1** (collective *sing*) all the leatherwork and metalwork by which a horse is controlled and fastened to the cart, waggon, plough, etc that it pulls. **2** arrangement of straps, etc for fastening something to the body, eg a parachute. \square *vi* **1** put a harness on (a horse). **2** use (a river, waterfall, etc) to produce (esp electric) power.

harp /hɑ:p/ *n* [C] upright musical instrument with vertical strings played with the fingers. \square *vi* **1** play the harp. **2** (fig) talk repeatedly or tediously about: *She is always ~ing on about her misfortunes.*

harp-ist /-ɪst/ *n*, person who plays the harp.

har-poon /hɑ:'pu:n/ *n* [C] spear on a rope, thrown by hand or fired from a gun, for catching whales and other large sea-animals. \square *vt* strike with a harpoon.

harp-si-chord /'hɑ:psɪkɔ:d/ *n* [C] instrument like a piano, popular from the 16th to the 18th centuries.

har-rier /'hæriə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** hound used for hunting hares. **2** cross-country runner.

har-row /'hærəʊ/ *n* [C] heavy frame with metal teeth or discs for breaking up ground after ploughing. \square *vi* use a harrow. **2** (fig) distress (the feelings): *a ~ing tale of misfortunes.*

harry /'hæri/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) **1** attack frequently: *The Vikings used to ~ the English coast.* **2** annoy or worry: *money-lenders ~ing their debtors.*

harsh /hɑ:f/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** rough and disagreeable, esp to the senses: *a ~ voice.* **2** stern, cruel, severe: *a ~ judge/punishment.*

harsh-ly *adv*

harsh-ness *n* [U]

hart /hɑ:t/ *n* [C] adult male of (esp red) deer.

har-vest /'hɑ:vɪst/ *n* [C] **1** (season for) cutting and gathering in of grain and other food crops; quantity obtained. **2** (fig) result of action or behaviour: *reap the ~ of one's hard work.* \square *vi* cut, gather, dig up, a crop: *~ rice.*

harvest 'festival, service of thanksgiving in Christian churches after the harvest has been gathered.

har-ves-ter (a) person who harvests. (b) machine for cutting and gathering grain, esp the kind that also binds the grain into sheaves or (combine-'harvester) threshes the grain.

has \diamond have¹.

hash /hæʃ/ *vt* chop (meat) into small pieces. \square *n* **1** [U] (dish of) cooked chopped meat. **2** *make a hash of sth*, (fig) do it very badly, make a mess of it.

hash-ish, hash-eesh /'hæʃi:ʃ/ *n* [U] = cannabis.

hasn't /'hæznt/ = *has not*. \diamond have¹.

hasp /hæsp/ *n* [C] metal fastening of a padlock used with a staple.

hassle /'hæsl/ *n* [U] (informal) irritation;

mental struggle: *Having to fill in this long application is a real ~.* \square *vt* irritate.

has-sock /'hæsək/ *n* [C] cushion for kneeling on, eg in church.

haste /heɪst/ *n* [U] quickness of movement; hurry: *Why all this ~?* \diamond speed.

hasten /'heɪsn/ *vi, vt* **1** move or act with speed: *~ to tell him the good news.* **2** cause to or to be done, to happen quickly or earlier: *Artificial heating ~s the growth of plants.*

hasty /'heɪsti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) said, made or done (too) quickly: *~ preparations.*

hast-ily /-əli/ *adv*

hasti-ness *n* [U]

hat /hæt/ *n* [C] covering for the head worn out of doors. **old hat**, a rubbish. (b) well known *take one's hat off to*, (fig) express admiration for. *talk through one's hat*, (informal) talk foolishly.

hat-ter, person who makes or sells hats. **as mad as a hatter**, very mad.

hatch¹ /hætʃ/ *n* [C] **1** (movable covering over an) opening in a door or floor, esp ('hatch-way) one in a ship's deck through which cargo is lowered and raised. **2** opening in a wall between two rooms, esp a kitchen and a dining room, through which dishes, etc are passed.

'hatch-back, car with a flap at the back for loading or unloading.

hatch² /hætʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) break out (of an egg): *~ chickens.* **2** think out and produce (a plan, etc).

hatchet /'hætʃɪt/ *n* [C] light, short-handled axe. *bury the hatchet*, stop quarrelling or fighting.

hatch-way /'hætʃweɪ/ *n* \diamond hatch¹.

hate /heɪt/ *vi* **1** have a great dislike of or for: *My cat ~s dogs.* **2** regret: *I ~ to trouble you.* \square *n* [U] extreme dislike.

hate-ful /'heɪtfl/ *adj* causing hatred or strong dislike: *The bloodshed was ~.*

hate-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

hatred /'heɪtrɪd/ *n* [U] hate: *look with ~.*

hat-ter /'hætə(r)/ *n* \diamond hat.

haughty /'hɔ:ti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) having or showing a high opinion of oneself; arrogant: *treating staff with ~ contempt.*

haught-ily /-əli/ *adv*

haugh-ti-ness *n* [U]

haul /hɔ:l/ *vt, vi* pull (with effort or force): *They ~ed the boat up the beach.* \square *n* [C] **1** act of hauling. **2** distance along which something is hauled. **3** amount gained, esp of fish hauled up in a net. **4** (fig) catch: *The thief made a good ~, stole many valuables.*

haul-age /'hɔ:ldʒ/ *n* [U] transport (of goods).

haul-ier /'hɔ:liə(r)/ *n* [C] person or firm that contracts to carry goods by road.

haunch /'hɔ:ntʃ/ *n* [C] (in man and animals) part of the body between the ribs and the thighs: *a dog sitting on its ~es.*

haunt /hɔ:nt/ *vi* **1** visit, be with, habitually or repeatedly. **2** (esp of ghosts and spirits) appear

repeatedly in. **3** return to the mind repeatedly: *constantly ~ed by fear of discovery.* □ *n* [C] place frequently visited by the person(s) named: *a ~ of criminals.*

have¹ /usual form həv; strong form hæv/ auxiliary verb (3rd person sing **has** /usual form həz; strong form hæz/; pt, pp **had** /usual form həd; strong form hæd/; negative forms **haven't** /'hævnt/, **hasn't** /'hæznt/, **hadn't** /'hædnt/) **1** (used in forming the perfect tenses and the perfect infinitive): *I ~ /I've finished. He has / He's gone. H~ you done it? Yes, I ~. No, I ~n't. I shall ~ done it by next week.* **2** (used to form an equivalent of an if-clause): *Had I (= If I had) known, ... ⇨ if(1).*

have² /hæv/ verb (3rd person sing **has** /hæz/; pt, pp **had** /hæd/; negative forms **haven't** /'hævnt/, **hasn't** /'hæznt/, **hadn't** /'hædnt/) (used in the negative and interrogative) without 'do' in GB usage, but not always in US usage; in informal style often replaced by *have got*, eg *I've got for I ~* **1** (in sentences where *do* can be replaced using the verb 'be'): *I ~ no doubt (= There is no doubt in my mind) that ...* **2** possess; own: *He's (got) a house in the country/five pounds. Has she blue eyes or brown eyes? Are her eyes blue or brown? (Note: in US usage do is common: Does she ~ blue eyes? In GB informal style, the pp got is common: Has she got blue eyes?)* **3** (used to show various connections): *How many children ~ they got.* **4** (equivalent to *be + adj + inf*): *Will you ~ the kindness/goodness (= Please be kind or good enough) to hand me that book. (informal) (often with got) hold or keep in the mind; exercise some quality of the mind; experience (some emotion): H~ you (got) any idea where he lives?* **6** (used in the inf only and always stressed) allow; endure: *I won't ~ such conduct.*

have³ (for pronunciations ⇨ **have²**) *vt* (used in the negative and interrogative with or without 'do') **1** (expressing obligation or necessity): *You ~n't (got) to go to school today, ~ you? We had to leave early.* **2** (in various senses as shown in these examples): *Do you often ~ (= suffer from) colds? H~ you (got) (= Are you suffering from) a cold now? How often does your dog ~ (ie give birth to) puppies? Can you ~ (= take and look after) the children for a few days?*

have⁴ (for pronunciations ⇨ **have²**) *verb* (always used in the negative and interrogative with 'do') **1** take; receive; accept; obtain: *What shall we ~ for dinner?* **2** (used with a noun where the meaning is the same as the use of the noun as a verb): *~ a swim/walk. Let me ~ a try/look.* **3** experience; undergo: *We didn't ~ much difficulty. Did you ~ a good holiday?* **let sb 'have it, (sb) shoot, punish, etc him.** **4** cause (a person to do something): *I must ~ these shoes repaired.* ⇨ **get(2)** and also **6** below. **5** want: *I would ~ you know that ... I want you to know that ...* **6** be effected in some

way; experience or suffer: *He had his pocket picked, something stolen from his pocket.* **7** (a) trick; deceive: *I'm afraid you've been had.* (b) beat; win an advantage over: *You had me there!* **8** express; maintain: *Rumour has it (= There is a rumour) that the Prime Minister is going to resign.*

9 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

have sth back, have it returned: *You shall ~ it back next month.*

have sb in, have him in the room, house, etc: *We shall be having the decorators in next month.* **have sth in**, have in the house, etc: *Do we ~ enough coal in for winter?*

have sb on, (informal) play a trick on him, deceive him. ⇨ **7** above. **have sth on**, (a) be wearing: *He had nothing on, was naked.* (b) be busy, engaged: *I ~ nothing on tomorrow evening, I am free.*

have sth out, cause to be out: *~ a tooth out.*

have it out with sb, reach an understanding about something by discussion, argument.

have sb up, (a) have a visitor (up from the country, etc). (b) (informal) cause him to appear before a magistrate, etc: *He was had up (= was prosecuted) for exceeding the speed limit.*

ha-ven /'heɪvn/ *n* [C] (fig) place of safety or rest.

hav-er-sack /'hævəsæk/ *n* [C] canvas bag carried by soldiers, hikers, etc on the back.

havoc /'hævək/ *n* [U] widespread damage; destruction: *The floods caused terrible ~.*

hawk¹ /'hɔ:k/ *n* [C] **1** strong, swift, bird of prey. **2** person who favours the use of military force in foreign policy. ⇨ **dove¹(2).**

hawk² /'hɔ:k/ *vt* **1** go from house to house, street to street, with goods for sale. **2** (fig) spread about: *~ news about.*

hawker, person who hawks goods from a barrow or cart.

haw-ser /'hɔ:zə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** thick, heavy rope. **2** thin steel cable (used on ships).

haw-thorn /'hɔ:θɔ:n/ *n* [C] thorny shrub or tree with white, red or pink blossom and small red berries.

hay /heɪ/ *n* [U] grass cut and dried for use as animal food. **make hay while the sun shines**, (proverb) make the earliest use of one's opportunities.

'hay fever, disease affecting the nose and throat, caused by pollen (dust) from various plants.

'hay-fork, long-handled two-pronged fork for turning and lifting hay.

'hay-rick/-stack, large pile of hay firmly packed for storing. ⇨ **needle(1).**

'hay-wire *n* [U] wire for tying up bales of hay. □ *adj* (informal) out of order; excited or distracted. **go haywire**, (a) (of persons) become upset. (b) (of something, eg a plan) become badly disorganized.

haz-ard /'hæzəd/ *n* [C] risk; danger: *'health*

~s. eg smoking cigarettes. □ **vt** 1 take the risk of; expose to danger: *Rock-climbers sometimes ~ their lives.* 2 try to make: ~ a guess.

haz-ard-ous /-əs/ *adj* risky: a ~ous climb.

haze /heiz/ *n* [U] 1 thin mist. 2 (fig) mental confusion or uncertainty.

hazel /'heizl/ *n* [C] bush with edible nuts. 2 [U] (esp of eyes) colour of the shell of the nut, reddish-brown. □ *adj* reddish-brown.

hazy /'heizi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) 1 misty: a ~ sky. 2 (fig) vague; slightly confused; uncertain: ~ about what to do next.

haz-ily /-əli/ *adv*

haz-i-ness *n* [U]

H-bomb /'eɪtʃ bɒm/ *n* [C] hydrogen bomb.

he /hi:/ *pron* 1 male person or animal previously referred to: *Where's your brother? Oh, ~'s in Paris.* 2 (often as a prefix) male: a ~-goat. Is it a ~ or a she?

head' /hed/ *n* [C] 1 that part of the body which contains the eyes, nose, mouth and brain: *They cut his ~ off.* 2 (as a measure) head's length: *The Queen's horse won by a ~.* 3 that side of a coin on which the head of a ruler appears (the other side being the tail). **be un-**able to make **head** or **'tail of sth**, be unable to understand it. 4 person: *50 dinners at £1.50 a ~.* 5 (pl unchanged) one animal in a flock or herd: *50 ~ of cattle.* 6 intellect; imagination; power to reason: *He made the story up out of his own ~.* 7 natural aptitude or talent: *He has a good ~ for business.* 8 something like a head in form or position, eg the part that is pressed (the ~ of a pin), struck (the ~ of a nail), used for striking (the ~ of a hammer). 9 top: at the ~ of the page/staircase. 10 upper end: the ~ (waters) of the Nile, its sources and upper streams; the ~ of a bed, where a person's head rests. 11 (of plants) mass of leaves or flowers at the top of a stem or stalk: *a fine ~ of cabbage.* 12 (often as an adjective) ruler; chief; position of command: ~s of government, eg the President of the US, the Prime Minister of GB; at the ~ of the class, having gained the highest marks; the ~ office, the chief or most important office. 13 front; front part: at the ~ of the procession. 14 (chiefly in proper names) projecting part, cape: *Beachy Head*. ⇨ headland. 15 body of water kept at a certain height (eg for a hydroelectric power station). 16 pressure or force of a confined body of steam, etc: *They kept up a good ~ of steam.* 17 main division in a discourse, essay, etc: *a speech arranged under five ~s.* ⇨ heading. 18 foam on a liquid that has been poured out, esp beer. 19 point rising from a boil or other swelling on the flesh: *The boil came to a ~.* 20 (various phrases) be above/go over one's head, be too difficult to understand. **bite sb's head off**, scold them angrily. **come to a head**, (fig) reach a crisis: *Affairs have come to a ~.* **eat one's head off**, eat a great deal. **give sb his head**, (fig) leave him to act freely. **go to one's head**, (a) (of liqu-

or) intoxicate: *The whisky went to his ~.* (b) excite: *His successes have gone to his ~,* made him conceited, etc. **have a good 'head on one's shoulders**, have practical ability, common sense, etc. **head over 'heels**, (a) headlong: *fall ~ over heels.* (b) (fig) deeply or completely: ~ over heels in debt/in love. **keep one's head**, keep calm in a crisis. **laugh/scream one's head off**, laugh/scream loudly. **lose one's head**, become confused or excited. **(go) off one's head**, (a) (become) crazy; mad. (b) (become) wildly excited. **put our/your, etc heads together**, consult together. **put sth into a person's head**, suggest it to him. **put sth out of one's head**, stop thinking about it. **talk one's head off**, talk a great deal. **turn sb's head**, make them conceited. **(be) weak in the head**, (be) not very intelligent.

'head-ache *n* [C,U] (a) pain in the head. (b) (informal) troublesome problem: *more ~aches for the Government.*

'head-dress, (ornamental) covering for the head.

'head-hunter, savage who cuts heads off and keeps them as trophies.

'head-lamp, powerful lamp fixed to the front of a motor-vehicle, etc.

'head-land, = head(14).

'head-light, large lamp on the front of a motor-vehicle, etc.

'head-line, newspaper heading.

'head-man, chief man of a tribe, etc.

'head-master/'mistress/teacher, principal teacher of a school.

'head-on *adj, adv* (of collisions) with the front parts (of vehicles) meeting: a ~on colli-sion; collide ~on.

'head-phones, receivers fitting over the head (for radio, etc).

'head-quarters *n* (sing or pl) place from which (eg police, army) operations are controlled.

'head-rest, something that supports the head.

'head-room, = clearance(2).

'head-set, = headphones.

'head-stone, stone set up at the head of a grave.

'head-way, progress: *make ~way.*

'head-wind, one that blows directly into one's face, or against the course of a ship.

'head-word, the first word of a dictionary entry.

head² /hed/ *vt, vi* 1 be at the head or top of: ~ a procession; *Smith's name ~ed the list.* 2 strike, touch, with the head (eg the ball in football). 3 **head sth/sb off**, get in front of, so as to turn back or aside: ~ off a flock of sheep (to prevent them from going the wrong way). 4 move in the direction indicated: ~ south; ~ straight for home; (fig) be ~ing for disaster.

-headed /-hedid/ *suffix* having the type or

number of heads mentioned: *empty-¹headed*; a *three-headed monster*.

header /'hedə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** fall, dive or jump with the head first: *take a ~ into a swimming pool*. **2** (football) act of striking the ball with the head.

head-ing /'hedɪŋ/ *n* [C] word or words printed at the top of a section (to show the subject of what follows).

head-long /'hedlɒŋ *US*: -lɔːŋ/ *adv, adj* **1** with the head first: *fall ~*. **2** thoughtless(ly) and hurried(ly): *rush ~ into a decision*.

head-strong /'hedstrɒŋ *US*: -strɒŋ/ *adj* obstinate; refusing advice.

heady /'hedɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** acting, done, on impulse; headstrong. **2** (of alcoholic drink) having a quick effect on the senses. **3** (fig) (eg of sudden success) having an exciting effect.

heal /hiːl/ *vt, vi* **1** (esp of wounds) (cause to) become healthy and sound: *The wound soon ~ed up/over*. *▷* also faith-healing. **2** (fig) *a quarrel*, end it.

healer, person or thing that heals: *Time is a great ~er*.

health /helθ/ *n* [U] **1** condition of the body or the mind; (used in names of organizations, etc): *the World 'H~ Organisation* (abbr **WHO**). **2** (esp) state of being well and free from illness.

healthy /'helθi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** having good health; well, strong and able to resist disease: *The children look very ~*. (Note: *well* is the usual word in polite references, eg *I hope you're well*.) **2** likely to produce good health: *a ~ climate*. **3** showing good health: *a ~ appetite*.

health-ily /-θli/ *adv*

heap /hiːp/ *n* [C] **1** number of things, mass of material, piled up: *a ~ of sand*. **2** (informal) large number; plenty: *We have ~s of books/time*. *□ vt* **1** put in a heap: *~ (up) stones*. **2** fill; load: *~ a plate with food*; *a ~ed spoonful*, more than a level spoonful.

hear /hiə(r)/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp ~d /hɜːd/) **1** become aware of (sound, etc) with the ears: *I ~d someone laughing*. **2** be told or informed: *Have you ~d the news?* *I've just ~d about his dismissal/illness*. **hear from sb**, receive a letter, news, etc: *How often do you ~ from your sister?* **hear of sb/sth**, have knowledge of: *I've never ~d of her/the place*, know nothing of her/the place. **3** listen to; pay attention to: *You'd better ~ what they have to say*. **hear sb out**, listen to the end: *Don't judge me before I've finished my explanation*; *~ me out, please*. **4** (of a judge in a law court) try (a case): *The court ~d the evidence*.

!Hear! !Hear! (used as a form of cheering).

hearer, person who hears.

hear-ing /'hiəriŋ/ *n* **1** [U] ability to hear; perception of sound: *Her ~ is poor*. She is rather deaf. **be hard of hearing**, deaf. **2** [U] distance within which one can hear: *in the ~ of strangers*, where strangers may hear.

within/out of hearing, near enough/not near enough to hear or be heard. **3** [C] opportunity of being heard (esp in self-defence). **a fair hearing**, an opportunity of having evidence, reasons, heard fairly. **4** [C] (legal) trial of a case at law, esp before a judge without a jury.

hearing-aid, electronic device to improve hearing.

hear-say /'hiəseɪ/ *n* [U] rumour; what one has heard another person or other persons say: *I don't believe it; it's only ~*.

hearse /hɜːs/ *n* [C] vehicle for carrying a coffin at a funeral.

heart /hɑːt/ *n* [C] **1** that part of the body which pumps blood: *When a man's ~ stops beating, he dies*. **2** centre of the emotions, esp love; deepest part of one's nature: *a man with a kind ~*. **at heart**, deep down; basically. **from (the bottom of) one's heart**, sincerely. **to one's heart's content**, as much as, for as long as, etc one wishes. **with all one's heart**, completely and willingly: *I love you with all my ~*. **heart and soul**, completely: *I'm yours ~ and soul*. **break a person's heart**, make him very sad. **(learn/ know sth) by heart**, from memory. **(have) a change of heart**, change that makes one a better person. **have one's heart in one's mouth**, be anxious, badly frightened. **have one's heart in the right place**, have true or kind feelings. **have one's heart set on sth**, *▷* set²(8). **lose heart**, be discouraged. **set one's heart on sth/having sth/doing sth, etc**, desire greatly, be very anxious (to have, to do, etc). **take heart (from)**, gain courage (from). **take sth to heart**, be much affected by it. **3** central part: *in the ~ of the forest*. **the heart of the matter**, the essence. **4** (of a vegetable, etc) the central part: *a cabbage ~*. **5** heart-shaped thing, esp the red design used on some playing-cards: *the ten/queen of ~s*. **6** (as a term of endearment to a person): *'sweet~*.

heart-ache, deep sorrow.

heart attack, sudden irregular working of the heart, often causing death.

heart-beat, movement of the heart (about 70 beats a minute).

heart-break, overwhelming sorrow.

heart-break-ing *adj* causing deep sorrow.

heart-broken, overwhelmed by sorrow.

heart-burn, burning sensation in the lower part of the chest, caused by indigestion.

heart-felt *adj* sincere: *~felt emotion/thanks*.

heart-strings, deepest feelings of love.

heart-throb, (dated) person, eg a pop star, who is fanatically admired.

heart-less *adj* unkind; without pity.

heart-less-ly *adv*

-hearted /hɑːtɪd/ *suffix* having the heart(2) mentioned: *kind-~*; *broken-~*, = heart-broken.

hearten /'hɑːtn/ *vt* give courage to; cheer:

~ing news.

hearth /hɑ:θ/ *n* [C] **1** (floor of a) fireplace. **2** (fig) fireside as representing the home.

heart-ily /'hɑ:təl/ *adv* **1** with goodwill, courage or appetite: *eat ~*. **2** very: *~ sick of this wet weather*.

heart-land /'hɑ:tələnd/ *n* [C] central, most important region in a country.

heart-y /'hɑ:tɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** (of feelings) strong; sincere: *give a person a ~ welcome*. **2** strong; in good health: *still hale and ~ at eighty-five*. **3** (of meals, appetites) big: *a ~ meal*.

heat¹ /hi:t/ *n* **1** [U] hotness: *the ~ of the sun's rays*. ⇨ prickly heat. **2** [U] (fig) intense feeling: *in the ~ of the debate/argument*. **3** [C] competition the winners of which take part in (further competitions leading to) the finals: *trial/preliminary ~s*. **4** [U] **be on heat**, (of female mammals) in a period or condition of sexual excitement.

heat-stroke, sudden illness caused by very hot weather.

heat-wave, unbroken period of unusually hot weather.

heat² /hi:t/ *vt, vi* **1** make or become hot: *~ (up) some water*. **2** (fig) become excited: *a ~ed discussion*, one during which strong feelings are shown.

heat-ed-ly *adv* in an excited manner.

heater, device for supplying warmth to a room, or for heating water, etc: *an 'oil-~er*.

heath /hi:θ/ *n* **1** [C] area of wasteland, esp if covered with the shrubs called *heath*. **2** [C,U] (kinds of) low evergreen shrub with small purple, pink or white flowers, eg *heather*.

heath-en /'hi:ðn/ *n* **1** [C] (*pl* without -s when used with *the*) believer in a religion other than the chief world religions: *The Saxons who invaded England in olden times were ~s*. **2** [C] person whose morals, etc are disapproved of: *a young ~*, wild, ill-mannered youth.

heath-en-ish /-ɪʃ/ *adj*

heather /'hedə(r)/ *n* [U] shrub with small light-purple or white flowers.

heave /hi:v/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* ~d or 6 hove /həʊv/) **1** raise, lift up (something heavy): *~ the anchor*. **2** produce: *~ a sigh/groan*. **3** (informal) lift and throw: *~ a brick through a window*. **4** pull (at a rope, etc). **5** rise and fall regularly; move up and down. **6** (of a sailing-ship) (cause to) come to a standstill (without anchoring or mooring): *The ship heaved to*. □ *n* [C] act of heaving: *with a mighty ~*.

heaven /'hevn/ *n* [C] **1** home of God and the saints: *die and go to ~*. **2** (usually H~) God, Providence: *Thank H~ you were not killed*. **3** (as an exclamation): *Good H~s!* **4** place, state, of supreme happiness. **5** (often *pl*) the sky. **move, heaven and earth**, do everything possible (to help, etc).

heaven-¹sent *adj* very suitable; fortunate: *a ~sent opportunity*.

heaven-ward(s) /-wəd(z)/ *adj, adv*.

heav-en-ly /'hevənlɪ/ *adj* **1** of, from, like, heaven: *a ~ angel/vision*. **2** of more than earthly excellence. **3** (informal) very pleasing: *What a ~ dress!*

heavenly 'body, sun, moon, planet, etc.

heavy /'hevi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** having (esp great) weight; difficult to lift, carry or move: *It's too ~ for me to lift*. **2** of more than usual size, amount, force, etc: *~ rain/work; a ~ heart*, made sad; *a ~ smoker; ~ food*, rich, difficult to digest. **heavy going**, difficult or boring. **3** (of persons) slow in speech or thought; (of writing or painting) dull, tedious. **4** (of bodily states) inactive: *~ with sleep/wine*. □ *adv* heavily: *The crime lies ~ on his conscience*.

heavy-¹hearted *adj* very sad.

heavy-²laden *adj* (a) carrying a heavy load.

(b) (fig) having a sad heart.

heavy-weight, boxer weighing 175 lb (79.3 kg) or more.

heav-ily /'hevəlɪ/ *adv*

heav-iness *n* [U]

He-braic /hi:'breuk/ *adj* Hebrew.

He-brew /'hi:bru:/ *n* [C] **1** Jew; Israelite. **2** (a) language used by the ancient Hebrews (as in the Old Testament). (b) language now spoken by the people of Israel. □ *adj* of the Hebrew language or people.

heck /hek/ *n* (sl) (used in exclamations) hell: *Oh! What the ~!*

heckle /'hekl/ *vt* interrupt and ask questions at a meeting: *~ the Socialist candidate*.

heck-ler /'heklə(r)/, person who heckles.

hec-tare /'hektə:(r) *US*: -teə/ *n* [C] metric measure of area, 10000 sq metres (= 2.471 acres).

hec-tic /'hektɪk/ *adj* full of excitement and without rest: *lead a ~ life*.

hecto- /'hektəʊ/ *prefix* hundred: *1~gram(me)*, 100 grammes.

he'd /hi:d/ = *he had; he would*.

hedge /hedʒ/ *n* [C] **1** row of bushes, shrubs or tall plants, etc forming a boundary for a field, garden, etc. **2** (fig) means of defence against possible loss: *buy gold/diamonds as a ~ against inflation*. □ *vt, vi* **1** put a hedge or (fig) barrier round: *~ a field; ~ a person in/round with rules and regulations*. **2** avoid giving a direct answer to a question: *Answer 'yes' or 'no'—don't ~!* **3** (informal) protect a bet, investment, by compensating transactions: *~ one's bets*.

hedge-row, row of bushes forming a hedge.

hedge-hog /'hedʒhɒg *US*: -hɒg/ *n* [C] insect-eating animal covered with spines.

he-don-ism /'hi:dənɪzəm/ *n* [U] belief that pleasure is the chief good.

he-don-ist /-ɪst/ *n* [C] believer in hedonism.

he-don-is-tic /'hi:də'nɪstɪk/ *adv*

heed /hi:d/ *vt* pay attention to: *~ a warning*. □ *n* [U] attention, notice: *pay ~ to/take no ~ of a warning*.

heed-ful /-fl/ *adj*: *be more ~ful of advice*.

heed-less *adj*: ~less of danger.

hee-haw /'hi:ho:/ *n* [U] **1** noise made by an ass. **2** rude laugh.

heel¹ /'hi:l/ *n* [C] **1** back part of the human foot; part of a sock, stocking, etc covering this; part of a shoe, boot, etc supporting this.

at/(up)on sb's/sth's heel(s), close behind: *Famine often follows on the ~s of war.*

down at heel, (of a person) untidy and poor. **head over heels**, ⇨ head¹(20).

come to heel, (a) (of a dog) come, walk, close behind its master. (b) (fig) submit to discipline and control. **take to one's heels**, run away. **turn on one's heel**, turn sharply round. **2** (sl) worthless person. □ *vt* put a heel on.

well-¹heeled *adj* (sl) very rich; drunk.

heel² /'hi:l/ *vi, vt* **heel over**, (of a ship) (cause to) lean over to one side.

hefty /'hefti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (informal) big, strong: *a ~ increase*/farm worker.

he-gem-ony /hɪ'geməni/ *US*: hɪ'dʒeməni/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (formal) leadership, esp of one state in a group of states.

He-gira, He-jira /hedʒɪrə/ *n* Muhammad's flight from Mecca to Medina; Muslim era reckoned from this (AD 622).

heifer /'heɪfə(r)/ *n* [C] young cow that has not yet had a calf.

height /haɪt/ *n* [C] **1** measurement from bottom to top; distance to the top of something, esp from sea-level: *the ~ of a mountain. What is your ~?* How tall are you? **2** high place: *on the mountain ~s*. **3** greatest, best degree: *the ~ of his ambition/of fashion/of a storm.*

heighten /'haɪtn/ *vt, vi* make or become high(er); make greater in degree: *~ a person's anger.*

hei-nous /'heɪnəs/ *adj* (of crime) extremely bad; atrocious.

hei-nous-ly *adv*

heir /eə(r)/ *n* [C] person with the legal right to receive a title, property, etc when the owner dies: *He is ~ to a large fortune.*

heir-ess /'eəɪs/ *n* [C] female heir.

heir-loom /'eəlu:m/ *n* [C] something handed down in a family for several generations.

He-jira /'hedʒɪrə/ *n* = Hegira.

held /held/ *pt, pp* of hold².

heli-cop-ter /'helɪkɒptə(r)/ *n* [C] kind of aircraft with horizontal revolving blades (rotors).

heli-port /'helɪpɔ:t/ *n* [C] airport for helicopters.

he-lium /'hi:lɪəm/ *n* [C] light, colourless gas (symbol **He**) that does not burn, used in balloons and airships.

hell /hel/ *n* [C] **1** (in some religions) place of punishment after death. **2** place, condition, of great suffering or misery: *suffer ~ on earth. play hell with sb*, become very angry with him. **3** (informal) (used in exclamations, to express anger, or to intensify a meaning): *What the ~ do you want? He ran like ~, very fast. I like him a ~ of a lot, very much. for the hell*

of it, for no particular reason.

hell-ish /-ɪʃ/ *adj* horrible.

he'll /hi:l/ = *he will; he shall.*

hello /'heləʊ/ *int* = *hallo.*

helm /helm/ *n* [C] handle (also called tiller) or wheel for moving the rudder of a boat or ship.

at the helm, (fig) in control.

helms-man, man at the helm.

hel-met /'helmt/ *n* [C] protective covering for the head as worn by soldiers, police, motor-cyclist, etc.

helot /'helɒt/ *n* [C] **1** one of a class of slaves in ancient Sparta. **2** (fig) member of a low social class.

help¹ /help/ *n* **1** [U] act of helping: *Thank you for your kind ~.* **2** (sing with a, an) person or thing that helps: *Your advice was a great ~.* **3** [U] remedy: *There's no ~ for it.* **4** [C] girl or woman paid to do the housework. ⇨ also home help.

helper, person who helps.

help-ful /-fl/ *adj* giving help.

help-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

help-ing, (esp) portion of food served at a meal: *three ~ings of pie.*

help-less *adj* (a) not receiving help. (b) dependent on others: *a ~less invalid.*

help-less-ly *adv*

help² /help/ *vt, vi* **1** do part of the work of another person; make it easier for (a person) to do something or for (something) to happen: *I can't lift this box by myself, please ~ me. We ~ed the old man out of the car. Would it ~ you to know that...*, if I told you that... **help'out**, give help (esp in a crisis). **2** serve with food, drink, etc: *H~ yourself to the fruit.* **3** (used with can/cannot/can't) avoid; refrain; prevent: *I can't ~ thinking he's still alive. She burst out crying; she couldn't ~ herself. It can't be ~ed, is inevitable.*

hel-ter-skel-ter /'heltə 'skeltə(r)/ *adv* in disorderly haste. □ *n* [C] spiral slide¹(2) in a fairground, etc.

hem¹ /hem/ *n* [C] border or edge of cloth, esp one on an article of clothing, when turned and sewn down. □ *vt* (-mm-) **1** make a hem on. **2** enclose; confine; surround: *~med in by the enemy.*

hem-line, (esp) lower edge of a skirt or dress.

hem² (also **h'm**) /həm/ *int* (used to indicate doubt, etc or to call attention).

hemi-sphere /'hemɪsfɪə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** half a sphere. **2** half the earth.

the Eastern hemisphere, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia.

the Northern/Southern hemisphere, north/south of the equator.

the Western hemisphere, N and S America.

hem-lock /'hemlək/ *n* [C,U] (small, white plant which produces a) poison.

he-mo-glo-bin (also **hæ-**) /hɪ:mə'gləʊbɪn/ *n* [U] colouring matter of the red corpuscles of the blood.

he-mo-phil-ia (also **hæ-**) /hi:mə'filiə/ *n* [U] (usually hereditary) tendency of blood (from a wound, etc) not to clot, so that bleeding continues.

he-mo-phil-iac (also **hæ-**) /hi:mə'filiæk/ *n* [C] person having hemophilia.

hem-or-rhage (also **hæm-**) /'hemərɪdʒ/ *n* [U] (*med*) bleeding; [C] instance of this.

hem-or-rhoids (also **hæm-**) /'hemərɔɪd/ *n* *pl* (*med*) swelling of a vein or veins, esp at or near the anus.

hemp /hemp/ *n* [U] **1** (kinds of) plant from which coarse fibres are obtained for the manufacture of rope and cloth. **2** (also *Indian* ~) narcotic from the flowering tops, seed and resin of such plants, eg *cannabis*, *marijuana*.

hempen /'hempn/ *adj* made of, like, hemp: *a ~en rope*.

hem-stitch /'hemstɪtʃ/ *vt*, *n* [C] (ornament the hem of a dress, etc with a) decorative stitch made by pulling out some of the threads and tying the cross-threads in groups.

hen /hen/ *n* [C] **1** female of the common domestic fowl. ⇨ *cock* **1**. **2** female (of the bird named): *'guinea~*, *'pea~*.

'hen-coop, hut for keeping poultry in.

'hen-house, building for poultry.

'hen-party, (*informal*) party for women only. ⇨ *stag-party*.

'hen-pecked *adj* (*informal*) (of a man) ruled by his wife.

hence /hens/ *adv* **1** from here; from now: *a week ~*, in a week's time. **2** for this reason.

'hence-forth, **'hence-forward**, *adv* from now on; in future.

hench-man /'hent[mən/ *n* [C] (*pl* -men) faithful supporter, esp one who obeys without question the orders of his leader.

henna /'henə/ *n* [U] (plant, kind of Egyptian privet, producing) reddish-brown dye stuff for colouring leather, the hair, etc.

hen-naed /'henəd/ *adj* dyed with henna.

hepa-titis /'hepə'taɪtɪs/ *n* [U] inflammation of the liver.

hep-ta-gon /'heptəɡən/ *US*: -ɡɒn/ *n* [C] plane figure with 7 (esp equal) sides.

hep-tag-onal /'heptəɡənəl/ *adj* seven-sided.

her /hə(r) *strong form*: hɜ:(r)/ *personal pron* (used as object form of *she*): *Give ~ the book*. □ *possessive adj* of or belonging to her: *That's ~ hat, not yours. It's all ~ own work*.

her-ald /'herəld/ *n* [C] **1** person (formerly) making public announcements for, and carrying messages from, a ruler. **2** person or thing foretelling the coming of a person or thing: *In England the cuckoo is a ~ of spring*. **3** official who keeps records of families that have coats of arms. □ *vt* (*formal*) proclaim the approach of.

her-al-dic /'herəldɪk/ *adj*

'her-al-dry *n* [U] science dealing with the coats of arms, descent and history of old families.

herb /hɜ:b/ *US*: ɔrb/ *n* [C] **1** small, soft-stemmed flowering plant. **2** plant of this kind

whose leaves or seeds, because of their scent or flavour, are used in medicine or for flavouring food, eg sage, mint.

herb-age /-ɪdʒ/ *n* [U] grass and other field plants.

herbal /-l/ *adj* of (esp) medicinal herbs: *~al remedies*.

herb-al-ist /-əlɪst/ *n*, person who grows or sells herbs.

her-ba-ceous /hɜ:'beɪʃəs/ *adj* (of plants) having stems that are not woody: *a ~ border*, border with plants which grow and flower year after year.

her-biv-or-ous /hɜ:'bɪvərəs/ *adj* (of animals) feeding on grass, etc. ⇨ *carnivorous*.

her-cu-lean /hɜ:'kjʊ'li:ən/ *adj* having, needing, great powers of body or mind: *a ~ task*.

herd /hɜ:d/ *n* [C] **1** number of animals, esp cattle, feeding or going about together: *a ~ of cattle|deer|elephants*. **2** (used chiefly in compounds) keeper of a herd: *a 'cow~*. □ *vi, vt* (cause to) gather (as) into a herd; look after a herd: *We were ~ed together like cattle*.

herds-man, keeper of a herd.

here /hɪə(r)/ *adv* of place or direction **1** in, at, to, towards, this point of place: *Come ~. I live ~. H~ comes the bus! H~ you are! It is! Do you live near ~?* **2** at this point (in a series of events, in a process, etc): *H~ the speaker paused to have a drink. Here goes!* Now I'm going to make a start, have a go. **3**, **here and**

'there, in various places. **here, there and**

'everywhere, in every part; all around. **neither, here nor 'there**, (*informal*) irrelevant: *He may deny it but its neither ~ nor there*. **4** (used to call attention, or for emphasis): *My friend ~ was a witness of the accident*. **5** (used when answering a roll-call) present. **6** (used when drinking to a person's health, etc): *H~s to the bride and bridegroom!*

here-a-bouts *adv* near or about here.

here-'after *adv*, *n* [U] (in the) future; the life after death.

'here-by *adv* (*legal*) by reason of this.

'here-'in *adv* (*legal*) in this.

'here-'of *adv* (*legal*) of or about this.

'here-'with *adv* with this.

her-ed-it-ary /hɪ'redɪtri/ *US*: -teri/ *adj* passed on from parent to child, from one generation to following generations: *~ rulers|diseases*.

her-ed-ity /hɪ'redətɪ/ *n* [U] **1** tendency to pass characteristics on to offspring, etc. **2** characteristics, etc so passed on.

her-es-y /'herəsi/ *n* [C,U] (*pl* -ies) (holding of a) belief or opinion contrary to what is generally accepted, esp in religion: *be guilty of ~*.

her-etic /'herətɪk/ *n* [C] person guilty of, supporting, heresy; person who holds an unorthodox opinion.

her-eti-cal /hɪ'retɪkəl/ *adj* of heresy of heretics: *~al beliefs*.

heri-tage /'herɪtɪdʒ/ *n* [C] that which has been or may be inherited.

her-maph-ro-dite /hɜ:'mæfrədɪt/ *n* [C]

animal or other creature, eg an earthworm, which has both male and female sexual organs or characteristics.

her-metic /hɜː'metɪk/ *adj* completely airtight.

her-meti-cally *adv*: ~ally sealed.

her-mit /'hɜːmɪt/ *n* [C] person living in isolation from others.

her-mit-age /-ɪdʒ/ *n* [C] living-place of a hermit.

her-nia /'hɜːniə/ *n* [U] rupture, esp part of the bowel through the muscle wall of the abdomen.

hero /'hɪərəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) **1** boy or man respected for bravery or noble qualities. **2** chief man in a poem, story, play, etc.

'hero-ism /'hɪərəʊɪzəm/ *n* [U] quality of being a hero; courage.

her-oic /hɪ'rɔɪk/ *adj* **1** of, like, fit for, a hero: ~ deeds/tasks. **2** of a size larger than life: a statue on a ~ scale. **3** (of poetry) dealing with heroes. **4** (of language) grand; attempting great things.

her-oics *n pl* (**a**) grand talk or sentiments. (**b**) bravery; brave actions.

he-ro-i-cally /-kəl/ *adv*

her-o-in /'hɪərəʊn/ *n* [U] narcotic drug prepared from morphine.

her-oine /'hɪərəʊn/ *n* [C] female hero.

her-on /'hɪərən/ *n* [C] long-legged water-bird living in marshy places.

her-ring /'hɪrɪŋ/ *n* [C] (*pl* usually unchanged) sea-fish valued as food (fresh, salted or dried). ⇨ red herring.

'her-ring-bone *adj n* [U] pattern for stitching (like the spine and bones of a herring).

hers /hɜːz/ *possessive pron* or of belonging to her: Is she his friend or ~? He's a friend of ~.

her-self /hɜː'self *strong form*: hɜː- / *pron* **1** (reflexive): She hurt ~. She ought to be ashamed of ~. (**all**) **by herself**, (**a**) alone. (**b**) without help. **2** (used for emphasis): She told me the news ~. **3** She's not quite ~ today, not in her normal state of health or mind.

hertz /hɜːts/ *n* [C] (symbol Hz) unit of frequency equal to one cycle per second.

he's /hiːz/ = he is; he has.

hesi-tant /'hezɪtənt/ *adj* tending to hesitate.

hesi-tant-ly *adv*

hesi-tance /-əns/, **hesi-tancy** /-ənsɪ/ *n* [U]

hesi-tate /'hezɪteɪt/ *vi* show signs of uncertainty or unwillingness in speech or action: He's still hesitating about joining.

hesi-tat-ing-ly *adv*

hesi-ta-tion /'hezɪ'teɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] state of hesitating. **2** [C] instance of this: His doubts and ~s were tedious.

hes-sian /'hesiən *US*: 'heɪn/ *n* [U] strong, coarse cloth of hemp or jute.

het-ero-dox /'hetərədɒks/ *adj* not normal, accepted, established.

het-ero-dox-y, heterodox state, activity.

het-ero-gen-eous /'hetərə'dʒiːniəs/ *adj* different; made up of different kinds: the ~

population of the USA, of many different races. ⇨ homogeneous.

het-er-o-sex-ual /'hetərə'seksʃʊəl/ *adj* attracted to/by the opposite sex.

het-up /,het 'ʌp/ *adj* (informal) worried.

hew /hjuː/ *vt, vi* (*pt* ~ed, *pp* ~ed or ~n) **1** cut (by striking or chopping); aim cutting blows (at, among): ~ down a branch. **2** shape by chopping: ~n timber. **3** make by hard work: ~ out a career for oneself.

hewer, person who hews: ~s of coal.

hex-a-gon /'heksəɡən *US*: -ɡɒn/ *n* [C] flat figure with 6 (esp equal) sides.

hex-ag-onal /'heks'æɡnəl/ *adj* six-sided.

hey /heɪ/ *int* (used to call attention, to express surprise, etc).

hey-day /'heɪ deɪ/ *n* (sing only) time of greatest prosperity or power: in the ~ of steam railways.

hi /haɪ/ *int* **1** = hey. **2** (esp US) = hallo.

hi-at-us /haɪ'eɪtəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) gap in a series, making it incomplete.

hi-ber-nate /'haɪbəneɪt/ *vi* (of some animals) pass the whole of the winter in a state like sleep.

hi-ber-na-tion /,haɪbə'neɪʃn/ *n* [U]

hi-bis-cus /hɪ'bɪskəs/ *n* [C,U] (usually tropical) plant or shrub with brightly coloured flowers.

hic-cup, **hic-cough** /'hɪkʌp/ *vt, n* [C] (have a) sudden stopping of the breath with a sound like a cough.

hick-ory /'hɪkəri/ *n* [C,U] (*pl* -ies) (hard wood of a) N American tree with edible nuts.

hid, **hidden** ⇨ hide¹.

hide¹ /haɪd/ *vt, vi* (*pt* hid /hɪd/, *pp* hidden /'hɪdn/ or hid) **1** put or keep out of sight; prevent from being seen, found or known: Quick, ~ yourself! The sun was hidden by the clouds. His words had a hidden meaning. **2** be or become hidden: Where is he hiding? □ *n* [C] (US = blind) place where wild animals, birds, etc may be observed, eg by photographers, without alarming them.

'hide-out/-away, (informal) hiding-place: a guerrilla ~-out in the mountains.

hid-ing *n* **be in/go into hiding**, be hidden/hide oneself. **come out of hiding**, show oneself.

'hiding-place, place where a person or thing is or could be hidden.

hide² /haɪd/ *n* [C] **1** animal's skin. **2** (informal) human skin.

hid-ing *n* [C] beating: give/get a good hiding.

hide-bound /'haɪdbaʊnd/ *adj* having, showing, too much respect for rules and traditions.

hid-eous /'hɪdiəs/ *adj* very ugly; filling the mind with horror: a ~ crime/noise/face.

hid-eous-ly *adv*

hi-er-archy /'haɪərəʃki/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) organization with grades of authority from lowest to highest.

hi-er-o-glyph /'haɪərəɡlɪf/ *n* [C] **1** picture or figure of an object, representing a word, syll-

able or sound, as used in the writing of the ancient Egyptians and Mexicans. **2** other secret or unintelligible written symbol.

hi-ero-glyphic /ˌhaɪərəˈɡlɪfɪk/ *adj* of hieroglyphs. □ *n* [C] = hieroglyph.

hi-fi /ˌhaɪˈfaɪ/ *adj* (informal abbr of) high-fidelity.

high¹ /haɪ/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** extending far upwards; measuring (the distance given) from the base to the top: *There was an aeroplane ~ in the sky. How ~ is Mt Everest?* (Note: tall is used for human beings and for a few things which have great height in relation to breadth, eg *a tall building/tower*.) **high and dry**, stranded; abandoned. **2** chief; important: *a ~ official; the ~ altar*, in a church. **3** (of sounds) at or near the top of the scale; shrill; sharp: *speak in a ~ tone/key*. **4** extreme; great: *~ prices/temperatures; have a ~ opinion of her; in ~ spirits; have a ~ (= joyous) time; ~ (= luxurious) living; ~ noon/summer*, at or near its peak. **5 high time**, time when something should be done at once: *It's ~ time you started to work*. **6** noble; virtuous: *~ aims/ideals*. **7** (of food, esp meat and fish) a little bad. **8** (informal) under the influence of alcoholic drink or hallucinatory drugs.

high-born *adj* of noble birth.

high-brow *n, adj* (person) with intellectual tastes and interests considered to be superior.

high-chair, one on high legs for an infant.

High Church, section of the Anglican Church which gives great importance to church authority, ritual, etc.

high-class *adj* first-class.

High Commissioner, representative of one Commonwealth country in another, equivalent to an ambassador.

High Court, supreme court of justice.

high-fidelity *adj* (informal abbr **hi-fi**) (of radios, records, tapes and equipment for reproducing sound) giving faithful reproduction by the use of a wide range of sound waves. □ *n* [C] equipment producing this sound.

high-flier¹/**flyer** ambitious person.

high-flown *adj* pompous; pretentious.

high-flying *adj* ambitious.

high-frequency, (abbr **hf**) radio frequency of between 3 and 30 megacycles per second.

high-grade *adj* of superior quality: *~ grade petrol*.

high-handed *adj* using power or authority without consideration for the feelings of another person.

high-jack *vt* = hijack.

high jump, athletic contest for jumping over an adjustable horizontal bar.

high-land, mountainous region; (*pl*) any mountainous parts of a country.

high-level *adj* (of conferences, etc) of persons in high positions.

high life, (**a**) fashionable and luxurious style of living. (**b**) (in W Africa) popular kind

of music and dance.

high-light, (**a**) (usually *pl*) luminous area on a photograph, picture, etc which shows reflected light; reflection or contrast of light, colour. (**b**) (*fig*) most obvious or important part: *the ~lights of the week's events*. □ *vt* give prominence or emphasis to.

High Mass, (RC Church) according to the complete rite.

high-minded *adj* very serious about morals, ideals or principles.

high-powered *adj* (**a**) having, using, great power: *a ~powered engine*. (**b**) (of optical instruments) giving great magnification. (**c**) (of persons) important; energetic.

high priest, chief priest.

high-rise *adj* (of tall buildings) with many storeys or levels: *~rise flats*.

high-road, main road.

High School, secondary school.

the high seas *n pl* all parts of the seas and oceans beyond territorial waters.

high-sounding *adj* (of style) pretentious.

high society, upper classes; aristocracy.

high-spirited *adj* bold; lively.

high spot, outstanding feature, memory, event, etc.

high street, (esp in proper names) main street of a town.

high tea, (*GB*) early evening meal (or late tea) in homes where dinner is not eaten in the evening.

high tide, (time at which the) tide is at its highest level.

high treason, treason against the State or a sovereign.

high-up, (informal) person of high rank or great importance.

high water, = high tide.

high-way, (**a**) main public road; main route (by air, sea or land). (**b**) (*fig*) easiest or most direct way.

high-way-man, man, often masked, who (formerly) robbed travellers on highways by using, threatening, violence.

high² /haɪ/ *adv* in or to a high degree: *climb ~*. **hold one's head high**, show pride. **run high**, (**a**) (of the sea) have a strong current with a high tide. (**b**) (of the feelings) be very excited. **search/hunt/look high and low (for sth)**, look everywhere (for it).

high³ /haɪ/ *n* high level: *from (on) ~*, from Heaven; *reach a new ~*, highest known level.

high-ly /ˌhaɪli/ *adv* in or to a high degree: *a ~ paid official*; *a ~ amusing film*. **think highly of sb**, have a high opinion of him.

high-ness /ˈhaɪnis/ *n* 1 [U] (opposite of *low-ness*) state or quality of being high. **2** [C] title used of and to British and various foreign princes: *His/Her/Your/Royal H~*.

hi-jack (also **high-jack**) /ˈhaɪdʒæk/ *vt* **1** steal goods from, eg a lorry, by stopping it in transit. **2** rob (a vehicle of goods) in this way. **3** use, threaten, force against those in control of

(an aircraft or vehicle) in order to achieve certain aims or to reach a desired destination.

hi-jacker (also **high-jacker**), person who hijacks.

hike /haik/ vi, n [C] (informal) (go for a) long walk in the country, taken for pleasure or exercise. ⇨ hitch-hike.

hiker, person who hikes.

hil-ari-ous /hɪ'lærias/ adj (making a person) noisily merry; very funny.

hil-ari-ous-ly adv

hil-ar-ity /hɪ'lærɪti/ n [U] cheerfulness; loud laughter.

hill /hil/ n [C] **1** mass of high land, lower than a mountain. **2** slope, eg on a road: *drive up a steep ~*. **3** heap of earth: 'ant~s.

'hill-side, side, slope, of a hill.

'hill-top, summit of a hill.

hilly adj (-ier, -iest) having many hills.

hill-ock /'hɪlək/ n [C] small hill (1).

hilt /hɪlt/ n [C] handle of a sword or dagger. (*up*) **to the hilt**, (fig) completely: *His guilt was proved to the ~*.

him /hɪm/ personal pron (used as object form of he): *Give ~ the money.*

him-self /hɪm'self/ pron **1** (reflexive): *He cut ~. He ought to be ashamed of ~. (all) by him-self*, (a) alone. (b) without help. **2** (used for emphasis): *Did you see the manager ~?* **3** *He's not quite ~ today*, not in his normal state of health or mind.

hind /haɪnd/ adj (of things in pairs, front and back) at the back: *the ~ legs of a horse*. ⇨ fore.

'hind-most adj farthest behind or back.

'hind-'quarters n pl back part of the halved carcass of lamb, beef, etc.

'hind-sight n [U] becoming aware of the characteristics, etc of an event after its occurrence.

hind² /haɪnd/ n [C] female of (esp the red) deer.

hin-der /'hɪndə(r)/ vt obstruct; get in the way of: *Don't ~ me in my work.*

hin-drance /'hɪndrəns/ n [C] person or thing that hinders: *You are more of a ~ than a help.*

Hindi /'hɪndi/ n, adj of one of the official languages of N India.

Hindu /hɪn'du: US: 'hɪndu:/ n [C] person, esp of N India, whose religion is Hinduism. □ *adj* of the Hindus.

Hindu-ism /-ɪzəm/ n [U] religion involving religious, social and philosophical beliefs with elaborate ritual, a belief in reincarnation, and a divinely ordained caste system.

hinge /hɪndʒ/ n [C] **1** joint on which a lid, door or gate turns or swings. **2** (fig) central principle on which something depends. □ *vi, vi 1* support, attach with, a hinge or hinges. **2** *hinge on/upon*, (fig) depend on.

hint /hɪnt/ n [C] slight or indirect indication or suggestion. **take a hint**, realize (and do) what is suggested: *I know how to take a ~*. □ *vt, vi 1* suggest; give a hint: *I ~ed that he ought*

to work harder. **2** refer indirectly to: *He ~ed at my bad pronunciation.*

hin-ter-land /'hɪntələnd/ n [C] **1** area of land supplying goods to a port. **2** coastal areas of a country, esp uncivilized regions.

hip¹ /hɪp/ n [C] part on either side where the bone of a person's leg is joined to the trunk: *He stood there with his hands on his ~s.*

'hip-flask, small flask (for brandy, etc).

hip² /hɪp/ n [C] fruit (red when ripe) of the wild rose.

hip³ /hɪp/ int **Hip, hip, hur'rah!** exclamation of satisfaction or approval.

hippo /'hɪpəʊ/ n [C] (pl ~s) (informal abbr of) hippopotamus.

hip-po-pota-mus /'hɪpə'pɒtəməs/ n [C] (pl ~es or -mi /-maɪ/) large, African river animal with a thick skin.

hippy, hip-pie /'hɪpi/ n [C] (pl -ies) (dated) person who rejects usual social values.

hip-ster /'hɪpstə(r)/ adj held at the hips (not at the waist): ~ trousers.

hire /'haɪə(r)/ vt obtain or allow the use or services of in return for fixed payment: ~ a horse/car. □ n [U] (money paid for) hiring: *bicycles on ~, 50p an hour.*

'hire-'purchase, (abbr **HP**) contract to pay for something by instalments, having the use of it after the first payment.

his /hɪz/ possessive adj of or belonging to him: *He hurt ~ hand. That's ~ book*. □ *possessive pron*: *Is that her friend or ~?* *She's a friend of ~?*

hiss /hɪs/ vi, vt **1** make the sound /s/, or the noise heard when water falls on a very hot surface: *The steam escaped with a ~ing sound*. **2** show disapproval by making this sound: ~ (at) an actor. □ n [C] hissing sound: *The speaker ignored the ~es.*

his-tor-ian /hɪ'stɔ:riən/ n [C] (dated: an ~) writer of, student of, expert in, history.

his-tor-ic /hɪ'stɔ:rik US: -'stɔ:ri-/ adj notable or memorable in history; associated with past times: *a ~ event* (dated: *an ~ event*).

historic present, (gram) simple present tense used for events in the past (to make the description more vivid).

his-tor-i-cal /hɪ'stɔ:rikəl US: -'stɔ:ri-/ adj **1** belonging to history (as contrasted with legend and fiction): *a ~ novel* (dated: *an ~ novel*), one dealing with real events in history. **2** having to do with history: ~ studies.

his-tor-i-cally /-kli/ adv

his-tory /'hɪstəri/ n (pl -ies) **1** [U] branch of knowledge dealing with past events of a country, continent or the world. **make his-tory**, do something which will be recorded in history. **2** [C] description of past events: *a new ~ of Europe*. **3** [C] events connected with a person or thing: *a house with a strange ~; a person's medical ~*.

ancient history, to AD 476, when the Western Roman Empire was destroyed.

medieval history, to 1453, when Constan-

tinopole was taken by the Turks.

modern history, since 1453.

natural history, science, study, of all objects in nature.

his-tri-onic /'hɪstriɒnɪk/ *adj* **1** of drama, the theatre or acting. **2** artificial; insincere.

his-tri-on-ics *n pl* **(a)** (formal) theatrical performances. **(b)** exaggerated manners, behaviour, etc to create an effect.

hit /hɪt/ *vt, vi* (-tt-, *pt, pp* ~) **1** give a blow or stroke to; strike (a target, an object aimed at); come against (something) with force: ~ a man on the head; be ~ by a falling stone. **hit the nail on the head**, guess, say or do exactly the right thing. **hit it off (with sb/together)**, get on well. **2 hit sb hard**, cause him to suffer: He was hard ~ by his financial losses. **3** go to; find; reach: ~ the right path, find it during a journey; ~ town, arrive. Prices ~ a new low. **4 hit out (against)**, (fig) attack strongly: The Minister ~ out against trade union leaders. **5 hit on/upon**, find by chance or unexpectedly: ~ on an idea. **6 (cricket) score**: He quickly ~ 60 runs. *n* [C] **1** blow; stroke: three ~s and five misses. **2** successful attempt or performance: The new play made a ~, was successful. **3** stroke of sarcasm, etc: That was a ~ at me, the words were directed against me.

'hit parade, list of top selling popular records.

'hit song; **'song hit**, song that is very popular.

hitch /hɪtʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** pull up with a quick movement: ~ up one's trousers. **2** fasten, become fastened, on or to a hook, etc: ~ a horse to a fence. **3 (informal)** = hitchhike. *n* [C] **1** sudden pull or push. **2** kind of noose or knot used by sailors. **3** temporary stoppage or difficulty: a technical ~. **go off without a hitch**, without difficulty.

hitch-hike /'hɪtʃhaɪk/ *vi* get a free ride by asking for one (from the driver of a car, lorry, etc).

hitch-hiker, person who hitchhikes.

hither /'hɪðə(r)/ *adv* (old use) here.

hither-to *adv* until now.

hive /haɪv/ *n* [C] **1** box (of wood, straw, etc) for bees to live in; the bees living in a hive. **2 (fig)** place full of busy people: What a ~ of industry! *n* *vi, vi* **1** cause (bees) to go into a hive; (of bees) store (honey) in a hive. **2** live close together as bees do. **hive off (from)**, (fig) become a separate (and perhaps self-governing) body; separate and make independent (a part of an organization).

h'm /həm/ *ɾ* hem².

ho /həʊ/ *int* expressing surprise, admiration, etc.

hoard /hɔ:d/ *n* [C] carefully saved and guarded store or collection of money, coins, food or other treasured or valuable objects. *n* *vi, vi* save and store: ~ (up) gold.

hoarder, person who hoards.

hoard-ing /'hɔ:dɪŋ/ *n* [C] (often temporary) fence of boards round waste land, etc, frequently used for advertisements.

hoar-frost /'hɔ:frost/ *US*: -frɒst/ *n* [U] white frost; frozen dew on grass, leaves, etc.

hoarse /hɔ:s/ *adj* (-r, -st) (of the voice) rough and harsh; (of a person) having a hoarse voice: He shouted himself ~.

hoarse-ly *adv*

hoarse-ness *n* [U]

hoary /'hɔ:ri/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) grey or white with age.

hoari-ness *n* [U]

hoax /həʊks/ *n* [C] mischievous trick intended to deceive. *n* *vi* deceive in this way.

hoaxer *n* [C]

hob /hɒb/ *n* [C] flat metal shelf at the side of a fireplace where pots and pans can be kept warm or a kettle boiled.

hobble /'hɒbl/ *vi, vt* **1** walk as when lame: The old man was hobbling along the road. **2** tie two legs of a horse or donkey to prevent it from going far away. *n* [C] stumbling or limping way of walking.

hobby /'hɒbi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) occupation, not one's regular business, for one's leisure time, eg stamp-collecting.

hobby-horse /'hɒbihɔ:s/ *n* [C] **1** wooden horse on rockers as a child's toy. **2** long stick with a horse's head. **3** favourite topic: Now he's started on his ~.

hob-gob-lin /'hɒb'gɒblɪn/ *n* [C] mischievous imp; ugly and evil spirit.

hob-nail /'hɒbneɪl/ *n* [C] short nail with a heavy head used for the soles of heavy shoes and boots, eg for mountain-climbing.

hob-nailed *adj*: ~ed boots

hob-nob /'hɒb'nɒb/ *vi* (-bb-) have a friendly talk, drink: Mrs Green, happily ~ing with the Manager.

hock¹ /hɒk/ *n* [C] middle joint of an animal's hind leg.

hock² /hɒk/ *n* [U] (kinds of) German white wine.

hock³ /hɒk/ *vt* (*sl*) = pawn. *n* *in* **hock**, pawned.

hockey /'hɒki/ *n* [U] **'field hockey**, game played on a field by two teams of eleven players, with sticks and a ball. **'ice hockey**, game played on ice by two teams of six players each wearing skates, with sticks and a rubber disc (a puck).

'hockey stick, long curved or angled stick used to hit the ball or puck.

ho-cus-po-cus /'həʊkəs 'pəʊkəs/ *n* [U] talk, behaviour, used to take one's attention away from something.

hod /hɒd/ *n* [C] box with a long handle used by workmen for carrying bricks, etc on the shoulder.

hoe /həʊ/ *n* [C] implement for loosening soil, etc. *n* *vi, vi* (*pt, pp* ~ed) work with a hoe: ~ing up weeds.

hog /hɒg/ *US*: hɔ:g/ *n* [C] **1** castrated male pig

reared for meat. **2** (fig) greedy, dirty, selfish person. **go the whole hog**, do something thoroughly. □ *vt* (-gg-) take or keep greedily and selfishly.

hog-gish /-ɪʃ/ *adj* greedy and selfish.

Hog-ma-nay /'hɒgməneɪ/ *n* (Scotland) New Year's Eve (and its festivities).

hogs-head /'hɒgzhed/ *US*: 'hɒgz-/ *n* [C] **1** large barrel for beer. **2** liquid measure (52½ gallons in GB or about 238.5 litres, 62 gallons in US or about 234.5 litres).

hoi pol-loi /'hɔɪ pə'loɪ/ *n the* ~, (used to discredit) the masses; the common people.

hoist /hoɪst/ *vt* lift with an apparatus of ropes and pulleys or a kind of elevator: ~ a flag/sail; ~ crates aboard. □ *n* [C] **1** apparatus for hoisting. **2** (informal) push up: give him a ~, eg when he is climbing a wall.

hoity-toity /'hɔɪtɪ 'tɔɪtɪ/ *adj* (informal) snobbish and arrogant.

hold¹ /həʊld/ *n* **1** [C,U] act, manner, power of holding: Take ~ of the wheel. Keep ~ of my hand. He has a great ~ (= influence) over his younger brother. **2** [C] something that may be used for holding on to: The rock face provides few ~s to climbers. ⇨ foothold. **3** (in boxing and wrestling) (kinds of) grip: all-in wrestling with no ~s barred.

hold² /həʊld/ *n* [C] part of a ship below deck, where cargo is stored.

hold³ /həʊld/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp held /held) (For uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ **14** below.) **1** have or keep in one's possession, keep fast or steady, in or with the hand(s), arm(s) or other part of the body, eg the teeth, or with a tool: The girl was ~ing her father's hand. He held the knife in his teeth as he climbed the tree. **hold the line**, keep a telephone connection (eg whilst the person at the other end goes away temporarily). **2** restrain; keep back; control: The police held back the crowd. **hold one's breath**, eg from excitement or fear: The watchers held their breath as the acrobat crossed the tightrope. **hold one's tongue/peace**, be quiet. **There is no holding (sb)**, It is impossible to restrain or control (him). **3** keep or maintain in a specified position, manner, attitude or relationship: H~ your head up. **4** maintain a grip of: This new car ~s the road well, is stable, eg when cornering at speed. **5** support; bear the weight of: Come down—that branch won't ~ you! **6** be filled by; have the capacity to contain or accommodate: Will this suitcase ~ all your clothes? What does the future ~ for us? He ~s (= has) strange views on this question. (not) **hold water**, (not) be sensible, valid, logical: Your argument doesn't ~ water. **7** keep the interest or attention of: The speaker held his audience spellbound. **8** consider; regard; believe; affirm: He does not ~ himself responsible for his wife's debts. **9** defend; keep possession of: They held the fort against all attacks. **hold the fort**, (fig) be in charge dur-

ing a person's absence. **hold one's ground/own**, not give way: The patient is still ~ing his own, maintaining his strength. Our soldiers held their ground bravely. **10** be the legal owner or possessor of: ~ shares/stock. **11** occupy; have the position of: The Social Democrats held office then. **12** have; conduct; cause to take place: ~ a meeting. We ~ a General Election every four or five years. **13** remain unbroken, unchanged, secure; when under strain, pressure, etc. ⇨ **5** above: How long will this fine weather ~, continue? The argument/theory still ~s.

14 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

hold sth against sb, allow something to influence one's opinions unfavourably: Don't ~ his criminal past against him.

hold back, hesitate; show unwillingness: Buyers are ~ing back, making few or no offers. **hold sb/sth back**, (a) ⇨ **2** above. (b) hinder the progress of: His poor education is ~ing him back. (c) keep secret or to oneself: ~ back information.

hold sb/sth down, (a) keep or maintain in a low position. (b) keep down; suppress: We must ~ (= keep) prices down. **hold a job down**, (informal) keep it by proving one's capabilities.

hold forth, speak loudly, seriously and as if to an audience.

hold in, check, restrain; control one's feelings.

hold off, (a) remain at a distance: The storm held off. (b) delay action: H~ off firing for a minute.

hold on, (a) stand firm when there is danger, difficulty, etc: How much longer do they think we can ~ on? (b) (usually imperative) stop: H~ on a minute! **hold on to**, (a) keep one's grip on; not let go: ~ on to one's hat on a windy day. (b) not give up the ownership of: You should ~ on to your oil shares. **hold sth on**, keep in position: These bolts and nuts ~ the wheels on.

hold out, (a) not give way: How long can we ~ out against these attacks? (b) last: How long will our food supplies ~ out? **hold out (for)**, not give in (in order to achieve): The workers are still ~ing out for higher wages. **hold out on**, refuse to deal with: He's still ~ing out on me, still opposing my wishes, refusing to share information.

hold sth over, defer; postpone: The matter was held over until the next meeting.

hold to sth, (a) remain loyal or steadfast to: He held to his convictions. (b) keep to: The ship held to a southerly course. **hold sb to sth**, make him keep, eg a promise: We must ~ the contractors to their estimates, not allow them to exceed them.

hold together, (a) be and continue whole: an old car that hardly ~s together, is falling apart. (b) remain united: ~ together in times

of crisis. **hold sb/sth together**, cause to remain together: *a leader who will ~ the nation together.*

hold sb/sth up, (a) put, keep, up or over: *~ up an umbrella.* (b) delay: *They were held up by fog.* (c) stop by the use or threat of force, for the purpose of robbery: *The travellers were held up by bandits.* Hence, **'hold-up** *n*: *a ~ up on the Underground*, eg by a power failure; *a bank ~ up*, eg one by armed robbers. (d) put forward as an example: *Don't ~ me up as a model husband.*

hold with sth, approve of: *Do you ~ with nudity on the stage?*

hold-all /'həʊld ə:l/ *n* [C] portable bag or case to hold clothes, etc when travelling.

holder /'həʊldə(r)/ *n* [C] person or thing that holds: *a cigarette ~*; *the ~ of the contract.*

hold-ing /'həʊldɪŋ/ *n* [C] something held or owned; land or the owning of land.

hold-up /'həʊld ʌp/ *n* ⇨ **hold**³ (14).

hole /həʊl/ *n* [C] 1 opening or hollow place in a solid body: *a ~ in a tooth*; *roads full of ~s.* **make a hole in**, use a large amount of: *The hospital bills made a large ~ in his savings.* **pick holes in**, find fault with, eg an argument. **a square peg in a round hole**, person not fitted for the position he occupies. **2** (informal) awkward situation: *I'm in rather a ~.* **3** animal's burrow: *a mouse's ~.* **4** (fig) small, dark, wretched place: *What a wretched little ~ he lives in!* **5** (golf) hollow into which the ball must be hit; point scored by a player who does this with the fewest strokes: *win the first ~.* □ *vt, vi* **1** make a hole in or through: *~ a ship*, eg by striking a rock. **2** (golf) get (a ball) into a hole.

holi-day /'həʊlədɪ/ *US*: -deɪ/ *n* [C] **1** day of rest from work: *Sunday is a ~ in Christian countries.* ⇨ **bank holiday**. **2** (often *pl*) (*US* = vacation) period of rest from work: *take a month's ~ in summer.* **on holiday**, having a holiday.

'holiday-maker, person on holiday.

holi-ness /'həʊlɪnis/ *n* **1** [U] being holy or sacred. **2** **His/Your H~**, title used of or to the Pope.

hol-ler /'həʊlə(r)/ *vi, vt* (sf) yell: *Stop ~ing!*

hol-low /'həʊləʊ/ *adj* **1** not solid; with a hole or empty space inside: *a ~ tree.* **2** (of sounds) as if coming from something hollow: *a ~ groan.* **3** (fig) unreal; false; insincere: *a ~ laugh*; *a ~ victory*, one without real value. **4** sunken: *~ cheeks.* □ *n* [C] hole: *a ~ in the ground*; small valley: *a wooded ~.* □ *vt* make a hollow in: *river banks ~ed out by rushing water.*

holly /'hɒli/ *n* [U] evergreen shrub with shiny, spiny leaves and, in winter, with red berries.

holo-caust /'hɒləkəʊst/ *n* [C] large-scale destruction, esp of human lives: *a nuclear ~.*

hol-ster /'həʊlstə(r)/ *n* [C] leather case for a gun.

holy /'həʊli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** of God; asso-

ciated with God or with religion: *the H~ Bible*; *the H~ Land*, where Jesus lived; *the H~ City*, Jerusalem; *H~ Week*, the week before Easter Sunday; *H~ Communion*; *the H~ Father*, the Pope. **2** devoted to religion: *live a ~ life.* □ *n* **the Holy of 'Holies**, (a) most sacred inner chamber in a Jewish temple, entered by the High Priest once a year. (b) (fig) any sacred place.

hom-age /'hɒmɪdʒ/ *n* [U] expression of respect. **do/pay homage (to sb)**: *Many came to do the dead man ~.*

home¹ /'həʊm/ *adv* **1** at, in or to one's home or country: *Is he ~ yet?* **2** to the point aimed at; so as to be in the right place: *drive a nail ~*, strike it so that it is completely in. **bring sth/come home to sb**, (cause sb to) realize (an unpleasant truth). **drive a point/an argument home**, cause its full force to be understood.

home² /'həʊm/ *n* [C] **1** place where one lives, esp with one's family: *He left ~ at the age of 16.* **at home**, (a) in the house: *I've left my books at ~.* (b) (football, etc) in the town, etc to which the team belongs: *Is our next match at ~ or away?* **at home in**, familiar with, confident: *Is it difficult to feel at ~ in a foreign language?* **not at home (to)**, not receiving visitors: *Mrs Hill is not at ~ to anyone except relatives.* **make oneself/be/feel at home**, as if in one's own house; at ease: *The boy did not feel at ~ in such a splendid house.* **be nothing to write home about**, (informal) not particularly interesting. **2** institution or place (for the care of children, old or sick people, etc): *a 'nursing ~.* **3** (used as an adjective) family or domestic life: *the pleasures of ~*; *~ life.* **4** place where an animal or plant is native or most common: *the ~ of the tiger and the elephant*, eg the jungle. **5** (in sport and in various games) goal; place where a player is safe and cannot be caught, etc. **6** (used as an adjective) of one's own country (= domestic, inland, contrasted with foreign): *~ industries.* □ *vt* (of missiles, aircraft) be guided to (a target): *The rocket ~ed in on its target.*

'home-coming, arrival at home.

the 'home front, the civilians (in a country at war).

'home-'grown *adj* (of food, etc) produced in the country (not imported).

'home-'help, woman doing domestic work.

'home-land, native land; country from which one's ancestors came.

'home-'made *adj* made at home (not bought from shops).

'Home Office, government department controlling local government, police, prisons, etc in England and Wales.

'Home 'Rule, government of a country by its own citizens.

'home-sick *adj* sad because away from home. Hence, **'home-sick-ness** *n* [U]

'home-stead, house with the land and out-

buildings round it.

home team, local team.

home town, where a person lives or was born.

home truth, unpleasant and obvious fact.

home-work, work which a pupil does at home. **do one's homework**, (fig) prepare for a meeting or discussion.

home-less *adj* having no home.

home-like *adj* like home: *a hotel with a ~like atmosphere*.

home-ward /-wəd/ *adj* going towards home.

home-wards /-wədz/ *adv* towards home.

home-ly /'həʊmli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** simple and plain; of the sort used every day. **2** causing one to think of home or feel at home: *a ~ atmosphere*.

home-li-ness *n* [U]

ho-meo-path *n* = homeopath.

homi-cide /'hɒmisaɪd/ *n* **1** [U] killing of a human being. **2** [C] person who kills a human being.

homi-cidal /'hɒmɪ'saɪdl/ *adj* of homicide: ~ tendencies.

hom-ily /'hɒmɪli/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) sermon; long and tedious talk about morals.

hom-ing /'həʊmɪŋ/ *adj* **1** (of pigeons) having the instinct to fly home (when released a long way from home). **2** (of torpedoes, missiles) fitted with electronic devices that enable them to reach a target.

ho-moeo-path (US = **ho-meo-path**) /'həʊmɪəpəθ/ *n* [C] person who practises homeopathy.

ho-moeo-pathy (US = **ho-meo-pathy**) /'həʊmɪəpəθi/ *n* [U] treatment of disease by very small doses of drugs that, if given to a healthy person, would produce symptoms like those of the disease.

ho-mo-gene-ous /'həʊmə'dʒiːniəs/ *adj* (formed of parts) of the same kind. ⇨ heterogeneous.

hom-ogen-ize (also -ise) /hə'mɒdʒənaɪz/ *vt* **1** make homogeneous. **2** (esp) make milk more uniform in consistency by breaking down and blending the particles of fat.

homo-graph /'hɒməɡraʃ/ US: -græf/ *n* [C] word spelt like another but with a different meaning.

homo-nym /'hɒmənim/ *n* [C] word that is the same in form and sound as another but different in meaning, eg *bow* (front end of a ship) and *bow* (bending of the head).

homo-phone /'hɒməfaʊn/ *n* [C] word pronounced like another but different in meaning, spelling or origin, eg *sum/some*.

homo-sex-ual /'həʊmə'sekʃʊəl/ *adj* sexually attracted to persons of one's own sex. □ *n* [C] homosexual person.

homo-sex-ual-ity /'həʊmə'sekʃʊələti/ *n* [U]

hone /həʊn/ *n* [C] stone used for sharpening tools. □ *vt* sharpen on a hone.

hon-est /'hɒnɪst/ *adj* **1** not telling lies; not cheating or stealing: *an ~ man*; ~ in business;

give an ~ opinion. **2** showing, resulting from, an honest person: *an ~ face*; *an ~ piece of work*.

hon-est-ly *adv* in an honest manner; truthfully: *H~ly, that's all the money I have*.

hon-esty *n* [U] the quality of being honest.

honey /'hʌni/ *n* **1** [U] sweet, sticky yellowish substance made by bees from nectar. **2** [C] (pl ~s) (informal) sweetheart; darling.

'honey-bee, ordinary kind of bee that lives in hives.

'honey-suckle *n* [U] climbing shrub with sweet-smelling yellow or red flowers.

hon-eyed /'hʌnɪd/ *adj* sweet as honey.

honey-comb /'hʌnɪkəʊm/ *n* [C, U] **1** (container with) wax structure of six-sided cells made by bees for honey and eggs. **2** (piece of) ornamental work in a honeycomb pattern. □ *vt* fill with holes, tunnels, etc.

honey-moon /'hʌnɪmuːn/ *n* [C] **1** holiday taken by a newly married couple. **2** (fig) period of harmony at the start of an undertaking, etc □ *vi* go on a honeymoon: *They will ~ in Paris*.

honk /hɒŋk/ *n* [C] **1** cry of the wild goose. **2** sound made by (the old style of) motor horn. □ *vi* make a honk.

hon-or-ary /'ɒnəri/ US: 'ɒnərəri/ *adj* **1** (shortened in writing to **Hon**) (of a position) unpaid: *the ~ secretary*. **2** (of a degree, rank) given as an honour: *an ~ degree/doctorate*; *an ~ vice-president*.

hon-our¹ (US = **honor**) /'hɒnə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] great respect; high public regard: *win ~ in war*; *statues in ~ of those killed in battle*. **2** [U] good personal character; reputation for good behaviour, loyalty, truthfulness, etc. **be/feel in honour bound to do sth**, required to do it as a moral duty, but not by law. **give/on one's word of honour**, guarantee to fulfil an obligation, keep a promise, etc. **3** (in polite formulas): *May I have the ~ of your company at dinner?* *I have the ~ to inform you that...* **4** **Your/His H~**, title of respect used to or of some judges. **5** (with *a, an*) person or thing bringing credit: *He is an ~ to his school/family*. **6** (pl) marks of respect, distinction, etc; titles: *birthday ~s*, (in GB) list of titles, decorations, etc conferred by the Sovereign on her or his birthday; *full military ~s*, ceremonies by soldiers at the burial of a soldier, to distinguished visitors, eg Presidents. **7** (pl) (in universities) (place in the) top level of marks in degree examinations; special distinction for extra proficiency. **pass with honours**, obtain a high standard.

guard of 'honour, number of soldiers chosen to escort or welcome a distinguished person as a mark of respect.

'maid of 'honour, lady attending a queen, princess, etc.

hon-our² (US = **honor**) /'hɒnə(r)/ *vt* **1** respect highly, feel honour for; confer honour on: *I feel highly ~ed by the kind things you say*

about me. **2** accept and pay when due: ~ a bill/cheque.

hon-our-able (US = **hon-or-**) /'ɒnrəbl/ *adj*
1 possessing or showing the principles of honour; consistent with honour (1,2): ~ conduct. **2** (shortened to **Hon**) title given to judges and some other officials, to the children of peers below the rank of Marquis, and (during debates) to members of the House of Commons: *my H~ friend the member for Chester.* ⇨ Right Honourable.

hon-our-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

hood /hʊd/ *n* [C] **1** covering like a bag for the head and neck, often fastened to a coat, etc so that it can hang down at the back when not in use. **2** anything like a hood in shape or use, eg a folding roof over a sports car. **3** (US) = bonnet (2). □ *vt* (chiefly in *pp*) cover with, or as with, a hood.

-hood /-hʊd/ *suffix* (noun + ~ = noun)
status, rank, condition of life: *boyhood*; *motherhood*.

hood-lum /'hʊ:dləm/ *n* [C] (sl) dangerous criminal.

hood-wink /'hʊdwɪŋk/ *vt* deceive; trick.

hoof /hu:f/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or *hooves* /hu:vz/) horny part of the foot of a horse, ox or deer.

hook /hʊk/ *n* [C] **1** curved or bent piece of metal or other material, for catching hold, or for hanging something on: a 'fish~; a 'clothes~. *get/be let off the hook*, get out of a difficult situation, of punishment. **2** curved tool for cutting (grain, etc) or for chopping (branches, etc): a 'reaping~. **3** (boxing) short blow with the arm bent: a left ~. □ *vt, vi* **1** fasten, be fastened, hold with a hook: a dress that ~s/is ~ed at the back; ~ a fish. **2** make into the form of a hook: ~ one's finger. **3** (golf) hit the ball in a curve.

'hook-nosed *adj* having a nose shaped like a hook.

'hook-worm, worm that infests the intestines of men and animals.

hooked *adj* (a) hook-shaped: a ~ed nose. (b) (sl) addicted to; completely committed to: *be/get ~ed on heroin. My aunt is ~ed on package holidays in Spain.*

hookah /'hʊkə/ *n* [C] tobacco pipe (also called a *hubble-bubble*) with a long flexible tube through which smoke is drawn through water in a vase and so cooled.

hooky /'hʊki/ *n* **play hooky**, (sl) = play truant.

hoo-li-gan /'hu:lɪɡən/ *n* [C] person making disturbances in the streets or other public places.

hoo-li-gan-ism /-ɪzəm/ *n* [U]

hoop /hu:p/ *n* [C] **1** circular band of wood or metal as put around a barrel, etc. **2** large ring with paper stretched over it through which circus riders and animals jump. □ *vt* bind (a barrel, etc) with hoops.

hoo-ray /hu:'rei/ = hurrah.

hoot /hu:t/ *n* [C] **1** cry of an owl. **2** sound

made by a motor-car horn, foghorn, etc. **3** shout or cry expressing disapproval or scorn. **not care a hoot/two hoots**, (sl) not care at all. □ *vi, vt* **1** make a hoot (at): *an owl ~ing in the garden*; ~ an actor; ~ a speaker down.

hooter, (a) siren, etc, esp as a signal for work to start or stop. (b) similar device in a motor-vehicle to attract attention. (c) (GB sl) nose.

hooves /hu:vz/ *pl* of hoof.

hop¹ /hɒp/ *n* [C] tall climbing plant, the ripe cones (seed-vessels) of it being dried and used for giving a bitter flavour to beer, etc. □ *vi* (-pp-) gather hops: *go ~ping in Kent*.

hop² /hɒp/ *vi, vt* (-pp-) **1** (of persons) jump on one foot; (of other living creatures, eg birds, frogs, grasshoppers) jump with both or all feet together: *Sparrows were ~ping about on the lawn.* **'hopping mad**, (informal) very angry. **2** make a quick journey, esp in an aircraft: *~ over to France*. □ *n* [C] **1** the action of hopping. **2** short jump. **hop, skip/step and jump**, athletic exercise consisting of these three movements one after the other. **3** (dated informal) party and dance, with popular music. **4** one stage in a long-distance flight: *from Berlin to Tokyo in three ~s*.

hope¹ /həʊp/ *n* 1 [C, U] feeling of desire, trust, confidence: *There is not much ~ that they are alive.* **hold out some/no/little/not much hope (of sth)**, give some, etc encouragement or expectation: *The doctors could hold out no ~ of his recovery.* (be) **beyond/past hope**, without possibility of success, recovery, etc. **raise sb's hopes**, encourage him to expect better fortune, etc: *Don't raise his ~s too much.* ⇨ also *pin²* (1). **2** [C] person, thing, circumstance, etc on which hope is based: *You are my last ~; if you can't help, I'm ruined.*

hope² /həʊp/ *vt, vi* expect and desire: *We ~ to see you soon. We've had no news from him but we're still hoping.*

hope-ful /'həʊpfl/ *adj* **1** having hope: *be/feel ~ about the future.* **2** giving hope; promising: *The future does not seem very ~.* □ *n* [C]: a young ~, boy or girl who seems likely to succeed.

hope-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

hope-less /'həʊpləs/ *adj* **1** feeling, giving, promising, no hope (of recovery, improvement, etc): a ~ case. **2** complete and unchangeable: a ~ idiot.

hope-less-ly *adv*

hop-per¹ /'hɒpə(r)/ *n* [C] person or machine employed to pick hops. ⇨ *hop¹*.

hop-per² /'hɒpə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** structure like an inverted cone or pyramid through which grain passes to a mill, coal or coke to a furnace, etc. **2** any hopping insect, eg a flea, a young locust. **3** (in Australia) kangaroo.

horde /hɔ:d/ *n* [C] **1** wandering tribe (of nomads). **2** crowd; great number: ~s of people/locusts.

horizon /hə'raɪzn/ *n* [C] **1** line at which the earth or sea and sky seem to meet: *The sun sank below the ~.* **2** (fig) limit of one's knowledge, experience, thinking, etc.

horizon-tal /hə'raɪzəntl/ *US*: /hɔːr-/ *adj* parallel to the horizon; flat or level. ⇨ **vertical**. □ *n* [C] horizontal line, bar, etc.

horizon-tally /-əli/ *adv*

hor-mone /'hɔːməʊn/ *n* [C] (kinds of) internal secretion that passes into the blood and stimulates the activity of a bodily organ.

horn /hɔːn/ *n* **1** [C] one of the hard, pointed, usually curved, outgrowths on the heads of cattle, deer and some other animals. **2** [U] article made of this: *a ~ spoon*. **3** [C] article made from this substance (or a modern substitute): *a 'shoe-~*. **4** [C] kinds of musical instrument: *a French ~* (like a trumpet); *an English ~*, cor anglais. **5** device for making warning sounds: *a 'fog~*; *a 'motor-~*. **6** part like a horn(1), eg on the head of a snail. □ *vi* **horn in (on)**, (sf) join in without being invited.

horned *adj* having horns(1): *~ed cattle*.

horny *adj* (-ier, -iest) made of, like, horn: *hands ~y from hard work*.

hor-net /'hɔːnɪt/ *n* [C] large insect of the wasp family.

horn-pipe /'hɔːnpaɪp/ *n* [C] (music for a) lively dance (usually for a sailor).

hor-ol-ogy /hɔː'rɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] art of designing and constructing clocks.

hor-oscope /'hɔːrɒskəʊp/ *US*: /hɔːr-/ *n* [C] diagram of, observation of, positions of planets at a certain time, eg a person's birth, for the purpose of forecasting future events; such a forecast.

hor-rible /'hɔːrəbl/ *US*: /hɔːr-/ *adj* **1** causing horror: *~ cruelty/crimes*. **2** (informal) unpleasant: *~ weather*.

hor-ribly /-əbli/ *adv*

hor-rid /'hɔːrɪd/ *US*: /hɔːrɪd/ *adj* **1** frightful; terrible. **2** (informal) unpleasant: *~ weather*.

hor-rid-ly *adv*

hor-rific /hə'rɪfɪk/ *adj* (informal) horrifying.

hor-rify /'hɔːrɪfaɪ/ *US*: /hɔːr-/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) fill with horror; shock: *We were horrified by/at the news/what we saw*.

hor-ror /'hɔːrə(r)/ *US*: /hɔːr-/ *n* [C,U] (something that causes a) feeling of extreme fear or dislike: *To her ~ she saw her husband knocked down by a bus. We have all read about the ~s of modern warfare*.

'horror fiction/comic/film, which are intended to frighten.

'horror-struck/-stricken *adj* (of persons) very frightened.

hors d'œuvres /,ɔː 'dɔːvrə/ *US*: /dɔːrv/ *n* *pl* dishes of food served at the beginning of a meal.

horse /hɔːs/ *n* **1** [C] four-legged animal with solid hooves, used from early times to carry loads, for riding, etc. ⇨ *colt*¹, *filly*, *foal*, *mare*, *stallion*. **back the wrong horse**, support the loser in a contest. **be/get on one's high**

horse, insist on being treated with proper respect. **hold one's horses**, hesitate; hold back. **look a 'gift horse in the mouth**, accept something ungratefully esp by examining it critically for faults. **(straight) from the 'horse's 'mouth**, (of tips, advice, information) from a first-hand source. **2** (collective sing) cavalry: *the H~ Guards*, ⇨ *guard*¹ (5). **3** [C] framework, often with legs, on which something is supported: *a 'clothes-~*, on which clothes may be dried; *a 'vaulting-~*, block used in a gymnasium for vaulting over. **'horse-back** *n* (only in) **on horseback**, on a horse.

'horse-fly, large insect which troubles horses and cattle.

'horse-man, (skilled) horse rider.

'horse-play, rough, noisy fun or play.

'horse-power, (shortened to **hp**) unit for measuring the power of an engine, etc (550 foot-pounds per second).

'horse-sense, practical common sense.

'horse-shoe, U-shaped metal shoe for a horse.

'horse-whip *vt* (-pp-), *n* [C] (thrash with a) whip for horses.

'horse-woman, (skilled) woman who rides a horse.

horse² /hɔːs/ *vi* **horse about/around**, (informal) be noisy and rough for fun.

hor-ti-cul-tural /hɔː'tɪ'kʌltʃərəl/ *adj* of horticulture. *a ~ show*.

hor-ti-cul-ture /hɔː'tɪkʌltʃə(r)/ *n* [U] (art of) growing flowers, fruit and vegetables.

hose¹ /həʊz/ *n* [C,U] (length of) flexible tubing (of rubber, plastic, etc) for directing water on to fires, gardens, etc. □ *vt* water (a garden, etc) with a hose; wash (a car, etc) by using a hose.

'hose-pipe, length of hose.

hose² /həʊz/ *n* **1** (collective, as *pl*) (trade name for) tights, stockings and socks: *six pair of ~*. **2** article of clothing from the waist to the knees or feet formerly worn by men.

ho-sier /'həʊziə(r)/ *US*: /-zər/ *n* [C] shopkeeper who sells socks, underwear, etc.

ho-siery /'həʊziəri/ *US*: /'həʊzəri/ *n* [U] goods sold by a hosier.

hos-pit-able /hə'spɪəbl/ *adj* giving, liking to give, hospitable: *a ~ man*.

hos-pit-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

hos-pi-tal /'hɒspɪtl/ *n* [C] place where people are treated for, nursed through, illness or injuries.

hos-pi-tal-ity /hɒspɪ'tæləti/ *n* [U] friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, esp in one's own home.

host¹ /həʊst/ *n* [C] **1** great number: *He has ~s of friends*.

host² /həʊst/ *n* [C] **1** person who entertains guests. **2** inn-keeper; hotel-keeper. **3** (biology) animal, plant, from which a parasite feeds.

hos-tage /'hɒstɪdʒ/ *n* [C] person given or left as a guarantee that demands will be satisfied:

The hijackers kept one of the travellers as a ~.

hos-tel /'hɒstl/ *n* [C] building in which board and lodging are provided for students, workmen in training, etc: a *YMC'A* ~.

'youth hostel, one for young people on walking, riding or cycling holidays.

hos-tel-ler, person travelling from one hostel to another: *youth ~lers*.

hos-tel-ry, (archaic) inn.

host-ess /'həʊstɪs/ *n* [C] **1** woman who entertains guests; wife of one's host. **2** woman inn-keeper. ⇨ *air hostess*.

hos-tile /'hɒstail/ *US: -tl/adj* **1** of an enemy: a ~ *army*. **2** being or appearing unfriendly: a ~ *crowd/look; looking ~*.

hos-tile-ly *adv*

hos-til-ity /'hɒstɪləti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] unfriendly feeling; hatred: *feelings of ~*. **2** (pl) (acts of) war.

hot /hɒt/ *adj* (-ter, -test) **1** having great heat or a high temperature: ~ *weather; feel ~*. ⇨ *pip-ing*. **2** producing a burning sensation to the taste: *Pepper is ~*. **3** intense; violent: a *man with a ~ temper*. **4** (of music, esp jazz) performed with strong rhythms, improvisation, etc. **5** (sl) (of stolen goods) difficult to sell (because of the police efforts to find them). **6** (as an *adverb*) (a) recently: ~ *off the press*, recently published, announced. ⇨ *hot news below*.

(b) **blow hot and cold**, (fig) be by turns favourable and unfavourable. ⇨ *vt, vi* (-tt-) **hot (sth) up**, (informal) make or become hotter or (fig) more exciting: *Things are ~ing up*.

hot 'air, meaningless talk, promises, etc.

'hot-bed, (fig) place favourable to growth, esp of something evil: a ~ *bed of vice/crime*.

hot-'blooded *adj* passionate.

'hot dog, sausage served with onions and mustard in a sandwich or bread roll.

'hot-foot *adv* eagerly; in great haste: *follow the enemy ~foot*. ⇨ *vi* go hastily: ~ *foot it down to the library*.

'hot-head, person acting on impulse.

hot-'headed *adj* violent; rash.

'hot-house, heated building, usually made of glass, for growing plants.

'hot line, direct line of communication (telephone or teleprinter) between heads of governments.

hot news, recent (esp sensational) news.

'hot-plate, flat surface, eg of a cooking-stove, that can be heated.

hot po'tato, (informal) difficult problem or situation.

'hot sent, difficult or dangerous position; *be in the ~ seat*.

'hot spring, naturally heated spring¹ (2).

hot-'tempered *adj* easily angered.

hot 'water, (informal) trouble: *be/get into ~ water*.

hot-'water bottle, container (often of rubber) to be filled with hot water for warmth in bed.

hot-ly *adv* (a) energetically: a ~ *ly contested*

match. (b) closely: ~ *ly pursued by the police*.

hotch-potch /'hɒtʃ pɒtʃ/ *n* [C but rarely pl] jumbled mixture (of things, ideas, etc).

ho-tel /həʊ'tel/ *n* [C] (either a ~ or (dated) an ~) building where meals and rooms are provided for travellers.

ho-tel-ier /həʊ'teliə/ *n* [C] person who manages a hotel.

hound /haʊnd/ *n* [C] (kinds of) dog used for hunting and racing: a 'fox~; a 'blood~; a 'grey~. ⇨ *vt* **1** chase or hunt with hounds. **2** trouble; worry: *be ~ed by one's creditors*.

hour /'aʊə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** twenty-fourth part of a day; 60 minutes: *walk for ~s (and ~s); a three ~s' journey*. **at the eleventh hour**, when almost too late. **2** time of day; point or period of time: *They disturb me at all ~s of the day and night*, constantly. **3** (pl) fixed periods of time, esp for work: 'Office ~s, 9am to 5pm. **4** particular, or the present, point in time: *in the ~ of danger*.

'hour hand, small hand on a clock or watch, pointing to the hour.

hour-ly /'aʊəli/ *adv* **1** every hour; once every hour: *This medicine is to be taken ~*. **2** at any hour: *We're expecting news ~*. **3** by the hour: *paid ~/~ rates of pay*. ⇨ *adj* **1** done or occurring every hour: *an ~ bus service*. **2** continual: *live in ~ fear of discovery*.

house¹ /haus/ *n* [C] (pl ~s /'haʊzɪz/) **1** building made for people to live in: *New ~s are going up everywhere*. ⇨ *home*² (1). **get on like a 'house on fire**, (of people) quickly become friendly. **under 'house arrest**, forbidden (by persons in authority) to leave one's house or receive visitors. ⇨ *open*¹ (5). **2** (usually with a *prefix*) building made or used for some particular purpose or occupation: a 'hen~; a 'ware~. **3** (building used by an) assembly: *the H~ of Commons/Lords; the H~s of Parliament*. **4** household; family line; dynasty: *the H~ of Windsor*, the British Royal family. **5** spectators, audience, in a theatre: *a full ~*, every seat occupied. **bring the 'house down**, win very great applause and approval.

'house agent, (GB) person who, firm which, sells or lets houses.

'house-boat, boat fitted up as a place to live in.

'house-bound *adj* having to stay at home.

'house-breaker, (a) burglar. (b) man employed to pull down old houses.

'house-craft, theory and practice of running a home² (1).

'house-father, man in charge of children in an institution.

'house-fly, ⇨ *fly*¹.

'house-ful /-fʊl/ as much as a house can accommodate.

'house-hold, all persons (family, lodgers, etc) living in a house.

'house-hold 'cavalry, soldiers who guard the Sovereign.

'house-holder, person leasing or owning and occupying a house.

'house-keeper, woman employed to look after a household.

'house-man, (GB) doctor who is an assistant to a physician or surgeon in a hospital.

'house-master, teacher in charge of a school boarding-house.

'house-mother, woman in charge of children in an institution.

'house-proud *adj* very much concerned with the care and appearance of one's home.

'house physician/surgeon, one who lives in a hospital.

'house-trained *adj* (of domestic pets) trained not to defecate and urinate inside buildings.

'house-wife, woman head of a family, who runs the home, brings up the family, etc.

'house-work, work done in a house, cleaning, sweeping, etc. ⇨ *homework*

house² /'haʊz/ *vt* provide a home, room or shelter for: *We can ~ you and your friends if the hotels are full.*

housing /'haʊzɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] accommodation in houses, etc: *More ~ is needed for old people.*

2 [C] solid cover to protect a machine.

'housing estate, area of houses planned and built either by a local authority or other organization, to be let or sold.

hove /'həʊv/ *pt, pp* of *heave*.

hovel /'həʊv/ *US: 'havl/ n* [C] small, poor house or hut.

hover /'hɒvə(r)/ *US: 'hævər/ vi* **1** (of birds) remain in the air in one place: *a hawk ~ing overhead.* **2** (of persons) wait about. **3** (fig) remain at or near: *~ between life and death.*

'hover-craft, craft capable of moving over land or water while supported on a cushion of air made by jet engines.

how /'haʊ/ *adv* **1** in what way or manner; by what means: *H~ is the word spelt? Tell me ~ to spell the word.* **2** (in questions and exclamations) to what extent; in what degree: *H~ old is he? H~ kind you are!* **3** in what state of health: *H~ are you? How do you do?* (formula used as a conventional greeting, esp when persons are formally introduced.) **4** (used in asking for an opinion, decision, explanation, etc). **How's that?** (a) What's the explanation of that? (b) What's your opinion of that? eg an object pointed to. **How about...** ⇨ *about*²(4). **How much...** ⇨ *much*²(4).

how-ever /'haʊ'evə(r)/ *adv* in whatever way or degree: *He will never succeed, ~ hard he tries.* □ *conj* all the same; nevertheless: *Later, ~, he decided to go. She's mad. H~, she's pretty.*

howl /'haʊl/ *n* [C] **1** long, loud cry, eg of a wolf. **2** long cry of a person in pain, or expressing scorn, amusement, etc: *~s of laughter.* **3** noise of a strong wind, gale. □ *vi, vt* make such noises (at): *The wind ~ed through the trees.*

They ~ed with delight.

howl-ing *adj* (a) making such a noise: *a ~ing gale.* (b) (informal) extreme; glaring: *a ~ing error.*

how-so-ever /'haʊsəʊ'evə(r)/ *adv* (old use) = however.

hub /hʌb/ *n* [C] **1** central part of a wheel from which the spokes radiate. **2** (fig) central point of activity or importance: *a ~ of industry/commerce.*

'hub-cap, shield for a hub(1).

hubble-bubble /'hʌbl bʌbl/ *n* [C] = hookah.

hub-bub /'hʌbʌb/ *n* [U] confused noise, eg of voices.

hubby /'hʌbi/ *n* [C] (GB informal) = husband.

huddle /'hʌdl/ *vt, vi* **1** crowd together: *sheep huddling together for warmth.* **2** curl or coil up against: *Tom was cold, so he ~d up against his brother in bed.* **3** heap up in a confused mass: *~ things together.* □ *n* [C] number of things or persons close together without order or arrangement.

hue¹ /'hju:/ *n* [C] (shade of) colour: *the dark ~ of the ocean.*

hue² /'hju:/ *n* [C] (only in) **hue and cry**, /'hju: ən 'kraɪ/ general outcry of alarm as when a criminal is being pursued, or to express opposition: *raise a ~ and cry against new tax proposals.*

huff /'hʌf/ *n* **be in/get into a huff**, *be/ become* bad-tempered.

hug /hʌg/ *vt* (-gg-) **1** put the arms round tightly, esp to show love: *The child was ~ing her doll.* **2** cling to: *~ cherished beliefs.* **3** **hug the shore**, (of a ship) keep close to it. □ *n* [C] tight embrace: *She gave her mother a big ~.*

huge /'hju:dʒ/ *adj* very great.

huge-ly *adv* enormously; very much.

hulk /hʌlk/ *n* [C] **1** old ship no longer in use or used only as a storehouse. **2** big, clumsy person or object.

hulk-ing *adj* clumsy; awkward: *Get out of my way, you big ~ing creature!*

hull¹ /hʌl/ *n* [C] body or frame of a ship.

hull² /hʌl/ *n* [C] outer covering of some fruits and seeds, esp the pods of peas and beans. □ *vt* remove the hulls of.

hul-la-ba-loo /'hʌləbə'lu:/ *n* [C] uproar; disturbance: *What's all this ~ about?*

hullo /'hʌləʊ/ *int* = hallo.

hum /hʌm/ *vi, vt* (-mm-) **1** make a continuous sound like that made by bees. **2** sing with closed lips: *She was ~ing a song to herself.* **3** be in a state of activity: *a factory ~ing with activity.* **4** (informal) make sounds expressing hesitation or doubt. □ *n* [C] humming noise: *the ~ of bees/of distant traffic/of voices.*

hu-man /'hju:mən/ *adj* **1** of man or mankind (contrasted with animals or God): *a ~ being; ~ nature.* ⇨ *milk*¹(1). **2** having, showing, moral qualities that distinguish man: *His cruelty shows that he is less than ~.* □ *n* [C]

human being.

human 'rights, freedom of thought and expression, personal liberty, means to live, etc justly claimed by all human beings.

hu-man-ly *adv* (esp) by human means; without divine help: *The doctors have done all that is ~ly possible.*

hu-mane /hju:'mein/ *adj* caring about the feelings of another; sympathetic: *a man of ~ character.*

hu-mane-ly *adv.*

hu-mani-tar-ian /hju:mæni'teəriən/ *adj*, *n* [C] (of, holding the views of, a) person who works for the welfare of all human beings by reducing suffering, reforming laws about punishment, etc.

hu-man-ity /hju:'mænəti/ *n* [U] **1** the human race; mankind: *crimes against ~.* **2** human nature. **3** quality of being humane: *treat people and animals with ~.*

the humanities, the branches of learning concerned with art, literature, history, philosophy.

hu-man-ize (also **-ise**) /hju:mənaɪz/ *vt*, *vi* make or become human or humane.

humble /'hambəl/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** having or showing that one is inferior, less able, etc: *He is very ~ towards his superiors.* **2** (of persons) low in rank or position; unimportant. **3** (of things) poor in appearance. □ *vt* make lower in rank or self-opinion: *~ one's enemies.*

hum-bly *adv* in a humble way: *beg most humbly for forgiveness.*

hum-bug /'hambəg/ *n* [C,U] (instance of) dishonest and deceiving behaviour or talk. **2** [C] (*dated*) dishonest, deceitful person. **3** (*GB*) hard-boiled sweet flavoured with peppermint. □ *vt* (-gg-) deceive or trick: *Don't try to ~ me!* □ *int* (*dated*) Nonsense!

hum-drum /'həmdrəm/ *adj* dull; ordinary: *live a ~ life.*

hu-merus /hju:'mərəs/ *n* [C] (*anat*) bone of the upper arm in man.

hu-mid /hju:'mɪd/ *adj* (esp of air, climate) damp.

hu-mid-ity /hju:'mɪdəti/ *n* [U] (degree of) moisture (in the air).

hu-mili-ate /hju:'mɪleɪt/ *vt* cause to feel ashamed; lower the dignity or self-respect of: *humiliating peace terms.*

hu-mili-ation /hju:'mɪleɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

hu-mil-ity /hju:'mɪləti/ *n* [U] humble condition or state of mind.

hum-ming-bird /'hʌmɪŋbɜ:d/ *n* [C] (kinds of) small, brightly coloured bird that makes a humming sound with its wings.

hum-mock /'hʌmək/ *n* [C] hillock; rising ground in a marsh or an icefield.

hu-mor-ist /hju:'mərɪst/ *n* [C] humorous talker or writer.

hu-mor-ous /hju:'mərəs/ *adj* having or showing a sense of humour; funny: *a ~ remark.*

hu-mor-ous-ly *adv*

hu-mour (*US* = **hu-mor**) /'hju:mə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] (capacity to cause or feel) amusement: *a good sense of ~.* **2** [U] person's state of mind (esp at a particular time); temper: *not in the ~ for work*, not feeling inclined to work. □ *vt* give in to (a person): *Is it wise to always ~ a child?*

hump /hʌmp/ *n* [C] round lump, eg on a camel's back or (as a deformity) on a person's back. ⇨ **hunch-back**. □ *vt* make hump-shaped: *The cat ~ed (up) her back when she saw the dog.*

hu-mus /hju:məs/ *n* [U] earth formed by the decay of vegetable matter (dead leaves, plants).

hunch /hʌntʃ/ *n* [C] **1** thick piece; hump. **2** *have a hunch that*, (*sl*) have a vague feeling, idea, that. □ *vt* arch to form a hump: *with his shoulders ~ed up.*

'hunch-back, (person having a) back with a hump. Hence, **'hunch-backed** *adj*

hun-dred /'hʌndrəd/ *adj*, *n* [C] (of) the number 100: *~s of people*, many people; *two ~ and five*, 205 (*Note*: in the last example, *hundred* is *sing*).

'hundred-fold *adv* one hundred times as much or as many.

hun-dredth /'hʌndrədθ/ *adj*, *n* [C] (*abbr* 100th) (of) one of a hundred equal parts or the next after 99.

'hundred-weight, (often written **cwt**) (*GB*) twentieth of one ton.

hung /hʌŋ/ *pt*, *pp* of hang².

hun-ger /'hʌŋgə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] need, desire for food: *die of ~.* **2** (*fig*) any strong desire: *a ~ for excitement*. □ *vi* **1** feel, suffer from, hunger. **2** have a strong desire: *~ for news.*

'hunger-strike, refusal to take food as a protest.

hun-gry /'hʌŋɡri/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) feeling, showing signs of, causing, hunger: *be/go ~.* *The refugee child was ~ for affection.*

hun-grily /'hʌŋɡrɪli/ *adv*

hunk /hʌŋk/ *n* [C] thick piece cut off: *a ~ of bread.*

hunt¹ /hʌnt/ *n* **1** (*sing* with *the*, *a* or *an*) act of hunting; search: *find something after a long ~.*

2 group of persons who regularly hunt foxes and stags with horses and hounds; the area in which they do this.

hunter, (a) person who hunts; *~ers of big game in Africa.* (b) horse used in foxhunting.

hunt-ing, the act of chasing wild animals, esp foxes for sport, food: *He's fond of ~ing.*

hunt² /hʌnt/ *vi*, *vt* **1** go after (wild animals) for food or sport: *~ deer.* **2** **hunt down**, look for, track and find: *~ down a criminal/an escaped prisoner.* **hunt for**, search; try to find: *~ for a lost book.* **hunt high and low**, search everywhere.

hurdle /'hɜ:dl/ *n* [C] **1** light frame to be jumped over in a 'hurdle-race on a racetrack. **2** (*fig*) difficulty to be overcome. □ *vt* take part in a hurdle-race.

hur-dler, person who runs in hurdle-races.

hurl /hɜ:l/ *vt* throw with force: ~ a spear at a tiger. □ *n* [C] violent throw.

hurly-burly /hɜ:li 'bɜ:li/ *n* [U] noisy commotion.

hur-rah /hʊ'ra:/ *int* (expressing joy, approval, etc).

hur-ri-cane /'hʌrɪkən *US*: 'hərəkəɪn/ *n* [C] violent windstorm, esp a W Indian cyclone.

'hurricane lamp/lantern, lamp with the light protected from the wind.

hurry /'hʌrɪ *US*: 'hɔ:ri/ *n* [U] eager haste; wish to get something done quickly: *Why all this ~?*

in a hurry. (a) impatient; acting, anxious to act, quickly: *He was in a ~ to leave.* (b) (informal) soon, willingly: *I shan't ask that rude man to dinner again in a ~.* (c) (informal) easily: *You won't find a better one than that in a ~.* □ *vt, vi* (pt, pp -ied) (cause to) move or do something (too) quickly: *It's no use ~ing her/trying to make her ~.* **Hurry up!** Be quick!

hur-ried *adj* done, etc in a hurry; showing haste: a hurried meal.

hur-ried-ly *adv*

hurt /hɜ:t/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp ~) **1** cause bodily injury or pain to; damage: *He ~ his back when he fell.*

2 affect a person's feelings unfavourably: *He was very ~ by their criticisms.* **3** suffer injury; have a bad effect (on): *It won't ~ to wait for a few days.* □ *n* [U] (or with a, an) harm; injury: *I intended no ~ to his feelings.*

hurt-ful /-fl *adj* causing suffering.

hurtle /'hɜ:tl/ *vi* (cause to) fall or be flung violently: *During the gale the tiles came hurtling down.*

hus-band /'hʌzbənd/ *n* [C] man to whom a woman is married.

hus-band-ry /'hʌzbəndrɪ/ *n* [U] (formal) farming; animal ~.

hush /hʌʃ/ *vt, vi* make or become silent or quiet: *H~! Be silent!* **hush sth up**, prevent it from becoming public knowledge: *She tried to ~ up the fact that her husband was an ex-convict.* □ *n* [U] silence; stillness: *in the ~ of night.*

hush-hush /'hʌʃ hʌʃ/ *adj* (informal) secret.

husk /hʌsk/ *n* [C] dry outer covering of seeds, esp of grain: *rice in the ~.* □ *vt* remove husks from.

husky /'hʌski/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** (dry) like husks. **2** (of a person, his voice) hoarse; with a dry and almost whispering voice: *a ~ voice/cough.* □ *n* [C] (pl -ies) thick-coated dog of N American Eskimos.

husk-ily /-əli/ *adv*

hussy /'hʌzi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) ill-mannered, often immoral, girl or woman.

hus-tings /'hʌstɪŋz/ *n pl* proceedings (canvassing, speech-making, etc) leading up to a parliamentary election.

hustle /'hʌsl/ *vt, vi* **1** push or jostle roughly: *The police ~d the thief into their van.* **2** (make a person) act quickly and with energy: *I don't want to ~ you into a decision.* **3** (esp US) (informal) sell or obtain something by energetic

(esp deceitful) activity. □ *n* (sing only) quick, and energetic activity: *The railway station was a scene of ~ and bustle.*

hus-tler, person who hustles.

hut /hʌt/ *n* [C] **1** small, roughly made house or shelter. **2** temporary wooden building for soldiers.

hutch /hʌts/ *n* [C] box or cage, esp one used for rabbits.

hya-cinth /'haɪəsmθ/ *n* [C] plant growing from a bulb with spikes of coloured flowers; its sweet-smelling flowers.

hy-æna /haɪ'i:nə/ ⇨ hyena.

hy-drangea /haɪ'dreɪndʒə/ *n* [C] (sorts of) shrub with large heads of white, blue or pink flowers.

hy-drant /'haɪdrənt/ *n* [C] pipe from a water-main (esp in a street) with a nozzle to which a hose can be attached for putting out fires, etc.

hy-draulic /haɪ'drɔ:lik/ *adj* of water moving through pipes; worked by the pressure of a fluid, esp water: ~ brakes, in which the braking force is transmitted by compressed fluid.

hy-draulics *n pl* science of using water to produce power.

hy-dro-chloric acid /,haɪdrə'klɔ:rik 'æsɪd *US*: -,klɔ:ɹ-/ *n* [U] acid (symbol HCl) containing hydrogen and chlorine, used widely in industrial processes.

hy-dro-elec-tric /,haɪdrəʊ'lektɪk/ *adj* of electricity produced by water-power.

hy-dro-foil /'haɪdrəfɔɪl/ *n* [C] boat with plates or fins which, when the boat is in motion, raise the hull out of the water.

hy-dro-gen /'haɪdrədʒən/ *n* [U] gas (symbol H) without colour, taste or smell, that combines with oxygen to form water.

'hydrogen bomb, bomb with a force much greater than an atomic bomb.

hy-dro-pho-bia /,haɪdrə'fəʊbiə/ *n* [U] **1** rabies. **2** (illness marked by a) great fear of water.

hy-ena, hy-æna /haɪ'i:nə/ *n* [C] carnivorous wild animal, like a wolf, with a laughing cry.

hy-giene /'haɪdʒi:n/ *n* [U] science of, rules for, healthy living; cleanliness.

hy-gienic /haɪ'dʒi:nɪk *US*: ,haɪdʒɪ'lenɪk/ *adj* of hygiene; free from disease germs: *These are not very hygienic conditions.*

hy-gieni-cally /-kli/ *adv*

hymen /'hɪmən/ *n* [C] (anat) membrane over part or all of the opening of the vagina.

hymn /hɪm/ *n* [C] song of praise to God, as used in a religious service. □ *vt* praise in hymns.

hym-nal /'hɪmnəl/ *n* [C] book of hymns.

hyper- /haɪpə(r)-/ *prefix* to a large or extreme extent: *hypercritical.*

hy-per-bole /haɪpə'bəli/ *n* **1** [U] (use of) exaggerated statement(s) made for effect and not to be taken literally. **2** [C] instance of this, *eg waves as high as Everest.*

hy-per-criti-cal /haɪpə'krɪtɪkl/ *adj* too critical, esp of small faults.

hy-per-mar-ket /'haɪpəmə:kɪt/ *n* [C] very large supermarket occupying an extensive area outside a town, selling all varieties of goods.

hy-phen /'haɪfn/ *n* [C] the mark (-) used to join two words together (as in *Anglo-French*), or between syllables (as in *co-operate*). □ *vt* join (words) with a hyphen.

hy-phen-ate /-eɪt/ *vt* = hyphen.

hyp-no-sis /hɪp'nəʊsɪs/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ses /-sɪz/) (artificially produced) state like deep sleep in which a person's acts may be controlled by another person.

hyp-notic /hɪp'nɒtɪk/ *adj* of hypnosis: *in a ~ state*.

hyp-not-ism /'hɪpnətɪzəm/ *n* [U] (production of) hypnosis.

hyp-not-ist /-ɪst/, *person* able to produce hypnosis.

hyp-not-ize (also **-ise**) /-aɪz/ *vt* produce hypnosis (in a person).

hy-po-chon-dria /,haɪpə'kɒndrɪə/ *n* [U] mental depression due to unnecessary anxiety about one's health.

hy-po-chon-driac /-driæk/ *adj* of, affected by, hypochondria. □ *n* [C] sufferer from hypochondria.

hy-poc-risy /hɪ'pɒkrəsi/ *n* [C,U] (*pl* -ies) (instance of) falsely making oneself appear to be virtuous or good.

hyp-ocrite /'hɪpəkrɪt/ *n* [C] person guilty of hypocrisy.

hy-po-criti-cal /,haɪpə'krɪtɪkl/ *adj* of hypoc-risy or a hypocrite.

hy-po-criti-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

hy-po-der-mic /,haɪpə'dɜ:mɪk/ *adj* (of drugs, etc) injected beneath the skin: *~ injections*; *a ~ syringe*.

hy-pot-en-use /,haɪ'pɒtənju:z/ *US*: -nu:s/ *n* [C] side of a right-angled triangle opposite the right angle.

hy-po-the-sis /haɪ'pɒθəsɪs/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ses /-sɪz/) idea, suggestion, put forward as a starting-point for reasoning or explanation.

hy-po-theti-cal /,haɪpə'θetɪkl/ *adj* of, based on, a hypothesis.

hys-teria /hɪ'stɪəriə/ *n* [U] **1** disturbance of the nervous system, with outbursts of uncontrollable emotion. **2** uncontrolled excitement, eg in a crowd round a pop star.

hys-teri-cal /hɪ'sterɪkl/ *adj* caused by, suffering from, hysteria: *~ laughter*.

hys-teri-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

hys-ter-ics /hɪ'stenks/ *n pl* attack(s) of hysteria: *go into ~*.

I

I ¹ /aɪ/ (*pl* I's /aɪz/) **1** the ninth letter of the English alphabet. **2** Roman numeral, such as I (= 1), iii (= 3), IX (= 9).

I ² /aɪ/ *personal pron* (used by a speaker or writer to refer to himself). (Note: compare *me*, object form, and *we*, *us*, plural forms.)

-ial /-ɪəl/ *suffix* characteristic of: *dictatorial*.

-ian /-ɪən/ *suffix* **1** (*proper noun* + ~ = *noun/ adjective*): *Brazilian*. **2** *specialist in*: *optician*.

ibi-dem /ɪ'bɪdəm/ *adv* (*Latin*) in the same book, chapter, etc (previously quoted).

ibis /'aɪbɪs/ *n* [C] large bird (like a stork or heron) found in lakes and swamps in warm climates.

-ible /-əbl/ *suffix* ⇨ **-able**.

-ic /-ɪk/ *suffix* (used to form an *adjective*): *poetic*.

-ical /-ɪkl/ *suffix* alternative to **-ic**.

-ically /-ɪklɪ/ (used to form an *adverb*): *poetically*.

ice ¹ /aɪs/ *n* **1** [U] frozen water; water made solid by cold: *Is the ~ thick enough for skating?* **2** [C] frozen sweet of various kinds: *'water-~, ~cream; two strawberry ~s*.

'Ice Age, time when much of the Northern hemisphere was covered with glaciers.

'ice-berg, mass of ice moving in the sea.

'ice-bound *adj* (of harbours, etc) obstructed by ice.

'ice-box, box in which ice is used to keep food cool.

'ice-cream *n* [C,U] (portion of) cream flavoured and frozen.

'ice-field, large area of ice in the Polar regions.

'ice hockey, ⇨ *hockey*.

'ice-lolly, flavoured ice on a stick.

'ice-rink, indoor skating-rink with a floor of artificial ice.

'ice-skate *n* [C] thin metal runner or blade on a boot for skating on ice. □ *vi* skate on ice.

'ice-tray, one in a refrigerator, for making cubes of ice.

ice ² /aɪs/ *vi, vi* **1** make very cold: *~d water*. **2** cover, become covered, with a coating of ice: *The pond is icing over*. **3** cover (a cake) with icing. ⇨ *icing*.

icicle /'aɪsɪkl/ *n* [C] pointed piece of ice made by the freezing of dripping water.

icing /'aɪsɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** mixture of sugar, white of egg, flavouring, etc for covering cake(s). **2** formation of ice on the wings of an aircraft.

icon /'aɪkɒn/ *n* [C] (in the Eastern Church) painting, mosaic, etc of a sacred person, itself regarded as sacred.

icy /'aɪsi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** very cold, like ice:

~ winds. **2** covered with ice: ~ roads. **3** (fig) unfriendly: *an ~ welcome*.

icily /'aɪsəl/ *adv*

-ics /-ɪks/ *suffix* science or specific activity: *physics; athletics*.

I'd /aɪd/ = *I had; I would*.

-ide /-aɪd/ *suffix* chemical compound: *chloride*.

idea /aɪ'diə/ *n* [C] **1** thought; picture in the mind: *have a good ~ of life in ancient Greece*. **2** plan; scheme; design; purpose: *He's full of new ~s*. **3** opinion: *You shouldn't force your ~s on other people*. **4** vague belief, feeling that something is probable: *I have an ~ that she will be late*. **5** conception: *You have no ~ (of) how anxious we have been*.

ideal /aɪ'diəl/ *adj* **1** satisfying one's idea of what is perfect: ~ weather for a holiday. **2** existing only in the imagination; not likely to be achieved: ~ happiness. □ *n* [C] idea, example, looked on as perfect: *She's looking for a husband but hasn't found her ~ yet*.

ideal-ist /-ɪst/, person who pursues (often impractical) ideals.

ideal-istic /aɪ'diəlɪ'stɪk/ *adj*

ideally /aɪ'diəl/ *adv*

ideal-ize (also **-ise**) /aɪ'diəlaɪz/ *vt* see, think of, as perfect.

ideal-ization (also **-isation**) /aɪ'diəlaɪ'zeɪʃn *US*: -lɪ'z- / *n* [U]: the idealization of married life.

idem /aɪ'dem/ *adj, n* [C] (*Latin*) (by) the same author, etc; the same book, etc (already mentioned).

ident-ical /aɪ'dentɪkl/ *adj* **1** the same: *This is the ~ knife with which the murder was committed*. **2** exactly alike: *Our views of what should be done are ~*.

i,dentical twins, twins from one single fertilized ovum.

ident-ically /-klɪ/ *adv*

ident-ify /aɪ'dentɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** say, show, prove, who or what a person or thing is: *Could you ~ your umbrella among a hundred others?* **2** *identify with*, treat (something) as identical (with another). **identify oneself with**, be associated with: *He refused to ~ himself with the new political party*.

identi-fi-ca-tion /aɪ'dentɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* (a) [U] act of identifying. (b) [C] proof of who a person is, eg a passport.

ident-ity /aɪ'dentɪtɪ/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] state of being identical; exact likeness. **2** [C,U] who a person is; what something is: *He was arrested because of mistaken ~*.

ideo-gram /'ɪdiəgrəm/ *n* [C] written or printed character that symbolizes the idea of a thing, eg as used in Chinese writing.

ideo-graph /'ɪdiəgrɑ:f *US*: -græf/ *n* = *ideo-gram*.

ideo-lect /'ɪdiəlekt/ *n* [C] language used by one particular person: *Is the word 'corny' part of your ~?* ⇨ *dialect*.

ideol-ogy /aɪdɪ'ɒlədʒɪ/ *n* (*pl* -ies) [C] system of political, juridical, moral, aesthetic,

religious, philosophical ideas, typical of certain classes, social groups, etc: *The book compares bourgeois and socialist ~ies*.

ideo-logi-cal /aɪ'dɪə'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj*

ideo-logi-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

id est /ɪd 'est/ (abbr **ie**) (*Latin*) that is to say.

idi-ocy /'ɪdɪəsi/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] state of being an idiot; extreme stupidity. **2** [C] extremely stupid act, remark, etc.

id-iom /'ɪdɪəm/ *n* [C] **1** specific character of the language of a people or country, eg one peculiar to a district, group of people, or to one individual: *the ~ of the Northern England countryside*, ie the kind of English used there. **2** succession of words whose meaning is not obvious through knowledge of the individual words but must be learnt as a whole (especially when not used literally), eg *give up, in order to, be all ears*.

idio-matic /ɪ'dɪə'mætɪk/ *adj*

idi-om-ati-cally /ɪ'dɪə'mætɪklɪ/ *adv*

ideo-syn-crazy /ɪ'dɪə'sɪŋkɹəsi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) way of thinking or behaving that is peculiar to a person.

ideo-syn-cratic /ɪ'dɪə'sɪŋ'krætɪk/ *adj*

id-iot /'ɪdɪət/ *n* [C] **1** person suffering severe mental handicap and incapable of rational conduct. **2** (*informal*) fool: *I've left my umbrella in the train. What an ~ I am!*

idi-otic /ɪdɪ'ɒtɪk/ *adj* very stupid.

idi-oti-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

idle /aɪdl/ *adj* (*-r, -st*) **1** doing no work; not active or in use: *When men cannot find employment they are ~* (though not necessarily lazy). **2** (of time) not spent in doing something: *We spent many ~ hours during the holidays*. **3** (of persons) lazy (the more usual word for this sense): *an ~, worthless girl*. **4** useless; worthless: *Don't listen to ~ gossip*. □ *vi, vt* **1** be idle: *Don't ~ (about)*. **2** spend in a lazy manner: *idling away your time*. **3** (of a car engine) run slowly in neutral gear.

idler, person who is idle.

idly /aɪdlɪ/ *adv*

idol /aɪdl/ *n* [C] **1** image in wood, stone, etc of a god; such an image used as an object of worship. **2** person or thing greatly loved or admired: *He was an only child, and the ~ of his parents*.

idol-ater /aɪ'dɒlətə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** worshipper of idols. **2** devoted admirer (of...).

idol-atress /-trɪs/ *n* [C] woman idolater.

idol-atrous /aɪ'dɒlətrəs/ *adj* (of a person) worshipping idols; of the worship of idols.

idol-atrous-ly *adv*

idol-atry /aɪ'dɒlətri/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] the worship of idols; excessive devotion to or admiration of (a person or thing). **2** [C] instance of this.

idol-ize (also **-ise**) /aɪ'dəlaɪz/ *vt* **1** make an idol of. **2** love or admire to excess.

idol-iz-ation (also **-isation**) /aɪ'dəlaɪ'zeɪʃn *US*: -lɪ'z- / *n* [U]

idyll /'ɪdɪl *US*: 'aɪdəl/ *n* [C] **1** short description,

usually in verse, of a simple scene or event. **2** scene, etc suitable for this.

idyllic /ɪdɪlɪk/ *US*: aɪd- /adj suitable for, like, an idyll.

if /ɪf/ *conj* **1** on the condition that; supposing that: (a) (of something that is possible, probable, or likely): *I ~ you ask him, he will help you.* (b) (of an unlikely or improbable event): *I ~ anyone calls, please let me know.* (c) (of a condition that cannot be, or is unlikely to be realized, or is one put forward for consideration): *I ~ I asked him/I ~ I were to ask him for a loan, would he agree?* (d) (of a condition that was not fulfilled, eg because it was an impossible one, or through failure to act): *I ~ they had started earlier, they would have arrived in time.* **2** when; whenever: *I ~ you mix yellow and blue you get green. I ~ she wants the steward she rings the bell.* **3** granting or admitting that: *Even ~ he did say that, I'm sure he didn't intend to hurt your feelings.* **4 (even) if**, (may mean 'although'): *I'll do it, even ~ it takes me all the afternoon.* **5 (informal)** whether: *Do you know ~ Mr Smith is at home?* **6 as if**, as it would be if. (Note: *It isn't as if* suggests that the contrary of what follows is true: *It isn't as ~ we were rich*, ie *We are not rich*. ⇨ as²(11).) **7 if only**, (often introducing a wish, or of an unfulfilled condition, especially in exclamations): *I ~ only he had arrived in time!*

-ify (also **-fy**) /-(ɪ)fai/ *suffix (noun/adjective + ~ = verb)* make into, cause to be: *terrify*; *solidify*.

igloo /'ɪɡlu:/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) winter hut of blocks of hard snow, used by the Eskimos.

igneous /ɪɡniəs/ *adj* (of rocks) formed by volcanic action.

ignite /ɪɡnaɪt/ *vt, vi* set on fire.

ignition /ɪɡniʃn/ *n* **1** [U] igniting or being ignited. **2** [C] (in a petrol engine) electrical mechanism for setting the mixture of explosive gases on fire (to start the engine).

ignominious /ɪɡnə'mɪniəs/ *adj* bringing contempt, disgrace, shame: *an ~ defeat*.

ignominiously *adv*

ignominy /ɪɡnə'mɪni/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] public dishonour or shame. **2** [C] dishonourable or disgraceful act. **3** [U] dishonourable or disgraceful behaviour.

ignorance /ɪɡnərəns/ *n* [U] the state of being ignorant or having no knowledge: *We are in complete ~ of his plans.*

ignorant /ɪɡnərənt/ *adj* **1** (of persons) knowing little or nothing; not aware: *I am still ~/was kept ~ of his plans.* **2** showing ignorance; resulting from ignorance: *~ conduct*.

ignorantly *adv*

ignore /ɪɡnə(r)/ *vt* take no notice of; refuse to take notice of: *ignoring rude remarks.*

I'll /aɪl/ = *I will*; *I shall*.

ill /ɪl/ *adj* **1** in bad health; sick: *She was ~ with anxiety. fall/be taken ill*, become ill. **2** bad: *in an ~ temper/humour*; *in ~ health*. □ **n** **1** [U]

evil; injury: *do ~*. **2** [C] misfortune; trouble: *the various ~s of life*. □ *adv* badly; imperfectly; unfavourably: *We could ~ (= not well, not easily) afford the time and money.* **be/feel, ill at ease**, uncomfortable, embarrassed.

ill-advised *adj* unwise; imprudent.

ill-bred *adj* badly brought up; rude.

ill-disposed (towards) *adj* (a) wishing to do harm (to). (b) unfavourable (towards a plan, etc).

ill-fated *adj* destined to fail.

ill-feeling, feeling of being angry, jealous, etc.

ill-judged *adj* done at an unsuitable time; showing poor judgement.

ill-mannered *adj* rude.

ill-timed *adj* done at a wrong or unsuitable time.

ill-treat/-use *vt* treat badly or cruelly.

ill-treatment, bad, cruel, treatment.

ill will, unkind feeling; enmity.

illegal /ɪ'lɪɡl/ *adj* not legal.

illegally /ɪ'lɪɡəli/ *adv*

illegality /ɪ'lɪɡəli/ *n* [C,U]

illegible /ɪ'ledʒəbl/ *adj* difficult or impossible to read.

illegibly /-əbli/ *adv*

illegibility /ɪ'ledʒə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

illegitimate /ɪ'lɪdʒɪtɪmət/ *adj* **1** not authorized by law; contrary to law. **2** born of parents who were not married to each other: *an ~ child*. □ *n* [C] illegitimate person.

illegitimately *adv*

il-lib-eral /ɪ'lɪbərəl/ *adj* narrow-minded; intolerant; ungenerous; mean.

il-lib-erally /-ərəli/ *adv*

illicit /ɪ'lɪsɪt/ *adj* unlawful; forbidden: *the ~ use of drugs*.

illicitly *adv*

il-lit-er-ate /ɪ'lɪtərət/ *adj* with little or no education; unable to read or write. □ *n* [C] illiterate person.

il-lit-er-acy /-rəsi/ *n* [U]

ill-ness /ɪ'lɪnis/ *n* **1** [U] state of being ill: *no/not much/a great deal of ~ this winter*. **2** [C] specific kind of, occasion of, illness: *She had one ~ after another*.

il-logi-cal /ɪ'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* without, contrary to, logic.

il-logi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

il-logi-cal-ity /ɪ'lɒdʒɪ'kæləti/ *n* [C,U]

il-lumi-nate /ɪ'lʊ:mɪneɪt/ *vt* **1** give light to: *a street ~d by street lamps*. **2** decorate (streets, etc) with bright lights as a sign of rejoicing. **3 (formal)** make clear, help to explain.

il-lumi-nat-ing *adj* (esp) giving a good explanation: *I found his lectures illuminating*.

il-lumi-na-tion /ɪ'lʊ:mɪ'neɪʃn/ *n* (a) [U] lighting or being lit. (b) bright lights, eg used for a special occasion.

il-lu-sion /ɪ'lʊ:ʒn/ *n* **1** [C] (the seeing of) something that does not really exist; false idea or belief: *an optical ~*. *I was under the ~ (= believed) that you owned your house. She was*

under no ~ (= was not deceived) about him. **2** [U] state of mind in which one is deceived in this way.

il-lu-sive /ɪˈluːsɪv/ *adj* = illusory.

il-lu-sive-ly *adv*

il-lu-sory /ɪˈluːsəri/ *adj* unreal; deceptive.

il-lus-trate /ɪˈləstreɪt/ *vt* **1** explain by using examples, pictures, etc. **2** put with pictures, diagrams, etc in a book, etc: *a well-~d text-book.*

il-lus-tra-tor /-tə(r)/, person who illustrates books, etc.

il-lus-tra-tion /ɪˈləstreɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] illustrating or being illustrated: *~ is often more useful than definition for giving the meanings of words.* **2** [C] something that illustrates, eg a picture, diagram, example, etc.

il-lus-tra-tive /ɪˈləstreɪtɪv/ *adj* serving to explain, as an explanation or example (of).

il-lus-tri-ous /ɪˈlɑstriəs/ *adj* (formal) celebrated, famous.

il-lus-tri-ous-ly *adv*

I'm /aɪm/ = *I am*. ⇨ *be*.

im-age /ɪˈmɪdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** likeness or copy of something, esp made in wood, stone, etc: *an ~ of the Virgin Mary.* **2** close likeness; counterpart: *Did man create God in his own ~?* **3** mental picture or idea, eg of a politician, political party, commercial firm, product: *How can we improve our ~?* **speaking in images**, use expressions that bring pictures to the mind. **4** reflection seen in a mirror or through the lens of a camera. ⇨ *vt* **1** make an image of, portray. **2** reflect.

imagery /ɪˈmɪdʒəri/ *n* [U]

im-agin-able /ɪˈmædʒɪnəbl/ *adj* that can be imagined: *We had every ~ difficulty/every difficulty ~ to get here in time.*

im-agin-ary /ɪˈmædʒɪnəri/ *US*: -neri/ *adj* existing only in the mind; unreal.

im-agin-ation /ɪˈmædʒɪˈneɪʃn/ *n* [C, U] **1** power of the mind to imagine: *He hasn't much ~.* **2** what is imagined: *You didn't really see a ghost—it was only ~.*

im-agin-ative /ɪˈmædʒɪnətɪv/ *US*: -dʒəneɪtɪv/ *adj* of, having, using, imagination: *an imaginative child/idea.*

im-ag-ine /ɪˈmædʒɪn/ *vt* **1** form a picture of in the mind: *Can you ~ life without electricity?* **2** think of as probable: *Don't ~ that I'll lend you money each time you ask!*

imam /ɪˈmɑːm/ *n* [C] title of various Muslim leaders; prayer leader in a mosque; scholar on Islamic law.

im-bal-ance /ɪˈmɪbələns/ *n* [C] absence of balance between two totals, eg payments: *the increasing ~ between rich and poor countries.*

im-be-cile /ɪˈmbəsɪl/ *US*: -səl/ *adj* mentally weak; stupid: ~ remarks. ⇨ *n* [C] fool.

im-be-cil-ity /ɪˈmbəsɪləti/ *n* [C, U]

im-bue /ɪˈmɪbjuː/ *vt* (pt, pp ~d) (formal) fill, inspire: ~d with patriotism/hatred.

imi-tate /ɪˈmɪteɪt/ *vt* **1** copy the behaviour of;

take as an example: *You should ~ great and good men.* **2** mimic (consciously or not): *parrots imitating human speech.* **3** be like; make a likeness of: *wood painted to ~ marble.*

imi-ta-tor /-tə(r)/ *n* [C]

imi-ta-tion /ɪˈmɪteɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] imitating: *I ~ is the sincerest form of flattery.* **2** [C] something made or done like something else. **3** (as an adjective) not real: ~ leather/jewellery.

imi-tat-ive /ɪˈmɪtətɪv/ *US*: -teɪtɪv/ *adj* following the model or example of.

im-macu-late /ɪˈmækjələt/ *adj* pure; faultless: ~ conduct.

im-macu-late-ly *adv*: ~ly dressed.

im-ma-terial /ɪˈmætəriəl/ *adj* **1** unimportant: *Your regret is quite ~ to me.* **2** not having physical substance: *as ~ as a ghost.*

im-ma-ture /ɪˈmætʃʊə(r)/ *US*: -tʊə(r)/ *adj* not yet fully developed: *an ~ girl.*

im-ma-tur-ity /ɪˈmætʃʊərəti/ *US*: -tʊə(r)-/ *n* [U] being immature or underdeveloped.

im-measur-able /ɪˈmeɪʒərəbl/ *adj* that cannot be measured; without limits.

im-medi-ate /ɪˈmɪdiət/ *adj* **1** without anything coming between; nearest: *my ~ neighbours; to my ~ left.* **2** occurring, done, at once: *take ~ action.*

im-medi-ate-ly *adv* (a) at once; without delay. (b) directly or closely: *She's ~ behind the man in the red shirt.* ⇨ *conj* as soon as: *You can go ~ly he comes.*

im-mem-ori-al /ɪˈmæməriəl/ *adj* (esp) **from time immemorial**, going back beyond memory.

im-mense /ɪˈmens/ *adj* very large.

im-mense-ly *adv* (a) to a very large degree: ~ly popular. (b) (informal) very much: *They enjoyed themselves ~ly.*

im-men-sity /ɪˈmensɪti/ *n* [C, U]

im-merse /ɪˈmɜːs/ *vt* **1** put under the surface of (water or other liquid): ~ one's head in the water. **2** absorb(3): *be ~d in work.*

im-mer-sion /ɪˈmɜːʃn/ *US*: -ʒn/ *n* [C, U]

im-mersion heater, electric heater (fixed in a tank).

im-mi-grant /ɪˈmɪgrənt/ *n* [C] person who immigrates: *Italian immigrants in Australia.*

im-mi-grate /ɪˈmɪgreɪt/ *vi* come to another country to live.

im-mi-gra-tion /ɪˈmɪgreɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

im-mi-nence /ɪˈmɪnəns/ *n* [U] state of being imminent.

im-mi-nent /ɪˈmɪnənt/ *adj* (of events, esp dangers) likely to come or happen soon: *A storm is ~.*

im-mi-nent-ly *adv*

im-mo-bile /ɪˈməʊbaɪl/ *US*: -bl/ *adj* not able to move or be moved; motionless.

im-mo-bil-ity /ɪˈməʊbɪləti/ *n* [U] state of being immobile.

im-mo-bi-lize (also -ise) /ɪˈməʊbəlaɪz/ *vt* make immobile.

im-mo-bil-ization (also -isation) /ɪˈməʊbəlaɪˈzeɪʃn/ *US*: -tɪz-/ *n* [U]

im-mod-er-ate /ɪ'mɒdəreɪt/ *adj* excessive: ~ eating and drinking.

im-mod-er-ate-ly *adv*

im-mod-est /ɪ'mɒdɪst/ *adj* **1** not having modesty; indecent or indelicate: ~ behaviour. **2** impudent: ~ boasts.

im-mod-est-ly *adv*

im-moral /ɪ'mɒrəl/ *US*: /ɪ'mɔːrəl/ *adj* not moral; wicked and evil: ~ conduct.

im-mor-ally *adv*

im-mor-al-ity /ɪ'mɔːrəli/ *n* [C, U]

im-mor-tal /ɪ'mɔːrtl/ *adj* **1** living for ever: *the ~ gods*. **2** never forgotten: ~ fame. □ *n* [C] immortal being. **the ~s**, the gods of ancient Greece and Rome.

im-mor-tal-ity /ɪ'mɔːtəli/ *n* [U] endless life or fame.

im-mor-tal-ize (also **-ise**) /ɪ'mɔːtəlaɪz/ *vt* give endless life or fame to.

im-mov-able /ɪ'muːvəbl/ *adj* **1** that cannot be moved: ~ property, eg buildings, land. **2** incapable of being affected or changed.

im-mov-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

im-mune /ɪ'mjuːn/ *adj* free, protected: ~ from smallpox.

im-mun-ity /ɪ'mjuːnəti/ *n* [U] **(a)** safety, security: immunity from disease. **(b)** exemption (from taxation, etc): diplomatic immunity.

im-mu-nize (also **-ise**) /ɪ'mjunaɪz/ *vt* make immune (against).

im-mu-nization (also **-isation**) /ɪ'mjunaɪzəʃn/ *US*: /-nɪz-/ *n* [C, U]

imp /ɪmp/ *n* [C] **1** little devil or demon. **2** (informal) mischievous child.

im-pact /ɪm'pækt/ *n* **1** [C] collision. **2** [U] force exerted by one object when striking against another: *The car body collapses on ~.*

3 strong influence or effect: *the ~ of his speech on the audience.* □ *vt* /ɪm'pækt/ pack, drive or wedge firmly together.

im-pair /ɪm'peə(r)/ *vt* weaken; damage: ~ one's health by overwork.

im-pair-ment *n* [U]

im-pale /ɪm'peɪl/ *vt* pierce through, pin down, with a spear, etc.

im-part /ɪm'pa:t/ *vt* (formal) give, pass on, a secret, news, etc.

im-par-tial /ɪm'pa:ʃl/ *adj* just; not favouring one more than another: *an ~ decision.*

im-par-tially /-ʃəli/ *adv*

im-par-tial-ity /ɪm,pa:ʃiəli/ *n* [U]

im-pass-able /ɪm'pɑːsəbl/ *US*: /-pæs-/ *adj* (of roads, etc) impossible to travel through or on.

im-passe /ɪ'æmpɑːs/ *US*: /ɪ'mpæs/ *n* [C] **1** position from which there is no way out: *The talks reached an ~.* **2** road, alley, etc with no exit.

im-pas-sioned /ɪm'pæʃnd/ *adj* full of, showing, deep feeling: *an ~ speech/appeal.*

im-pass-ive /ɪm'pæsiʃv/ *adj* showing no sign of feeling; unmoved.

im-pass-ive-ly *adv*

im-pa-tience /ɪm'peɪns/ *n* [U] absence of patience; intolerance.

im-pa-tient /ɪm'peɪnt/ *adj* not patient; intolerant: *The children were ~ to start.*

im-pa-tient-ly *adv*

im-peach /ɪm'pi:tʃ/ *vt* **1** (formal) question, raise doubts about, (a person's character, etc).

2 (legal) accuse a person of doing wrong, (esp) of a crime against the State: ~ a judge for taking bribes.

im-peach-ment *n* [C, U]

im-pe-cable /ɪm'pekəbl/ *adj* (formal) faultless; incapable of doing wrong: *an ~ character/record.*

im-pe-cuni-ous /ɪm'pekjuːniəs/ *adj* (formal) having little or no money.

im-pede /ɪm'piːd/ *vt* get in the way of: *What is impeding an early start?*

im-pedi-ment /ɪm'pedimənt/ *n* [C] **1** physical defect esp in speech, eg a stammer. **2** something that hinders; obstacle.

im-pel /ɪm'pel/ *vt* (-ll-) force, urge: *He said he had been ~led to crime by poverty.*

im-pend /ɪm'pend/ *vi* (formal) be about to come or happen: *her ~ing arrival.*

im-pen-etrable /ɪm'penɪtrəbl/ *adj* that cannot be penetrated: ~ forests.

im-pera-tive /ɪm'peratɪv/ *adj* **1** urgent; essential: *Is it ~ that they should have/for them to have two cars?* **2** not to be disobeyed; done, given with, authority: *The colonel's orders were ~.* **3** (gram) form of a verb and sentence expressing commands: *'Listen!' 'Go away!' are in the ~ mood.*

im-pera-tive-ly *adv*

im-per-cep-tible /ɪmpə'septəbl/ *adj* that cannot be seen; unnoticeable; very slight or gradual.

im-per-cep-tibly /-əbli/ *adv*

im-per-fect /ɪm'pɜːfɪkt/ *adj* not perfect or complete.

imperfect tense, (gram) denoting action still in progress (also called *progressive* or *continuous* tenses), eg *I am thinking about it.*

im-per-fect-ly *adv*

im-per-fec-tion /ɪmpə'fekʃn/ *n* **1** [U] state of being imperfect. **2** [C] fault: *the little ~s in her character.*

im-per-ial /ɪm'piəriəl/ *adj* **1** of an empire or its ruler(s): ~ trade. **2** (formal) majestic; magnificent: *with ~ generosity.* **3** (of weights and measures) used by law in the United Kingdom: *an ~ pint/gallon.*

im-per-ially /-iəli/ *adv*

im-per-ial-ism /ɪm'piəriəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] the highest and last stage of capitalism, beginning at the end of the 19th century and in the early part of the 20th century.

im-per-ial-ist /-ɪst/ *adj* of, like, imperialism: *oppose an imperialist policy.* □ *n* [C] supporter of, believer in, imperialism.

im-per-ial-is-tic /ɪm,piəriəlɪstɪk/ *adj*

im-per-il /ɪm'perəl/ *vt* (-ll-, *US* also -l-) put or bring into danger.

im-per-i-ous /ɪm'piəriəs/ *adj* (formal) **1** arrogant; dictatorial: ~ gestures/looks. **2** urgent;

imperative.

im-per-ish-able /ɪm'perɪʃəbl/ *adj* (formal) **1** that cannot perish. **2** that will never pass away: ~ fame/glorious.

im-per-ma-nent /ɪm'pɜ:mənənt/ *adj* (formal) not permanent.

im-per-ma-nence /-əns/ *n* [U]

im-per-son-al /ɪm'pɜ:sənəl/ *adj* **1** not influenced by personal feeling; not referring to any particular person: *an ~ discussion*. **2** having no existence as a person: ~ forces, eg those of nature. **3** (of verbs) used after 'it' to make general statements such as 'It is raining.'

im-per-son-ally /-əli/ *adv*

im-per-son-ate /ɪm'pɜ:sənət/ *vt* **1** act the part of (in a play, etc); pretend to be. **2** personify.

im-per-son-ation /ɪm'pɜ:sənətʃən/ *n* [C,U]

im-per-ti-nent /ɪm'pɜ:tənənt/ *adj* **1** not showing proper respect; impudent: ~ remarks. **2** irrelevant.

im-per-ti-nent-ly *adv*: behave ~ly.

im-per-ti-nence /-əns/ *n* [C,U]

im-per-turb-able /ɪm'pɜ:təbəl/ *adj* (formal) not easily excited; calm.

im-per-vi-ous /ɪm'pɜ:vɪəs/ *adj* **1** (of materials) not allowing (water, etc) to pass through. **2** (fig) not moved or influenced by: ~ to criticism.

im-petu-ous /ɪm'petʃuəs/ *adj* **1** acting, inclined to act, on impulse, without enough thought or care: ~ remarks. **2** moving quickly or violently.

im-petu-ous-ly *adv*

im-petu-os-ity /ɪm'petʃuəsəti/ *n* [C,U]

im-pe-tus /ɪm'pɪtəs/ *n* (pl ~es) **1** [U] force with which a body moves. **2** [C] stimulus; driving force: *The treaty will give an ~ to trade between the two countries.*

im-pinge /ɪm'pɪndʒ/ *vi* (formal) **1** make an impact (on/upon). **2** use (something, eg time) too much or irresponsibly: *impinging on a person's time.*

im-pinge-ment *n* [U]

im-pi-ous /ɪm'piəs/ *adj* (formal) not pious; wicked (the more usual word).

im-pi-ous-ly *adv*

imp-ish /ɪm'pɪʃ/ *adj* of or like an imp.

imp-ish-ly *adv*

im-plac-able /ɪm'plækəbl/ *adj* (formal) that cannot be calmed; relentless: *an ~ enemy.*

im-plant /ɪm'plɑ:nt US: -plənt/ *vt* fix or put ideas, feelings, etc (in).

im-ple-ment¹ /ɪm'plɪmənt/ *n* [C] tool or instrument for working with: *farm ~s.*

im-ple-ment² /ɪm'plɪmənt/ *vt* carry out an undertaking, agreement, promise: ~ a scheme.

im-ple-men-ta-tion /ɪm'plɪməntətʃən/ *n* [U]

im-plic-ate /ɪm'plɪkeɪt/ *vt* show or imply that (a person) is or was involved (in a crime, etc).

im-plic-a-tion /ɪm'plɪkeɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] implicating or being implicated (in a crime, etc). **2**

[C] what is implied: *What are the ~s of this statement?*

im-plic-it /ɪm'plɪsɪt/ *adj* (formal) **1** implied though not plainly expressed: *an ~ threat*. **2** unquestioning: ~ belief.

im-plic-it-ly *adv*

im-plore /ɪm'plɔ:(r)/ *vt* request earnestly: *implore a judge for mercy.*

im-plor-ing-ly *adv*

im-ply /ɪm'plaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) give or make a suggestion (that): *Are you ~ing that I am not telling the truth?* ⇨ infer.

im-po-lite /ɪm'pɔ:lɪt/ *adj* not polite.

im-po-lite-ly *adv*

im-poli-tic /ɪm'pɔ:lɪtɪk/ *adj* (formal) not judged well; not likely to be useful.

im-pon-der-able /ɪm'pɒndərəbl/ *adj* (fig) of which the effect cannot be estimated. □ *n* [C] imponderable thing.

im-port /ɪm'pɔ:t/ *vt* **1** bring in, introduce, from a foreign country: ~ coffee from Brazil. **2** (formal) mean; make known (that): *What does this ~?* □ *n* /ɪm'pɔ:t/ **1** [C] (often pl) goods imported: *food ~s*. **2** [U] act of importing goods. **3** [U] (formal) meaning: *What is the ~ of his statement?* **4** [U] (formal) importance: *questions of great international ~.*

im-port-a-tion /ɪm'pɔ:tətʃən/ *n* [C,U]

im-porter, person who imports goods.

im-port-ance /ɪm'pɔ:təns/ *n* [U] being important: *The matter is of great/no/not much/little ~ to us.*

im-port-ant /ɪm'pɔ:tənt/ *adj* **1** of great influence; to be treated seriously; having a great effect: ~ decisions/books. **2** (of a person) having a position of authority.

im-port-ant-ly *adv*

im-por-tu-nate /ɪm'pɔ:tʃənət/ *adj* (formal) **1** (of persons) making repeated and inconvenient requests: *an ~ beggar*. **2** (of affairs, etc) urgent: ~ demands.

im-por-tun-ity /ɪm'pɔ:tʃu:nəti US: -tu:-/ *n* [C,U]

im-por-tune /ɪm'pɔ:tʃu:n US: -tʃən/ *vt* (formal) beg urgently and repeatedly: *importuning for more money.*

im-pose /ɪm'pəʊz/ *vt, vi* **1** lay or place a tax, duty, etc on: *New duties were ~d on wines and spirits*. **2** force (something, oneself, one's company) on others. **3** take advantage of: *imposing on/upon a person's kindness.*

im-pos-ing *adj* making a strong impression because of size, character, appearance: *an imposing old lady.*

im-pos-ing-ly *adv*

im-po-si-tion /ɪm'pɔ:zɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of imposing (1): *the ~ of new taxes*. **2** [C] something imposed, eg tax, burden, punishment. **3** [C] fraud; trick; extra charge.

im-poss-ible /ɪm'pɒsəbl/ *adj* **1** not possible: *It is ~ to cure him.* (as a noun = that which is not possible) *Don't ask me to do the ~.* **2** that cannot be endured: *It's an ~ situation!*

im-possi-bil-ity /ɪm'pɒsə'bɪləti/ *n* [C,U]

im-poss-ibly /-əbli/ *adv*

im-pos-tor /ɪm'pɒstə(r)/ *n* [C] person pretending to be somebody else.

im-pos-ture /ɪm'pɒstʃə(r)/ *n* [C,U] (act of) deception by an impostor.

im-po-tence /ɪm'pɒtəns/ *n* [U] state of being impotent.

im-po-tent /ɪm'pɒtənt/ *adj* **1** not having sufficient strength (to do something). **2** (of men) incapable of sexual intercourse.

im-po-tent-ly *adv*

im-pound /ɪm'paʊnd/ *vt* take possession of by law or by authority.

im-pov-er-ish /ɪm'pɒvətʃ/ *vt* (formal) cause to become poor; take away good qualities: *~ed by doctors' fees.*

im-prac-ti-cable /ɪm'præktɪkəbl/ *adj* that cannot be put into practice or used: *an ~ scheme.*

im-prac-ti-cably /-əbli/ *adv*

im-prac-ti-cal /ɪm'præktɪkl/ *adj* not practical.

im-preg-nable /ɪm'pregnəbl/ *adj* that cannot be overcome or taken by force: *~ defences/arguments.*

im-preg-nably /-əbli/ *adv*

im-preg-nate /ɪm'pregneɪt *US*: ɪm'preg-/ *vt* **1** make pregnant; fertilize, eg an ovum. **2** fill; saturate: *paper ~d with water.* **3** (formal) fill with feelings, moral qualities, etc.

im-pre-sario /ɪm'pri'sa:riəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) manager of an operatic or concert company.

im-press /ɪm'pres/ *vt* **1** press (one thing on or with another); make (a mark, etc) by doing this: *~ a design on cloth.* **2** have a strong influence on; fix deeply (on the mind, memory): *The book/He did not ~ me at all.* □ *n* /ɪm'pres/ [C] mark made by a seal, etc.

im-pres-sion /ɪm'presn/ *n* **1** [C] mark made by pressing: *the ~ of a seal on wax.* **2** [C] (product of) any one printing operation: *a first ~ of 5000 copies.* **3** [C,U] effect produced on the mind or feelings: *It's my ~ that he doesn't want to come.* **be under the impression that,** have an idea, think, that.

im-pres-sion-ism /-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] method of painting or writing so as to give the general effect without elaborate detail.

im-pres-sion-ist /-ɪst/ *adj, n* [C] (of a) person who paints or writes using this method.

im-pres-sion-is-tic /ɪm'presn'ɪstɪk/ *adj* (**a**) of, characteristic of, impressionism. (**b**) producing only a general effect.

im-pres-sion-able /ɪm'presənəbl/ *adj* easily influenced: *the ~ age, adolescence.*

im-pres-sive /ɪm'presɪv/ *adj* making a deep impression on the mind and feelings: *an ~ ceremony.*

im-pres-sive-ly *adv*

im-print /ɪm'prɪnt/ *vt* print; stamp; produce an effect: *ideas ~ed on the mind.* □ *n* /ɪm'prɪnt/ [C] that which is imprinted: *the ~ of suffering on her face.*

im-prison /ɪm'prɪzn/ *vt* put, send to or keep

in a prison.

im-prison-ment *n* [U]

im-prob-able /ɪm'prɒbəbl/ *adj* not likely to be true or to happen: *an ~ story/result.*

im-prob-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

im-prob-abil-ity /ɪm'prɒbə'bɪləti/ *n* [C,U]

im-promptu /ɪm'prɒmptju: *US*: -tu:/ *adj, adv* without preparation: *an ~ speech.* □ *n* [C] musical composition that seems to have been improvised.

im-proper /ɪm'prɒpə(r)/ *adj* **1** not suited for the purpose, situation, circumstances, etc: *Laughing is ~ at a funeral.* **2** incorrect: *an ~ diagnosis of disease.* **3** indecent: *~ stories/language.*

im-proper-ly *adv*

im-pro-pri-ety /ɪm'prə'praɪəti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) (formal) **1** [U] incorrectness; unsuitability. **2** [C] improper act, remark, etc.

im-prove /ɪm'pru:v/ *vt, vi* make or become better: *His health is improving.*

im-prove-ment *n* (**a**) [U] improving or being improved: *There is need for ~ment in your handwriting.* (**b**) [C] something which adds to beauty, usefulness, value, etc: *an ~ment in the weather.*

im-provi-dent /ɪm'prɒvɪdənt/ *adj* (formal) wasteful; not looking to future needs.

im-pro-viso /ɪm'prəvaɪz/ *vt, vi* **1** compose music, poetry, etc during the performance: *If an actor forgets his words, he has to ~.* **2** provide, make or do something quickly, using whatever happens to be available: *an ~d meal.*

im-pro-vis-ation /ɪm'prəvaɪ'zeɪʃn *US*: -vɪ'z-/ *n* [C,U]

im-prud-ent /ɪm'pru:dənt/ *adj* indiscreet: *an ~ act/remark.*

im-prud-ent-ly *adv*

im-prud-ence /-əns/ *n* [C,U]

im-pu-dence /ɪm'pjudəns/ *n* [U] (act of) being impudent: *None of your ~!*

im-pu-dent /ɪm'pjudənt/ *adj* shamelessly rude, disrespectful: *What an ~ boy he is!*

im-pu-dent-ly *adv*

im-pulse /ɪm'pʌls/ *n* **1** [C] push or thrust: *give an ~ to trade/education.* **2** [C] sudden desire to act without thought about the consequences: *feel an irresistible ~ to jump out of a window.* **3** [U] state of mind in which such desires occur: *a man who acts on ~.*

im-pul-sive /ɪm'pʌlsɪv/ *adj* **1** (of persons, their conduct) acting on impulse; resulting from impulse: *a girl with an ~ nature.* **2** (of a force) tending to impel.

im-pul-sive-ly *adv*

im-pul-sive-ness *n* [U]

im-pun-ity /ɪm'pjʊ:nəti/ *n* [U] (esp) **with impunity**, without caring about the risk of injury or punishment.

im-pure /ɪm'pjʊə(r)/ *adj* not pure: *~ motives.*

im-pur-ity /-əti/ *n* [C,U]

im-pute /ɪm'pjʊ:t/ *vt* (formal) attribute an act, quality or outcome to: *He was innocent of the crime ~d to him.*

im-pu-ta-tion /ɪmpju'teɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]
in¹ /ɪn/ *adverbial particle* (contrasted with *out*)
 (For special uses with *verbs*, eg *give in*, ⇨ the verb entries.) **1** *be in*, (a) at home: *Is (there) anyone ~?* (b) arrive: *Is the train ~ yet?* (c) (of crops) harvested: *The wheat crop is safely ~.* (d) in season; obtainable: *Strawberries are ~ now.* (e) in fashion: *Long skirts are ~ again.* (f) elected; in power; in office: *The Democrats are ~.* (g) (in cricket, baseball) batting: *Which side is ~?* **be 'in on**, (informal) participate in; have a share in: *I'd like to be ~ on this scheme.* **2 in for**, (a) likely to have or experience (often something unpleasant): *I'm afraid we're ~ for a storm.* (b) committed to; having agreed to take part in: *I'm ~ for the competition, shall be a competitor.* **have it 'in for sb**, be waiting ready to punish him when a chance occurs.

in² /ɪn/ *prep* **1** (of place; ⇨ *at*): *~ Africa; children playing ~ the street; not a cloud ~ the sky; lying ~ bed. He was wounded ~ the leg. I read about it ~ the newspapers.* **2** (of direction): *~ this/that direction; ~ all directions.* **3** (of direction of motion or activity) into: *He put his hands ~ his pockets. Cut/break it ~ two.* **4** (of time when): *~ 1970; ~ spring/summer.* ⇨ *at* (2). ⇨ *on*² (2). **in the end**, finally. **5** (of time) in the course of; within the space of: *I shall be back ~ a few days. I'll be ready ~ a moment.* **6** (indicating inclusion): *seven days ~ a week; a man ~ his thirties*, ie between 29 and 40 years of age. **7** (of ratio): *He paid 25p ~ the pound. Not one ~ ten of the boys could spell well.* **8** (of dress, etc): *dressed ~ white, wearing white clothes; ~ uniform.* **9** (of physical surroundings, circumstances, etc): *go out ~ the rain.* **10** (of a state or condition): *~ good order; ~ poor health; ~ a hurry; ~ love; ~ public.* **11** (of form, shape, arrangement): *words ~ alphabetical order; dancing ~ a ring.* **12** (of the method of expression, means, material, etc): *speaking/writing ~ English; payment ~ cash.* **13** (of degree or extent): *~ large/small quantities.* **in 'all**, as the total: *We were fifteen ~ all.* **14** (of identity): *We have lost a first-rate teacher ~ Hill, Hill, who has left us, was a first-rate teacher.* **15** (of relation, reference, respect): *~ every way; blind ~ the left eye; my equal ~ strength.* **16** (of occupation, activity, etc): *He's ~ the army/ ~ the Civil Service. How much time do you spend ~ reading?* **17** (used in numerous prepositional phrases of the pattern *in + n + prep*; ⇨ the noun entries, eg): *~ defence of; ~ exchange for.* **18 in that**, since, because: *High income tax is harmful ~ that it may discourage people from trying to earn more.* **in as/so far as**, to the extent that: *He is a Russian ~ so far as he was born there.* **in itself**, considered apart from other things: *Playing cards is not harmful ~ itself, but gambling may be.*

in³ /ɪn/ *n* (only in) **the ins and (the) outs**,

(a) the different parts; the full details: *know all the ~s and outs of a problem.* (b) those in office and those out of office.

in⁻¹ (also **il**-, **im**-, **ir**-) /ɪn-, ɪl-, ɪm-, ɪr-/ *prefix* **1** in, on: *intake, imprint.* **2** not: *infinite, illicit, immoral, irrelevant.*

in⁻² /ɪn/ *prefix* (before a noun): *'in-patient*, one who lives in hospital while being treated (contrasted with *out-patient*).

-in /ɪn/ *suffix* used (usually with a verb) to show participation in a group activity, etc: *'sit-in; 'teach-in.*

in-abil-ity /ɪnə'bɪləti/ *n* [U] being unable; lack of power or means: *an ~ to pay one's debts.*

in-ac-cess-ible /ɪnæk'sesəbl/ *adj* (formal) not accessible.

in-ac-cessi-bil-ity /ɪnæk'sesə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

in-ac-cur-acy /ɪnæk'jʊrəsi/ *n* **1** [U] being inaccurate. **2** [C] (*pl* -ies) inaccurate statement, etc.

in-ac-cur-ate /ɪnæk'jʊrət/ *adj* not accurate.

in-ac-cur-ate-ly *adv*

in-ac-tive /ɪn'æktɪv/ *adj* not active.

in-ac-tiv-ity /ɪnæk'tɪvəti/ *n* [U]

in-ad-equate /ɪn'ædɪkwət/ *adj* not adequate; insufficient.

in-ad-equate-ly *adv*

in-ad-miss-ible /ɪnəd'mɪsəbl/ *adj* that cannot be admitted or allowed: *~ evidence; ~ in evidence.*

in-ad-ver-tent /ɪnəd'vɜ:tənt/ *adj* (formal) **1** not paying or showing proper attention. **2** (of actions) done thoughtlessly or not on purpose.

in-ad-ver-tent-ly *adv*

in-alien-able /ɪn'elɪənəbl/ *adj* (formal) (of rights, etc) that cannot be given away or taken away.

in-ane /ɪ'neɪn/ *adj* silly: *an ~ remark.*

in-ane-ly *adv*

in-an-ity /ɪ'nænəti/ *n* [C,U]

in-ani-mate /ɪn'ænɪmət/ *adj* **1** lifeless: *~ rocks and stones.* **2** without animal life: *Is the moon ~?* (formal) without interest; dull: *~ conversation.*

in-ap-pli-cable /ɪn'æplɪkəbl/ *adj* **inap-plicable (to)**, not applicable (to).

in-ap-prec-i-able /ɪnə'pri:ʃəbl/ *adj* not worth reckoning; too small or slight to be noticed: *an ~ difference.*

in-ap-roach-able /ɪnə'prəʊtʃəbl/ *adj* not approachable.

in-ap-pro-pri-ate /ɪnə'prəʊprɪət/ *adj* not appropriate or suitable.

in-apt /ɪn'æpt/ *adj* (esp) not relevant: *~ remarks.*

in-ap-ti-tude /ɪn'æptɪtʊd/ *US*: -tʊd/ *n* [U] being inapt.

in-ar-tic-u-late /ɪnɑ:'tɪkjʊlət/ *adj* **1** (of speech) not clear or distinct; (of a person) not speaking distinctly, clearly or fluently: *~ rage.* **2** not jointed: *an ~ body*, eg a jelly-fish.

in-ar-tis-tic /ɪnɑ:'tɪstɪk/ *adj* not artistic.

in-as-much as /ɪnəz'mʌtʃ əz/ *adv* since; because.

in-at-ten-tion /ɪnə'tenʃn/ *n* [U] state of not having, failure to pay, attention.

in-at-tentive /ɪnə'tentɪv/ *adj* not attentive.

in-aud-ible /ɪn'ɔːdəbl/ *adj* that cannot be heard.

in-audi-bil-ity /ɪn'ɔːdəbɪləti/ *n* [U]

in-aug-ural /ɪn'ɔːgjʊərəl/ *adj* of or for an inauguration: *an ~ lecture*. □ *n* [C] inaugural speech.

in-aug-urate /ɪn'ɔːgjʊreɪt/ *vt* **1** introduce a new official, professor, etc at a special ceremony: *~ a president*. **2** open an exhibition, a new public building, with formalities. **3** (*formal*) be the beginning of: *The invention of the silicon chip ~d a new era in data processing*.

in-aug-ur-ation /ɪn'ɔːgjʊ'reɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

in-aus-pi-cious /ɪn'ɔːspɪʃəs/ *adj* (*formal*) not favourable or promising; unlucky.

in-aus-pi-cious-ly *adv*

in-board /ɪn'bɔːd/ *adj* within the hull of a ship: *an ~ motor*.

in-born /ɪn'bɔːn/ *adj* (of a quality) possessed (by a person or animal) at birth: *a talent which is ~*; *an 'inborn talent* (note stress change).

in-bred /ɪn'bred/ *adj* **1** inborn: *courtesy which is ~*; *'inbred courtesy* (note stress change). **2** bred for several generations from ancestors closely related.

in-breed-ing /ɪn'brɪdɪŋ/ *n* [U] breeding from closely related ancestors, stocks, etc.

in-cal-cu-lable /ɪn'kælkjʊləbl/ *adj* too great to be calculated: *This has done ~ harm to our reputation*.

in-can-descent /ɪn'kændesnt/ *adj* giving out, able to give out, light when heated.

in-can-ta-tion /ɪn'kæntetʃn/ *n* [C, U] (the use of) words used in magic.

in-ca-pable /ɪn'keɪpəbl/ *adj* not capable: *~ of telling a lie*.

in-ca-pa-bil-ity /ɪn'keɪpəbɪləti/ *n* [U]

in-ca-paci-tate /ɪn'kæpəsɪteɪt/ *vt* make unfit (for work, etc).

in-ca-pac-ity /ɪn'kæpəsəti/ *n* [U] inability; powerlessness.

in-car-cer-ate /ɪn'kɑːsəreɪt/ *vt* (*formal*) imprison.

in-car-cer-ation /ɪn'kɑːsə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U]

in-car-nate /ɪn'kɑːnət/ *adj* **1** having a body; (esp) in human form: *That prison officer is a devil ~*. **2** (of an idea, ideal, etc) appearing in human form: *Liberty ~*. □ *vt* /ɪn'kɑːneɪt/ **1** make (an idea, etc) incarnate. **2** (of a person) be a living form of (a quality): *a wife who ~s all the virtues*.

in-car-na-tion /ɪn'kɑːneɪʃn/ *n* the **1** ~, the taking of bodily form by Jesus.

in-cen-diar-y /ɪn'sendɪəri/ *US*: -dɪəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies), *adj* **1** (person) setting fire to property unlawfully and with an evil purpose. **2** (person) tending to stir up violence: *an ~ speech*. **3** (bomb) causing fire.

in-cense /ɪn'sens/ *n* [U] (smoke of a) sub-

stance giving a sweet smell when burning.

in-cense /ɪn'sens/ *vt* make angry: *~d by his conduct/at her remarks*.

in-cen-tive /ɪn'sentɪv/ *n* [C, U] that which incites or encourages a person: *He hasn't much ~ to work hard*; *an ~ scheme*, eg more pay for more productivity.

in-cep-tion /ɪn'sepʃn/ *n* [C] (*formal*) start: *the ~ of a disease*.

in-cess-ant /ɪn'sesnt/ *adj* continual; often repeated: *a week of ~ rain*.

in-cess-ant-ly *adv*

in-cest /ɪn'sest/ *n* [U] sexual intercourse between close relations, eg a brother and sister.

in-ces-tuous /ɪn'sestʃʊəs/ *adj*

inch /ɪntʃ/ *n* [C] **1** measure of length, one-twelfth of a foot. **2** small distance. □ *vt, vi* make one's way gradually: *~ along a ledge on a cliff*.

in-ci-dence /ɪn'sɪdɪns/ *n* [C] way in which something occurs or affects things: *the ~ of a disease*, the range or extent of its effect.

in-ci-dent /ɪn'sɪdnt/ *adj* (*formal*) forming a natural or expected part of; naturally connected with: *the risks ~ to the life of a racing driver*.

in-ci-dent /ɪn'sɪdnt/ *n* [C] **1** event, esp one of less importance than others: *frontier ~s*, eg disputes between forces on a frontier. **2** happening which attracts general attention. **3** separate piece of action in a play or poem.

in-ci-den-tal /ɪn'sɪdntl/ *adj* **1** accompanying but not forming a necessary part: *~ music to a film*. **2** small and comparatively unimportant: *~ expenses*.

in-ci-den-tally /-əli/ *adv* by chance; by the way.

in-cin-er-ate /ɪn'sɪnəreɪt/ *vt* burn to ashes.

in-cin-er-ation /ɪn'sɪnə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U]

in-cin-er-ator /-tə(r)/ *n* [C] furnace, etc for burning rubbish, etc.

in-cip-ient /ɪn'sɪpiənt/ *adj* in an early stage: *~ decay of the teeth*.

in-cise /ɪn'saɪz/ *vt* make a cut in; engrave.

in-ci-sion /ɪn'sɪʒn/ *n* (a) [U] cutting (into something). (b) [C] cut, eg in surgery.

in-cis-ive /ɪn'saɪsɪv/ *adj* **1** sharp and cutting. **2** (of a person's mind, remarks) clear and effective: *~ criticism*.

in-cis-ive-ly *adv*: *speak ~ly*.

in-cisor /ɪn'saɪzə(r)/ *n* [C] (in human beings) any one of the front cutting teeth with sharp edges.

in-cite /ɪn'saɪt/ *vt* stir up, provoke: *insults inciting violence*.

in-cite-ment *n* [C, U]

in-clem-ent /ɪn'klemənt/ *adj* (*formal*) (of weather or climate) severe; cold and stormy.

in-clem-ency /-ənsɪ/ *n* [U]

in-cli-na-tion /ɪn'kliːneɪʃn/ *n* **1** [C] bending; bowing; slope; slant: *the ~ of a roof*, its degree of slope. **2** [C, U] desire; tendency: *He showed no ~ to leave*.

in-cline /ɪn'klaɪn/ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) lean, slope or slant. **2** bend (the head, body, oneself) forward or downward: *~ the head in prayer*. **3**

(usually *passive*) direct the mind on a certain path; cause to have a tendency or wish: *I am ~d to think* (= I have a feeling or idea) *that he is opposed to the plan. He's ~d to be lazy.* **4** have a physical tendency: *He ~s to leanness.*

in-cline² /'ɪnkleɪn/ *n* [C] slope; sloping surface: *a steep ~.*

in-close, **in-closure** /ɪn'kloʊz, ɪn'kloʊzə(r)/ = enclose, enclosure.

in-clude /ɪn'kluːd/ *vt* bring in, reckon, as part of the whole: *ten competitors, including six from America. I ~ me 'out!* (informal) Don't include me!

in-clu-sion /ɪn'kluːʒn/ *n* [U]

in-clusive /ɪn'kluːsɪv/ *adj* **1** including: *from 1 May to 3 June ~*, 1 May and 3 June being included. **2** including much or all: *a price ~ of tax.*

in-clus-ive-ly *adv*

in-cog-nito /ɪn'kɒɡ'nɪtəʊ/ *adj* disguised; with an assumed name. □ *adv* with one's name, character, etc concealed: *travel ~.*

in-co-her-ent /ɪn'kəʊ'hɪərənt/ *adj* not coherent.

in-co-her-ent-ly *adv*

in-co-her-ence /-əns/ *n* [U]

in-come /'ɪnkəm/ *n* [C] money received during a given period (as salary, receipts from trade, interest from investments, etc): *live within/beyond one's ~*, spend less/more than one receives.

'income-tax, tax on wages or salary.

in-com-ing /'ɪnkəmɪŋ/ *adj* coming in: *the ~ tide/tenant.* □ outgoing.

in-com-men-sur-ate /ɪn'kəmənʃʊrət/ *adj* not comparable (*to*) in respect of size; not worthy to be measured (*with*).

in-com-par-able /ɪn'kɒmpərəbl/ *adj* not to be compared; without equal: *~ beauty.*

in-com-pat-ible /ɪn'kəm'pætəbl/ *adj* opposed in character; unable to exist together: *Excessive drinking is ~ with good health.*

in-com-pati-bil-ity /ɪn'kəm'pætə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

in-com-pe-tent /ɪn'kɒmpɪtənt/ *adj* not qualified or able: *an ~ teacher.*

in-com-pe-tent-ly *adv*

in-com-pe-tence /-əns/ (also

in-com-pe-tency /-ənsɪ/) *n* [U] being incompetent.

in-com-plete /ɪn'kəm'pliːt/ *adj* not complete.

in-com-plete-ly *adv*

in-com-pre-hen-sible /ɪn'kɒmpri'hensəbl/ *adj* (formal) that cannot be understood.

in-com-pre-hen-si-bil-ity /ɪn'kɒmpri'hensi'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

in-com-pre-hen-sion /ɪn'kɒmpri'hensjən/ *n* [U] failure to understand.

in-con-ceiv-able /ɪn'kɒn'siːvəbl/ *adj* **1** that cannot be imagined. **2** (informal) hard to believe; very remarkable.

in-con-clus-ive /ɪn'kɒn'kluːsɪv/ *adj* (of

evidence, arguments, discussions, actions) not decisive or convincing.

in-con-clus-ive-ly *adv*

in-con-gru-ous /ɪn'kɒŋɡruəs/ *adj* not in harmony or agreement; out of place.

in-con-gru-ous-ly *adv*

in-con-gru-ity /ɪn'kɒŋɡruːəti/ *n* [C, U]

in-con-sequent /ɪn'kɒnsɪkwənt/ *adj* not following naturally what has been said or done before: *an ~ remark.*

in-con-sequent-ly *adv*

in-con-sequen-tial /ɪn'kɒnsɪ'kwentʃl/ *adj* (esp) unimportant.

in-con-sid-er-able /ɪn'kən'sɪdərəbl/ *adj* of small size, value, importance, etc.

in-con-sid-er-ate /ɪn'kən'sɪdərət/ *adj* (of a person, his actions) thoughtless: *~ children/remarks.*

in-con-sid-er-ate-ly *adv*

in-con-sist-ent /ɪn'kən'sɪstənt/ *adj* not consistent; contradictory; having parts that do not agree: *Their accounts of what happened were ~.*

in-con-sist-ent-ly *adv*

in-con-sist-ency /-ənsɪ/ *n* [C, U]

in-con-sol-able /ɪn'kən'səʊləbl/ *adj* that cannot be consoled: *~ grief.*

in-con-spicu-ous /ɪn'kən'spɪkjʊəs/ *adj* not striking or obvious: *dressed in ~ colours.*

in-con-spicu-ous-ly *adv*

in-con-stant /ɪn'kɒnstənt/ *adj* (formal) (of persons) changeable in feelings, intentions, purpose, etc: *an ~ lover.*

in-con-stancy /-ənsɪ/ *n* [C, U]

in-con-test-able /ɪn'kən'testəbl/ *adj* that cannot be disputed.

in-con-ti-nent /ɪn'kɒntənənt/ *adj* **1** not having self-control or self-restraint. **2** unable to control excretion.

in-con-ti-nence /-əns/ *n* [U]

in-con-tro-vert-ible /ɪn'kɒntrə'vɜːtəbl/ *adj* that cannot be disputed.

in-con-ven-i-ence /ɪn'kən'viːniəns/ *n* [C, U] (cause or instance of) discomfort or trouble: *I suffered great ~.* □ *vi* cause inconvenience to.

in-con-ven-ient /ɪn'kən'viːniənt/ *adj* causing discomfort, trouble or annoyance.

in-con-ven-ient-ly *adv*

in-con-vert-ible /ɪn'kən'vɜːtəbl/ *adj* that cannot be converted.

in-cor-por-ate¹ /ɪn'kɒpərət/ *adj* formed into, united in, a corporation.

in-cor-por-ate² /ɪn'kɒpərəɪt/ *vi, vi* **1** make, become, united in one group: *Hanover was ~d into Prussia in 1886.* **2** (legal) form into, become, a corporation (2): *The firm ~d with others.*

in-cor-por-ation /ɪn'kɒpə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U]

in-cor-rect /ɪn'kɒ'rekt/ *adj* not correct.

in-cor-rect-ly *adv*

in-cor-ri-gible /ɪn'kɒrɪdʒəbl *US*: -'kɔːr-/ *adj* (of a person, his faults, etc) that cannot be

corrected: *an ~ liar.*

in-cor-rupt-ible /ɪn'kɒr'ʌptəbl/ *adj* **1** that cannot decay or be destroyed. **2** that cannot be corrupted, esp by being bribed.

in-crease ¹ /ɪn'kriːs/ *n* **1** [U] increasing; growth. **2** [C] amount by which something increases.

in-crease ² /ɪn'kriːs/ *vt, vi* make or become greater in size, number, degree, etc: *Our difficulties are increasing.*

in-creas-ing-ly /ɪn'kriːsɪŋli/ *adv* more and more.

in-cred-ible /ɪn'kredəbl/ *adj* **1** that cannot be believed. **2** (informal) difficult to believe; very surprising.

in-cred-ibly /-əblɪ/ *adv*

in-cred-i-bil-ity /ɪn'kredə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

in-cred-u-lous /ɪn'kredʒʊləs/ *adj* not believing; showing disbelief: *~ looks.*

in-cred-u-lous-ly *adv*

in-cred-ul-ity /ɪn'kri'dʒu:ləti/ *US*: -'dʒu:-/ *n* [U]

in-cre-ment /ɪn'kri:mənt/ *n* **1** [U] profits; increase. **2** [C] amount of increase: *'Salary £5000 per annum, with yearly ~s of £500'.*

in-crimi-nate /ɪn'krɪmɪneɪt/ *vt* say, be a sign, that (a person) is guilty of doing wrong: *incriminating evidence.*

in-cu-bate /ɪn'kjʊbeɪt/ *vt, vi* hatch (eggs) by sitting on them or by artificial warmth.

in-cu-ba-tion /ɪn'kjʊbeɪʃn/ *n* [U]

in-cu-ba-tor /-tə(r)/ *n* [C] (a) apparatus for hatching eggs by artificial warmth. (b) apparatus for rearing small, weak babies.

in-cum-bent /ɪn'kʌmbənt/ *adj* (formal) be a duty: *It is ~ on you to warn him not to smoke.* □ *n* [C] **1** person holding a church benefice; rector or vicar. **2** (informal) holder of any position or appointment.

in-cum-bency /-ənsɪ/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) position of an incumbent.

in-cur /ɪn'kɜ:(r)/ *vt* (-rr-) bring on oneself: *~ring debts/hatred/great expense.*

in-cur-able /ɪn'kjʊərəbl/ *adj* that cannot be cured: *~ diseases/habits.* □ *n* [C] person who is incurable.

in-cur-ably /-əblɪ/ *adv*

in-cur-sion /ɪn'kɜ:(r)ʃn/ *US*: -ʒn/ *n* [C] sudden attack or invasion: *~s into enemy territory; (fig) ~s on my leisure time.*

in-debted /ɪn'detɪd/ *adj* owing money or gratitude: *I am ~ to you for your help.*

in-de-cent /ɪn'di:snt/ *adj* **1** (of behaviour, talk, etc) not decent (2); obscene. **2** (informal) improper.

in-de-cent-ly *adv*

in-de-cency /-nsɪ/ *n* [U] indecent behaviour; [C] indecent act, word, etc.

in-de-cipher-able /ɪn'di'saɪfərəbl/ *adj* that cannot be deciphered.

in-de-cision /ɪn'di'sɪʒn/ *n* [U] the state of being unable to decide; hesitation.

in-de-cis-ive /ɪn'di'saɪsɪv/ *adj* not decisive.

in-de-cis-ive-ly *adv*

in-deed /ɪn'di:d/ *adv* **1** really; as you say; as you may imagine: *'Are you pleased at your son's success?' - 'Yes, ~.'* **2** (used to intensify): *Thank you very much ~.* **3** (used as a comment to show interest, surprise, etc): *'He spoke to me about you.'* - *'Oh, ~!'*

in-de-fens-ible /ɪn'di'fensəbl/ *adj* that cannot be defended, justified or excused.

in-de-fin-able /ɪn'di'faɪnəbl/ *adj* that cannot be defined.

in-defi-nite /ɪn'defɪnɪt/ *adj* **1** vague: *an ~ answer, neither 'Yes' nor 'No'.* **2** having no precise limit: *an ~ period of time.*

the in-definite 'article', the word *a* or *an*.

in-definite pronoun, eg *somebody, anyone.*

in-defi-nite-ly *adv*

in-del-ible /ɪn'deləbl/ *adj* that cannot be rubbed out or removed: *~ ink.*

in-del-ibly /-əblɪ/ *adv*

in-del-i-cate /ɪn'delɪkət/ *adj* (formal) (of a person, his speech, behaviour, etc) offensive, rude: *~ remarks.*

in-deli-cacy /-kəsi/ *n* [C, U]

in-dem-nify /ɪn'demnɪfaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) **1** (legal, comm) make safe: *~ a person against harm/loss.* **2** pay (a person) back: *I will ~ you for any expenses.*

in-dem-nity /ɪn'demnɪti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] security against damage or loss; compensation for loss. **2** [C] something giving security against damage or loss or given, received, as compensation.

in-dent /ɪn'dent/ *vt, vi* **1** break into the edge or surface of. **2** start (a line of print or writing) farther from the margin than the others: *You must ~ the first line of each paragraph.*

in-den-ta-tion /ɪnden'teɪʃn/ *n* (a) [U] indenting or being indented. (b) [C] deep recess in a coastline. (c) [C] space at the beginning of a line of print or writing.

in-de-pen-dence /ɪn'dɪ'pendəns/ *n* [U] state of being independent: *colonies winning ~ from European countries.*

Independence Day, 4 July, celebrated in the US as the anniversary of the day, in 1776, on which the Declaration of ~ (that the American colonies were free and independent of GB) was made.

in-de-pen-dent /ɪn'dɪ'pendənt/ *adj* **1** not dependent on or controlled by (other persons or things): *Campers are ~ of hotels.* **2** not needing to work for a living: *~ means, private wealth.* **3** self-governing: *when the colony became ~.* **4** acting or thinking freely: *an ~ witness.* □ *n* [C] (esp) MP, councillor, candidate, etc who does not belong to a political party.

in-de-pend-ent-ly *adv*

in-de-scrib-able /ɪn'di'skraɪəbl/ *adj* that cannot be described.

in-de-struct-ible /ɪn'di'strʌktəbl/ *adj* that cannot be destroyed: *~ concrete buildings.*

in-de-ter-mi-nate /ɪndɪ'tɜːmɪnət/ *adj* not fixed; vague or indefinite.

in-de-ter-min-able /ɪndɪ'tɜːmɪnəbl/ *adj* that cannot be determined, decided or (esp of an industrial dispute) settled.

in-de-ter-min-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

in-dex /'ɪndeks/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es or, in science, indices /'ɪndɪsɪz/) **1** something that points to or indicates; pointer (on an instrument) showing measurements: *increasing unemployment was an ~ of the country's poverty.* **2** list of names, subjects, references, etc in ABC order, at the end of a book, or on cards (*a 'card ~*) in a library, etc. □ *vt* make an index for a book, collection of books, etc.

the 'index finger, the forefinger, used for pointing.

index-linked *adj* (of wages, savings) increasing according to the cost of living.

in-dex-er, person who prepares an index (2).

Indian /'ɪndiən/ *n*, *adj* **1** (person) of the Republic of India. **2** (person) of the original inhabitants of America.

Indian 'summer, (a) period of calm, dry weather in late autumn. (b) (*fig*) revival of the feelings of youth in old age.

'West Indian, (person) of the West Indies.

in-di-cate /'ɪndɪkeɪt/ *vt* point to; make known; be a sign of: *He ~d that the interview was over. The sudden rise in temperature ~d pneumonia.*

in-di-ca-tion /ɪndɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* (a) [U] indicating or being indicated. (b) [C,U] sign or suggestion: *I had no indication of his decision.*

in-dica-tive /ɪndɪ'kætv/ *adj* **1** (*gram*) stating a fact or asking questions of fact: *the ~ mood.* **2** giving indications: *Is a high forehead ~ of intelligence?*

in-di-ca-tor /'ɪndɪkeɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] person, thing, that points out or gives information: *a 'traffic-~, (on a motor-vehicle) flashing light to indicate a change of direction.*

in-di-ces /'ɪndɪsɪz/ *pl* of index.

in-dict /ɪn'daɪt/ *vt* (*legal*) accuse (a person): *~ him on a charge of murder [for murder].*

in-dict-able /-əbl/ *adj*

in-dict-ment *n* [C,U]

in-dif-fer-ence /ɪn'dɪfrəns/ *n* [U] absence of interest or feeling: *his ~ towards the needs of other people.*

in-dif-fer-ent /ɪn'dɪfrənt/ *adj* having no interest; neither for nor against: *It is ~ to me whether you go or stay, I don't care which you do.* **2** not of good quality or ability: *an ~ footballer.*

in-dif-fer-ent-ly *adv*

in-digen-ous /ɪn'dɪdʒɪnəs/ *adj* native to, coming from: *Kangaroos are ~ to Australia.*

in-di-gest-ible /ɪn'dɪdʒestəbl/ *adj* difficult or impossible to digest.

in-di-ges-tion /ɪn'dɪdʒestʃən/ *n* [U] (pain from) difficulty in digesting food: *suffer an at-*

tack of ~.

in-dig-nant /ɪn'dɪgnənt/ *adj* angry, esp at injustice or because of undeserved blame, etc.

in-dig-nant-ly *adv*

in-dig-na-tion /ɪndɪg'neɪʃn/ *n* [U] anger caused by injustice, etc.

in-dig-nity /ɪn'dɪgnəti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] rude or unworthy treatment causing shame or loss of respect. **2** [C] something said or done that humiliates a person: *forced to suffer all sorts of indignities.*

in-digo /'ɪndɪgəʊ/ *n* [U] deep blue dye (obtained from plants).

'indigo blue, blue-violet (colour).

in-di-rect /ɪn'dɪ'rekt/ *adj* **1** not straight or direct: *an ~ answer to a question; an ~ kick*, (in football, etc) free kick not direct at goal. (of taxes) not paid direct to a tax-collector, but in the form of higher prices for taxed goods: *the ~ taxes on tobacco, wines.*

'indirect 'object, (*gram*) referring to the person, etc affected by the verb, eg *him* in *Give him the money.*

'indirect 'speech, (*gram*) speech as it is reported with the necessary changes of pronouns, tenses, etc, eg *He said he would come for He said 'I will come'.*

in-di-rect-ly *adv*

in-dis-cern-ible /ɪn'dɪ'sɜːnəbl/ *adj* that cannot be discerned.

in-dis-ci-pline /ɪn'dɪsɪplɪn/ *n* [U] absence of discipline.

in-dis-creet /ɪn'dɪ'skriːt/ *adj* not cautious or careful.

in-dis-creet-ly *adv*

in-dis-crete /ɪn'dɪ'skriːt/ *adj* not formed of distinct or separate parts.

in-dis-cre-tion /ɪn'dɪ'skreʃn/ *n* **1** [U] indiscreet conduct. **2** [C] indiscreet remark or act.

in-dis-crimi-nate /ɪn'dɪ'skrɪmɪnət/ *adj* acting, given, without care: *~ praise; ~ bombing.*

in-dis-crimi-nate-ly *adv*

in-dis-pens-able /ɪn'dɪ'spensəbl/ *adj* essential: *Air, food and water are ~ to life.*

in-dis-posed /ɪn'dɪ'spəʊzd/ *adj* (*formal*) **1** unwell. **2** unwilling: *He seems ~ to help us.*

in-dis-put-able /ɪn'dɪ'spuːtəbl/ *adj* that cannot be disputed.

in-dis-sol-uble /ɪn'dɪ'sɒljubl/ *adj* (*formal*) that cannot be dissolved or broken up; firm and lasting: *The Roman Catholic Church re-gards marriage as ~.*

in-dis-tinct /ɪn'dɪ'stɪŋkt/ *adj* not distinct: *~ sounds/memories.*

in-dis-tinct-ly *adv*

in-dis-tin-guish-able /ɪn'dɪ'stɪŋɡwɪəbl/ *adj* that cannot be distinguished.

in-di-vid-ual /ɪn'dɪ'vɪdʒuəl/ *adj* **1** (opposite of *general*) specially for one person or thing: *~ attention.* **2** characteristic of a single person, animal, plant or thing: *an ~ style of speaking.* □ *n* [C] any one human being (contrasted with

society); *the basic rights of the ~.*

in-di-vid-ually *adv* separately; one by one: *be interviewed ~ly.*

in-di-vidu-al-ity /ɪndɪvɪdʒʊəli/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] all the characteristics that belong to an individual and that distinguish him from others. **2** [C] state of separate existence.

in-di-vis-ible /ɪndɪvɪzəbl/ *adj* that cannot be divided.

in-doc-tri-nate /ɪm'dɒktrɪneɪt/ *vt* fill the mind of (a person) (with ideas or beliefs).

in-doc-tri-na-tion /ɪm'dɒktrɪneɪʃn/ *n* [U]

in-do-lent /ɪndələnt/ *adj* (formal) lazy.

in-do-lent-ly *adv*

in-dol-ence /-əns/ *n* [U]

in-domi-table /ɪm'dɒmɪtəbl/ *adj* that cannot be brought under control or conquered; unyielding: *~ courage.*

in-door /ɪndo:(r)/ *adj* belonging, carried on, situated, inside a building: *~ games.*

in-doors /ɪm'dɔ:z/ *adv* in or into a building: *go/stay ~; kept ~ all week by bad weather.*

in-dorse /ɪm'dɔ:s/ = endorse.

in-dubi-table /ɪm'dju:bitəbl/ *US: -'du:-/ adj* (formal) that cannot be doubted.

in-duce /ɪm'dju:s/ *US: -'du:s/ vt 1* persuade or influence; cause: *What ~d you to do such a thing? 2* bring about: *illness ~d by overwork.*

in-duce-ment *n* [C,U] that which induces; incentive (the more usual word): *He hasn't much ~ment to study English.*

in-duct /ɪm'dʌkt/ *vt 1* introduce, install, formally in a position or appointment. **2** introduce knowledge or experience (to).

in-duction /ɪm'dʌkʃn/ *n 1* [C] inducing or being induced: *an ~ course*, designed to provide general background knowledge. **2** method of reasoning which obtains general laws from particular facts or examples; production of facts to prove a general statement. ⇨ deduction.

in-duc-tive /ɪm'dʌktɪv/ *adj* (of reasoning) based on induction (2).

in-dulge /ɪm'dʌldʒ/ *vi, vi 1* give way to and satisfy (desires, etc): *~ a sick child. 2 indulge in*, allow oneself the pleasure of: *He occasionally ~s in the luxury of a good cigar.*

in-dul-gent /-ənt/ *adj* inclined to indulge: *indulgent parents.*

in-dul-gent-ly *adv*

in-dul-gence /ɪm'dʌldʒəns/ *n 1* [U] indulging; the state of being indulged: *Constant ~ in gambling brought about his ruin. 2* [C] something in which a person indulges: *Wine and cigarettes are her only ~s. 3* [U] (in the RC Church) granting of freedom from punishment for sin after being forgiven; [C] instance of this.

in-dus-trial /ɪm'dʌstriəl/ *adj* of industries: *an ~ dispute*, one between workers and management.

in,industrial 'action, action (eg a strike,

go-slow) by workers in industry: *take ~ action in support of higher wages.*

in,dustrial 'estate, area of land planned and used for factories.

the industrial 'revolu-tion, the social changes brought about by mechanical inventions in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

in-dus-trial-ist /-ɪst/ *n* [C] (esp) owner of a large-scale industrial undertaking.

in-dus-tri-ous /ɪm'dʌstriəs/ *adj* hard-working.

in-dus-try /ɪndəstri/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] quality of being hard-working; being always employed usefully: *a man admired for his ~. 2* [C,U] (branch of) trade or manufacture (contrasted with distribution and commerce): *the cotton and woollen industries.*

in-ebri-ate /ɪ'nɪ:briət/ *vt* make drunk. □ *n* [C], *adj* /ɪ'nɪ:briət/ (person who is habitually) drunk.

in-ed-ible /ɪm'edəbl/ *adj* (of a kind) not suitable to be eaten.

in-ef-fable /ɪm'efəbl/ *adj* too great to be described in words: *~ joy/beauty.*

in-ef-fably /-əbli/ *adv*

in-ef-fec-tive /ɪm'fektɪv/ *adj* not producing the effect(s) desired.

in-ef-fec-tive-ly *adv*

in-ef-fec-tive-ness *n* [U]

in-ef-fec-tual /ɪm'fektʃʊəl/ *adj* without effect; without confidence and unable to get things done: *an ~ teacher/leader.*

in-ef-fec-tually /-tʃʊəli/ *adv*

in-ef-fi-cient /ɪm'fɪʃənt/ *adj 1* (of persons) wasting time, energy, etc in their work or duties: *an ~ management/administration. 2* (of machines, processes, etc) wasteful; not producing adequate results.

in-ef-fi-ciency *adv*

in-ef-fi-ciency /-ənsɪ/ *n* [U]

in-el-egant /ɪm'elɪɡənt/ *adj* not graceful or refined.

in-el-egant-ly *adv*

in-el-egance /-əns/ *n* [U]

in-eli-gible /ɪm'elɪdʒəbl/ *adj* not suitable or qualified: *~ for the position.*

in-eli-gi-bil-ity /ɪm'elɪdʒəbɪləti/ *n* [U]

in-ept /ɪ'nept/ *adj* unsuitable, said or done at the wrong time: *~ remarks.*

in-ept-ly *adv*

in-ep-ti-tude /ɪ'neptɪtʃud/ *US: -tu:d/ n* [C,U]

in-equal-ity /ɪm'ɪkwəli/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] absence of equality in size, degree, circumstances, etc. **2** [C] instance of this; difference in size, rank, wealth, etc: *Great inequalities in wealth cause social unrest.*

in-equi-table /ɪm'ekwɪtəbl/ *adj* (formal) unjust; unfair: *an ~ division of the profits.*

in-equity /ɪm'ekwəti/ *n* [C,U] (pl -ies) (instance of) injustice or unfairness.

in-ert /ɪ'nɜ:t/ *adj 1* without power to move or act: *~ matter. 2* without active chemical

properties: ~ *gases*. **3** heavy and slow in (mind or body).

in-er-tia /ɪˈnɜːʃə/ *n* [U] **1** state of being inert (3). **2** property of matter by which it remains in a state of rest or, if it is in motion, continues in the same direction and in a straight line unless it is acted on by an external force.

in-es-cap-able /ɪnɪˈskeɪpəbl/ *adj* that cannot to be escaped, unavoidable: *come to the ~ conclusion that he is a thief*.

in-es-ti-mable /ɪnɪˈstɪməbl/ *adj* too great, precious, etc to be estimated.

in-evi-table /ɪnɪˈvɪtəbl/ *adj* **1** that cannot be avoided, that is sure to happen. **2** (informal) so frequently seen, heard, etc that it is familiar and expected: *a Japanese tourist with his ~ camera*.

in-evi-ta-bil-ity /ɪnɪˈvɪtəˈbɪləti/ *n* [U]

in-ex-act /ɪnɪɡˈzækt/ *adj* not exact.

in-ex-acti-tude /ɪnɪɡˈzæktɪtʃd/ *US*: -tuːd/ *n* [C, U]

in-ex-cus-able /ɪnɪkˈskjuːzəbl/ *adj* that cannot be excused: ~ *conduct/delays*.

in-ex-haust-ible /ɪnɪɡˈzɔːstəbl/ *adj* that cannot be exhausted: *My patience is not ~*.

in-ex-or-able /ɪnɪksəˈrəbl/ *adj* (formal) relentless; unyielding: ~ *demands*.

in-ex-or-ably /-əblɪ/ *adv*

in-ex-ped-ient /ɪnɪkˈspiːdiənt/ *adj* not expedient.

in-ex-ped-iency /-ənsɪ/ *n* [U]

in-ex-pen-sive /ɪnɪkˈspensɪv/ *adj* not expensive; low priced.

in-ex-pen-sive-ly *adv*

in-ex-pe-ri-ence /ɪnɪkˈspɪəriəns/ *n* [U] absence of experience.

in-ex-pe-ri-enced *adj*

in-ex-plic-able /ɪnɪkˈsplɪkəbl/ *adj* that cannot be explained.

in-ex-press-ible /ɪnɪkˈspresəbl/ *adj* that cannot be expressed in words: ~ *sorrow/anguish*.

in-ex-tri-cable /ɪnɪkˈstrɪkəbl/ *adj* that cannot be solved or escaped from: ~ *confusion*.

in-fal-lible /ɪnɪˈfələbl/ *adj* **1** incapable of making mistakes or doing wrong: *None of us is ~*. **2** never failing: ~ *cures*.

in-fal-li-bil-ity /ɪnɪˈfələˈbɪləti/ *n* [U] complete freedom from the possibility of being in error: *the infallibility of the Pope*.

in-fa-mous /ɪnɪˈfæməs/ *adj* wicked; shameful; disgraceful: ~ *behaviour*; an ~ *plot/traitor*.

in-famy /ɪnɪˈfæmi/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] being infamous; public dishonour. **2** [C] infamous act.

in-fancy /ɪnɪˈfænsɪ/ *n* [U] **1** state of being, period when one is, an infant. **2** (legal) (in GB) minority (1). **3** early stage of development or growth: *when space-travel was still in its ~*.

in-fant /ɪnɪˈfænt/ *n* [C] **1** child during the first few years of its life. **2** (used as an adjective): ~ *voices*.

infant school, part of a primary school for children under 7.

in-fan-ti-cide /ɪnɪˈfæntɪsaɪd/ *n* [U] crime of killing an infant.

in-fan-tile /ɪnɪˈfæntaɪl/ *adj* characteristic of infants: ~ *behaviour*.

infantile pa'ralysis, (name formerly used for) poliomyelitis.

in-fan-try /ɪnɪˈfæntri/ *n* (collective *sing*) soldiers who fight on foot: an ~ *regiment*.

in-fatu-ate /ɪnɪˈfætʃuət/ *vt* *be infatuated with/by sb*, be filled with a wild and foolish love for: *He's ~d with that girl*.

in-fatu-ation /ɪnɪˈfætʃʊˈeɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

in-fect /ɪnɪˈfekt/ *vt* **1** contaminate; affect with disease: ~ *ed water*. **2** (fig) influence feelings, ideas, etc: *Mary's high spirits ~ed the whole class*.

in-fec-tion /ɪnɪˈfekʃn/ *n* **1** [U] infecting or being infected; communication of disease, esp through the atmosphere or water, ⇨ *contagion*. **2** [C] an infectious disease. **3** (fig) influence that infects.

in-fec-tious /ɪnɪˈfekʃəs/ *adj* **1** causing infection, disease; (of disease) that can be spread by means of bacteria carried in the atmosphere or in water. ⇨ *contagious*. **2** (fig) quickly influencing others; likely to spread to others: ~ *humour*. *Yawning is ~*.

in-fer /ɪnɪˈfɜː(r)/ *vt* (-rr-) reach an opinion (from facts or reasoning): *Am I to ~ from your remarks that you think I am a liar?*

in-fer-ence /ɪnɪˈfərəns/ *n* **1** [U] process of inferring. *by inference*, as the result of making a judgement. **2** [C] that which is inferred.

in-fer-ior /ɪnɪˈfɪəriə(r)/ *adj* low(er) in rank, social position, importance, quality, etc: *make a person feel ~*. □ *n* [C] person who is low(er) (in rank, ability, etc).

in-fer-ior-ity /ɪnɪˈfɪəriˈbrəti/ *US*: -ɪər-/ *n* [U] state of being inferior.

inferiority complex, feeling of being inferior often producing behaviour such as boasting and aggression.

in-fer-nal /ɪnɪˈfɜːnl/ *adj* of hell; devilish; abominable: *the ~ regions*; ~ *cruelty*.

in-fer-no /ɪnɪˈfɜːnoʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) hell; scene of horror, eg a blazing building in which people are trapped.

in-fer-tile /ɪnɪˈfɜːtaɪl/ *US*: -tl/ *adj* not fertile.

in-fer-til-ity /ɪnɪˈfɜːləti/ *n* [U]

in-fest /ɪnɪˈfest/ *vt* (of rats, insects, robbers, etc) be present in large numbers: *warehouses ~ed with rats*.

in-fi-del /ɪnɪˈfɪdəl/ *n* [C] person with no belief in an accepted religion.

in-fi-del-ity /ɪnɪˈfɪdələti/ *n* [C, U] (pl -ties) (formal act of) disloyalty or unfaithfulness.

in-fight-ing /ɪnɪˈfaɪtɪŋ/ *n* [U] (informal) often merciless competition between colleagues or rivals (esp in commerce and industry).

in-fil-trate /ɪnɪˈfɪltreɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) pass

through or into by filtering. **2** (of troops) pass through defences without attracting notice. **3** (of ideas) pass into people's minds.

in-fil-tra-tion /ɪnˈfɪltrəʃn/ *n* [U]

in-fi-nite /ɪnˈfɪnɪt/ *adj* endless; without limits; that cannot be measured, calculated, or imagined: ~ *space*. *Such ideas may do ~ harm*.

in-fi-nite-ly *adv* in an infinite degree: *Atoms and molecules are ~ly small*.

in-fini-tes-i-mal /ɪnˈfɪnɪtesɪml/ *adj* infinitely small.

in-fini-tive /ɪnˈfɪnɪtɪv/ *adj, n* [C] (*gram*) (in English) the non-finite form of a verb used with or without *to*, eg 'let him go'; 'allow him to go'.

in-fin-ity /ɪnˈfɪnɪti/ *n* [U] **1** (*maths*) infinite quantity (expressed by the symbol ∞). **2** infinite space, time.

in-firm /ɪnˈfɜːm/ *adj* (*literary*) **1** physically weak (esp through age): *walk with ~ steps*. **2** mentally or morally weak.

in-firm-ity /ɪnˈfɜːməti/ *n* [C,U] (*pl -ties*) (particular form of) weakness.

in-firm-ary /ɪnˈfɜːməri/ *n* [C] (*pl -ies*) **1** hospital. **2** (in an institution, etc) room used for people who are ill or injured.

in-flame /ɪnˈfleɪm/ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) become red, angry, overheated: ~ *d eyes*. **2** (*fig*) very excited: ~ *d with passion*.

in-flam-mable /ɪnˈflæməbl/ *adj* **1** easily set on fire. **2** (*fig*) easily excited.

in-flam-ma-tion /ɪnˈflæməʃn/ *n* **1** [U] inflamed condition (esp of some part of the body): ~ *of the eyes*. **2** [C] instance, place, of this.

in-flam-ma-tory /ɪnˈflæmətri/ *US: -tɔːri/adj* **1** tending to inflame: ~ *speeches*. **2** of, producing, inflammation(1).

in-flate /ɪnˈfleɪt/ *vt* **1** fill a tyre, balloon, etc (with air or gas); (cause to) swell. **2** (*fig*) puff up: ~ *d with pride*. **3** (*finance*) take action to increase the amount of money in circulation so that prices rise. \Rightarrow deflate.

in-flat-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be inflated: *an inflatable rubber dinghy*.

in-fla-tion /ɪnˈfleɪʃn/ *n* [U] (a) act of inflating; state of being inflated. (b) (esp) (rise in prices brought about by the) expansion of the supply of money, credit, etc.

in-fla-tion-ary /ɪnˈfleɪʃənəri/ *US: -neri/adj* of, caused by, inflation.

in-flect /ɪnˈflekt/ *vt* **1** (*gram*) change the ending or form of (a word) to show its relationship to other words in a sentence. **2** adapt, regulate (the voice). **3** bend inwards; curve.

in-flec-tion /ɪnˈflekʃn/ *n* **1** [U] inflecting. **2** [C] inflected form of a word; suffix used to inflect, eg *-ed, -ing*. **3** [U] rise and fall of the voice in speaking.

in-flex-ible /ɪnˈfleksəbl/ *adj* **1** that cannot be bent or turned. **2** (*fig*) refusing to change or give in: *an ~ will*.

in-flex-ibly /-əbli/ *adv*

in-flex-i-bil-ity /ɪnˈfleksɪˈbɪləti/ *n* [U]

in-flex-ion /ɪnˈflekʃn/ *n* = inflection.

in-flict /ɪnˈflɪkt/ *vt* **1** give (a blow, etc); cause to suffer: ~ *a blow/a severe wound on him*. **2** impose: *I'm sorry to have to ~ my company on you*.

in-flic-tion /ɪnˈflɪkʃn/ *n* [C,U]

in-flow /ɪnˈfləʊ/ *n* **1** [U] flowing in. **2** [C,U] that which flows in.

in-flu-ence /ɪnˈfluəns/ *n* **1** [U] (use of the) power to affect a person's character, beliefs or actions through example, fear, admiration, etc. **2** [C] person, fact, etc that exercises such power: *She's an ~ for good in the town*. **3** [U] action of natural forces: *the ~ of climate (on vegetation)*. **4** [U] power due to wealth, position, etc: *Will you use your ~ to get me a job?* \square *vt* exert an influence on; having an effect on: *What was influencing him when he decided not to support the recommendation? Don't be ~d by what she says*.

in-flu-en-tial /ɪnˈfluəntʃl/ *adj* having influence(4).

in-flu-en-tially /-tʃəli/ *adv*

in-flu-en-za /ɪnˈfluːenza/ *n* [U] infectious disease with fever, aches and catarrh.

in-flux /ɪnˈflʌks/ *n* (*pl -es*) **1** [U] flowing in. **2** [C] constant inflow of large numbers or quantities: *an ~ of wealth*.

in-form /ɪnˈfɔːm/ *vt, vi* **1** give knowledge to: *Keep me ~ed of fresh developments*. *He's a ~well-~ed man*. **2** bring evidence or an accusation (against a person) (to the police).

in-form-ant /-ənt/ *n* [C] person who gives information.

in-form-er *n* [C] person who informs(2), esp against a criminal.

in-for-mal /ɪnˈfɔːml/ *adj* not formal(1,2); without ceremony or formality: *an ~ visit*; ~ *dress*; *used in ~ conversation/letters*.

in-for-mally /-əli/ *adv*

in-for-mal-ity /ɪnˈfɔːmələti/ *n* [C,U]

in-for-ma-tion /ɪnˈfɔːməʃn/ *n* [U] **1** informing or being informed. **2** news or knowledge given: *That's a useful piece/bit of ~*.

in-for-ma-tive /ɪnˈfɔːmətɪv/ *adj* giving information; instructive: ~ *books*; *an ~ talk*.

in-for-ma-tive-ly *adv*

in-fre-quent /ɪnˈfriːkwənt/ *adj* not frequent; rare.

in-fre-quent-ly *adv*

in-fre-quency /ɪnˈfriːkwənsi/ *n* [U]

in-fringe /ɪnˈfrɪndʒ/ *vt, vi* **1** break (a rule, etc). **2** go beyond what is right or natural: *Be careful not to ~ on/upon the rights of other people*.

in-fringe-ment *n* [C,U]

in-furi-ate /ɪnˈfjʊəriət/ *vt* fill with fury or rage: *infuriating delays*.

in-fuse /ɪnˈfjuːz/ *vt, vi* (*formal*) **1** put, pour, (a quality, etc into); fill (a person with): ~ *fresh courage/new life into soldiers*. **2** pour, (hot)

liquid on (leaves, herbs, etc) to flavour it or to extract the taste, smell: ~ *herbs*. **3** undergo infusion: *Let the tea ~ for three minutes.*

in-fu-sion /ɪn'fju:ʒn/ *n* **1** [U] infusing or being infused. **2** [C] liquid made by infusing. **3** [U] pouring in; mixing: *the ~ of new breeds into old stock.*

-ing /-ɪŋ/ *suffix* (verb + ~ = present participle or gerund): *talking; stopping.*

in-ge-ni-ous /ɪn'dʒɪ:niəs/ *adj* **1** (of a person) very clever and skilful (at making or inventing). **2** (of things) skilfully made: *an ~ tool.*

in-ge-ni-ous-ly *adv*

in-gen-u-ity /ɪndʒɪ'nju:əti/ *US*: -'nu:-/ *n* [U] (a) (of a person) cleverness and skill. (b) (of things) originality in design.

in-genu-ous /ɪn'dʒɛnjuəs/ *adj* (formal) frank.

in-got /'ɪŋɡət/ *n* [C] (usually brick-shaped) lump of metal (esp gold and silver), cast in a mould.

in-grained /ɪn'greɪnd/ *adj* **1** (of habits, tendencies, etc) deeply fixed: ~ *prejudices*. **2** going deep: ~ *dirt.*

in-grati-ate /ɪn'ɡreɪʃieɪt/ *vt* bring oneself into favour, esp in order to gain an advantage: *an ingratiating smile.*

in-grati-at-ing-ly *adv*

in-grati-tude /ɪn'ɡrætɪtju:d/ *US*: -tu:d/ *n* [U] absence of gratitude.

in-gredi-ent /ɪn'ɡri:dɪənt/ *n* [C] one of the parts of a mixture: *the ~s of a cake.*

in-habit /ɪn'hæbɪt/ *vt* live in; occupy.

in-hab-it-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be lived in.

in-habit-ant /-ənt/ *n* person living in a place.

in-hale /ɪn'heɪl/ *vt, vi* draw into the lungs: *inhaling air.*

in-haler, device for producing a chemical vapour to make breathing easier.

in-her-ent /ɪn'hɜərənt/ *adj* existing as a natural and permanent part or quality of: *He has an ~ love of beauty.*

in-herit /ɪn'herɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** receive property, a title, etc as heir: *The eldest son will ~ the title.* **2** derive (qualities, etc) from ancestors: *She ~ed her mother's good looks.*

in-her-it-ance /-əns/ *n* [U] (a) inheriting: *receive money by ~ance.* (b) [C] (literally, or fig) what is inherited: *an ~ance of ill-feeling.*

in-hibit /ɪn'hɪbɪt/ *vt* hinder, restrain: *an ~ed person, one who is unable or unwilling to express his feelings.*

in-hi-bi-tion /ɪn'hɪbɪʃn/ *n* [U] habitual shrinking from an action for which there is an impulse or desire; [C] instance of this.

in-hibi-tory /ɪn'hɪbɪtri/ *US*: -tɔ:ri/ *adj* tending to inhibit; of an inhibition.

in-hos-pi-table /ɪnhɒ'spɪtəbl/ *adj* not hospitable.

in-hu-man /ɪn'hju:mən/ *adj* cruel; without feeling: ~ *treatment.*

in-hu-man-ity /ɪnhju:'mænəti/ *n* [C,U] ab-

sence of pity; cruelty: *man's ~ity to man.*

in-hu-mane /ɪnhju:'meɪn/ *adj* not humane; cruel; without pity.

in-hu-mane-ly *adv*

in-iqui-tous /ɪ'nɪkwɪtəs/ *adj* (formal) very wicked or unjust.

in-iquity /ɪ'nɪkwəti/ *n* [C,U]

in-iti-al /ɪ'nɪʃl/ *adj* of or at the beginning: *the ~ letter of a word.* □ *n* [C] first letter, esp (pl) first letters of a person's names, eg *GBS* (for George Bernard Shaw). □ *vt* (-ll-, US also -l-) mark, sign, with one's initials.

in-iti-ally /-ʃəli/ *adv* at the beginning.

in-iti-ate /ɪ'nɪʃieɪt/ *vt* **1** set (a scheme, etc) working: ~ *a plan.* **2** admit or introduce a person (to membership of a group, etc). **3** give a person elementary instruction, or secret knowledge of, instruct. □ *n* [C], *adj* /ɪ'nɪʃɪət/ person who has been initiated (2,3).

in-iti-ation /ɪnɪʃɪ'eɪʃn/ *n* [U]

in-iti-a-tive /ɪnɪʃə'tɪv/ *n* **1** [U] first or introductory step or move. **act/do sth on one's own initiative**, without an order, request or suggestion from others. **have/take the initiative**, (be in the position to) make the first move, eg in war. **2** [U] capacity to see what needs to be done and the will to do it: *A statesman must show ~.*

in-ject /ɪn'dʒekt/ *vt* **1** drive or force a liquid, drug, etc (into something) with, or as with, a syringe; fill by injecting: ~ *penicillin into the bloodstream.* **2** (fig; informal) fill: *Her appointment may ~ some new life into the committee.*

in-jec-tion /ɪn'dʒekʃn/ *n* [C,U]

in-ju-di-cious /ɪndʒu'dɪʃəs/ *adj* (formal) not well-judged; indiscreet: ~ *remarks.*

in-junc-tion /ɪn'dʒʌŋkʃn/ *n* [C] order, esp a written order from a law court, demanding that something shall or shall not be done.

in-jure /ɪndʒə(r)/ *vt* hurt; damage.

in-jured *adj* wounded; wronged; offended: ~ *d looks.* □ *n* **the ~**, (used with a pl verb) people hurt: *The ~ are in hospital.*

in-juri-ous /ɪndʒʊəriəs/ *adj* (formal) causing, likely to cause, injury: *habits that are ~ to health.*

in-jury /ɪndʒəri/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] harm; damage; wrongful treatment. **2** [C] place (in the body) that is hurt or wounded; act that hurts; insult: *a ~ back ~; an ~ to his reputation.*

in-jus-tice /ɪn'dʒʌstɪs/ *n* [U] absence of justice; [C] unjust act, etc.

ink /ɪŋk/ *n* [U] **1** (kinds of) coloured liquid used for writing and printing. **2** black liquid ejected by cuttlefish, etc. □ *vt* mark with ink: ~ *one's fingers.* **ink in**: ~ *in a drawing*, mark with ink something drawn in pencil.

inky *adj* (-ier, -iest)

ink-ling /ɪŋkɪŋ/ *n* [C] vague idea: *have/get give an ~ (of the truth).*

in-land /ɪn'lænd/ *adj* **1** situated in the interior of a country, far from the sea or border: ~

towns. **2** carried on, obtained, within the limits of a country: ~ (= domestic) *trade*. □ *adv* /ɪnˈlænd/ *in* or towards the interior.

Inland 'Revenue, government department that collects taxes.

in-laws /ɪnˈlɔːz/ *n pl* (*informal*) relatives by marriage.

in-lay /ɪnˈleɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* inlaid /-leɪd/) set pieces of (designs in) wood, metal, etc in the surface of another kind. □ *n* /ɪnˈleɪ/ **1** [U] inlaid work; materials used for this. **2** [C] design, pattern, made by inlaying.

in-let /ɪnˈlet/ *n* [C] **1** strip of water extending into the land from a larger body of water (the sea, a lake), or between islands. **2** something let in or inserted, eg a piece of material inserted into clothing.

in-mate /ɪnˈmeɪt/ *n* [C] one of a number of persons living in a prison or other institution.

in memoriam /ɪn məˈmɔːriəm/ (*Latin*) (used in epitaphs, etc) in memory of; as a memorial to.

in-most /ɪnˈməʊst/ *adj* **1** farthest from the surface. **2** (fig) most private or secret: *my ~ feelings*.

inn /ɪn/ *n* [C] public house where lodgings, drink and meals may be had.

Inn of Court, (building of) four law societies in London having the exclusive right of admitting persons to the bar. ⇨ *bar*¹.

Inn-keeper, person who keeps an inn.

in-nards /ɪnˈnɑːdz/ *n pl* (*informal*) **1** stomach and bowels. **2** any inner parts: *the ~ of a car engine*.

in-nate /ɪˈneɪt/ *adj* (of a quality, etc) in one's nature; possessed from birth: *her ~ courtesy*.

in-nate-ly *adv*

in-ner /ɪnˈ(ə)r/ *adj* inside; of the inside: *an ~ room*.

inner-tube, inflatable rubber tube inside a tyre.

in-ner-most /-məʊst/ *adj* = inmost.

in-ning /ɪnˈnɪŋ/ *n* [C] **1** (*baseball*) division of a game in which each team bats. **2** (*cricket*) (always *pl*) time during which a player or team is batting. **3** (fig) period of power, eg of a political party, or of opportunity to show one's ability; period of active life: *The old man said he had had a good ~s*.

in-no-cence /ɪnˈnɔːns/ *n* [U] quality or state of being innocent.

in-no-cent /ɪnˈnɔːnt/ *adj* **1** (*legal*) not guilty: ~ of the charge. **2** harmless: ~ amusements. **3** knowing nothing of evil or wrong: *as ~ as a newborn babe*. **4** foolishly trusting: *Don't be so ~ as to believe everything he says*. □ *n* [C] innocent person, esp a young child.

in-no-cent-ly *adv*

in-nocu-ous /ɪnˈnɔːkjʊəs/ *adj* causing no harm.

in-no-vate /ɪnˈneɪv/ *vi* introduce new things.

in-no-va-tion /ɪnˈnəʊveɪʃn/ *n* [U] innovating;

[C] instance of this; something new that is introduced: *technical innovations in industry*.

in-no-va-tor /-tə(r)/ person who innovates.

in-nu-endo /ɪnˈnjuːendəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) indirect reference (usually unfavourable to a person's reputation).

in-numer-able /ɪnˈnjuːmrəbl/ *US*: /ɪnuː-/ *adj* too many to be counted.

in-ocu-late /ɪnˈnɔːkjʊleɪt/ *vt* inject a serum or vaccine into (a person or animal) to give (him, it) a mild form of the disease to safeguard him against it: *inoculating against cholera*.

in-ocu-la-tion /ɪnˈnɔːkjʊleɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

in-of-fen-sive /ɪnˈɒfensɪv/ *adj* not giving offence; not objectionable: *an ~ remark/person*.

in-op-er-at-ive /ɪnˈɒprətɪv/ *adj* (of laws, rules, etc) not working or taking effect.

in-op-por-tune /ɪnˈɒpətʃun/ *US*: /-tuːn/ *adj* not suitable or appropriate: *at an ~ time*.

in-op-por-tune-ly *adv*

in-or-di-nate /ɪnˈɔːdɪnət/ *adj* (*formal*) not properly restrained or controlled; excessive: ~ tax demands.

in-or-di-nate-ly *adv*

in-or-ganic /ɪnˈɔːɡænik/ *adj* **1** not having an organized physical structure, esp as plants and animals have: *Rocks and metals are ~ substances*. **2** not the result of natural growth: *an ~ form of society*.

in-or-gani-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

in-pa-tient /ɪn peɪʃnt/ *n* ⇨ *in-*.

in-quest /ɪnˈkwɛst/ *n* [C] official inquiry to learn facts, esp concerning a death which may not be the result of natural causes.

in-quire (also **en-**) /ɪnˈkwaɪə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** ask to be told: ~ what a person wants/where to stay. **2** ask for information (about): ~ about trains to London. **inquire after sb**, ask about (his health, etc). **inquire into**, investigate.

in-quirer, (also **en-**) person who inquires.

in-quir-ing (also **en-**) *adj* in the habit of asking for information: *an inquiring mind*.

in-quir-ing-ly (also **en-**) *adv*

in-inquiry (also **en-**) /ɪnˈkwaɪəri/ *US*: /ɪnkwəri/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] asking; inquiring. **on inquiry**, when one has asked. **2** [C] question; investigation: *hold an official ~ into the incident*.

in-qui-si-tion /ɪnkwɪˈzɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] thorough search or investigation; [C] instance of this, esp a judicial or official inquiry. **2** *the In-*, (also called *the Holy Office*) court appointed by the Church of Rome to suppress heresy.

in-quisi-tive /ɪnkwɪˈzɪtɪv/ *adj* liking, showing a fondness for, having (too much) interest in other people's affairs.

in-quisi-tive-ly *adv*

in-quorate /ɪnˈkwɔːrət/ *adj* (*modern informal*) without a quorum (eg majority of members) present.

in-road /ɪnˈrəʊd/ *n* [C] **1** sudden attack (into a country, etc), esp to steal supplies. **2** (fig)

something that gradually trespasses on or uses up: *make ~s on one's savings.*

in-rush /'ɪnrʌʃ/ *n* [C] rushing in: *an ~ of water/tourists.*

in-sane /ɪn'seɪn/ *adj* **1** mad. **2** (informal) senseless(1).

in-sane-ly *adv*

in-san-ity /ɪn'sænəti/ *n* [U] madness.

in-sani-tary /ɪn'sæntəri/ *US*: -teri/ *adj* not sanitary: *living under ~ conditions.*

in-sa-tiable /ɪn'seɪəbəl/ *adj* (formal) that cannot be satisfied; very greedy: ~ appetites.

in-sa-tiably /-əbəl/ *adv*

in-scribe /ɪn'skraɪb/ *vt* mark, write, (words one's name, etc in or on).

in-scrip-tion /ɪn'skrɪpʃn/ *n* [C] (esp) words cut on a stone, eg a monument, or stamped on a coin or medal.

in-scrutable /ɪn'skrʊtəbəl/ *adj* that cannot be understood or known: *the ~ ways of fate.*

in-sect /'ɪnsɛkt/ *n* [C] sorts of small animal, eg ant, fly, wasp, having six legs and no backbone and a body divided into three parts (head, thorax, abdomen).

in-sec-ti-cide /ɪn'sektəsɪd/ *n* [C,U] substance used for killing insects.

in-sec-tivor-ous /ɪn'sɛk'tɪvərəs/ *adj* eating insects as food: *Swallows are ~.*

in-se-cure /ɪn'sɛkjʊə(r)/ *adj* **1** not safe; not providing good support; not to be relied on: *an ~ job.* **2** feeling unsafe; without protection; without confidence.

in-se-cure-ly *adv*

in-se-cur-ity /ɪn'sɛ'kjʊərəti/ *n* [U]: *suffer from feelings of insecurity.*

in-sen-si-bil-ity /ɪn'sensə'bɪləti/ *n* [U] (formal) state of not having feeling or emotion; inability to know, recognize, understand or appreciate: ~ to pain/beauty.

in-sen-sible /ɪn'sensəbəl/ *adj* **1** unconscious as the result of injury, illness, etc. **2** unaware (of): ~ of danger. **3** unsympathetic; showing no emotion.

in-sen-sibly /-əbəl/ *adv*

in-sen-si-tive /ɪn'sensətɪv/ *adj* not sensitive (to touch, light, the feelings of other people).

in-sen-si-tive-ly *adv*

in-sen-si-tiv-ity /ɪn'sensə'tɪvəti/ *n* [U]

in-sep-ar-able /ɪn'seprəbəl/ *adj* that cannot be separated: ~ friends.

in-sert /ɪn'sɜ:t/ *vt* put, fit, place (in, into, between, etc): ~ a key in a lock. □ *n* /'ɪnsɜ:t/ [C] something inserted, eg in a book.

in-ser-tion /ɪn'sɜ:ʃn/ *n* [C,U]

in-set /ɪn'set/ *n* [C] **1** extra page(s) inserted in a book, etc; small map, diagram, etc within the border of a printed page or of a larger map. **2** piece of material let into a dress. □ *vt* /ɪn'set/ put in; insert.

in-shore /ɪnʃɔ:(r)/ *adj*, *adv* close to the shore: *an ~ current; ~ fisheries.*

in-side /ɪn'saɪd/ *n* [C] **1** inner side or surface;

part(s) within: *the ~ of a box.* **inside** 'out, (a) with the inner side out: *He put his socks on ~ out.* (b) thoroughly: *He knows the subject ~ out.* **2** part of a road, track, etc on the inner edge of a curve; part of a pavement or footpath farthest from the road. **3** (informal) (often pl) stomach and bowels: *a pain in his ~s.* □ *adj* /ɪn'saɪd/ situated on or in, coming from the inside: *the ~ pages of a newspaper.* □ *adv* /ɪn'saɪd/ **1** on or in the inside: *Look ~.* *There's nothing ~.* **2** (GB sl) in prison: *Jones is ~ for three years.* □ *prep* /ɪn'saɪd/ on the inner side of: *Don't let the dog come ~ the house.*

inside 'left/'right, (in football, etc) player in the forward (attacking) line immediately to the left/right of the centre-forward.

in-sider, person who, because he is a member of some society, organization, etc can obtain facts and information, or has advantages over others. ⇨ outsider.

in-sidi-ous /ɪn'sɪdiəs/ *adj* doing harm secretly, unseen: *an ~ enemy/disease.*

in-sidi-ous-ly *adv*

in-sight /ɪn'saɪt/ *n* **1** [U] understanding; power of understanding something; [C] instance of this: *show ~ into human character.* **2** [C] (often sudden) glimpse or understanding: *On holiday, she had a good ~ into what life would be like as his wife.*

in-sig-nia /ɪn'sɪɡniə/ *n* pl symbols of authority, dignity or honour.

in-sig-nifi-cant /ɪn'sɪɡ'nɪfɪkənt/ *adj* having little or no value, use, meaning or importance.

in-sig-nifi-cant-ly *adv*

in-sig-nifi-cance /-əns/ *n* [U]

in-sin-cere /ɪn'sɪn'sɜ:(r)/ *adj* not sincere.

in-sin-cere-ly *adv*

in-sin-cer-ity /ɪn'sɪn'serəti/ *n* [U]

in-sinu-ate /ɪn'sɪnjuet/ *vt* **1** make a way for (oneself/something) gently and craftily: *insinuating oneself into a person's favour.* **2** suggest unpleasantly and indirectly: *insinuating (to her) that he is a liar.*

in-sinu-ation /ɪn'sɪnju'eɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

in-sipid /ɪn'sɪpɪd/ *adj* **1** without taste or flavour: ~ food. **2** (fig) without interest, spirit: ~ conversation.

in-sip-id-ly *adv*

in-sip-ient /ɪn'sɪpɪənt/ *adj* foolish.

in-sist /ɪn'sɪst/ *vi*, *vt* **1** urge strongly against opposition or disbelief: ~ on one's innocence/that one is innocent. **2** declare that a purpose cannot be changed: *I ~ed that he should come with us/~ed on his coming with us.*

in-sist-ent /-ənt/ *adj* urgent; compelling attention: ~ent requests for more staff.

in-sist-ence /-əns/ *n* [U]

in-so-lent /ɪn'sələnt/ *adj* insulting; offensive; rude: ~ behaviour/boys.

in-so-lent-ly *adv*

in-so-lence /-əns/ *n* [U]

in-sol-uble /ɪn'soljʊbəl/ *adj* **1** (of substances)

that cannot be dissolved. **2** (of problems, etc) that cannot be solved or explained.

in-sol-vable /ɪn'sɒlvəbl/ *adj* = insoluble(2).

in-sol-vent /ɪn'sɒlvənt/ *n* [C], *adj* (person) unable to pay debts; bankrupt.

in-sol-ven-ty /-ɒnsɪ/ *n* [U]

in-som-nia /ɪn'sɒmniə/ *n* [U] inability to sleep.

in-som-niac /ɪn'sɒmniæk/ *n*, person suffering from insomnia.

in-spect /ɪn'spekt/ *vt* **1** examine carefully. **2** visit to see that work is done properly, etc.

in-spec-tion /ɪn'spekʃn/ *n* [C, U]

in-spec-tor /ɪn'spektə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** official who inspects, eg schools, factories, mines. **2** (GB) police officer who is, in rank, below a superintendent and above a sergeant.

in-spec-tor-ate /ɪn'spektərət/ *n* [C] group of inspectors.

in-spi-ra-tion /ɪn'spə'reɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] influence(s) producing creative activity in literature, music, art, etc: ~ from nature. **2** [C] person or thing that inspires: *His wife was a constant ~ to him.* **3** [C] (informal) good thought or idea that comes to the mind. **4** [U] divine guidance held to have been given to those who wrote the Bible.

in-spire /ɪn'spaɪə(r)/ *vt* **1** put encouraging, creative thoughts, feelings or aims into: *inspiring confidence in her.* *What ~d him to give such a brilliant performance?* **2** fill with creative power: ~d poets/artists.

in-sta-bil-ity /ɪn'stə'bɪləti/ *n* [U] absence of stability (of character).

in-stall (US also **in-stal**) /ɪn'stɔ:l/ *vt* **1** place (a person) in a new position of authority with the usual ceremony: ~ a dean. **2** place, fix, (apparatus) in position for use: ~ central heating. **3** settle in a place: ~ed in a new home.

in-stal-la-tion /ɪn'stə'leɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

in-stal-ment (US also **in-stall-ment**) /ɪn'stɔ:l'mənt/ *n* [C] **1** any one of the parts in which something is presented over a period of time: a story that will appear in ~s, eg on TV. **2** any one of the parts of a payment spread over a period of time: pay by monthly ~s.

in-stance /ɪn'stəns/ *n* [C] example; fact, etc supporting a general truth: *This is only one ~ out of many.* **for instance**, as an example. □ *vt* give as an example.

in-stant¹ /ɪn'stənt/ *adj* **1** coming or happening at once: *an ~ success*; ~ relief. **2** urgent: *in ~ need of help.* **3** (of food, drink) that can be prepared quickly and easily: ~ coffee.

in-stant-ly *adv* at once.

in-stant² /ɪn'stənt/ *n* [C] **1** precise point of time: *Come here this ~!* *Come here immediately!* *I sent you the news the ~ (that) (= as soon as) I heard it.* **2** moment: *Help arrived not an ~ too soon.*

in-stan-taneous-ly *adv*

in-stead /ɪn'sted/ *adv* as an alternative or substitute: *If Harry won't go with you, take me ~.* **instead of**, in place of; as an alternative to or substitute for: *I will go ~ of you.*

in-step /ɪn'step/ *n* [C] upper surface of the human foot between the toes and the ankle; part of a shoe, etc covering this.

in-sti-gate /ɪn'stɪgeɪt/ *vt* urge, encourage; cause (something) by doing this: ~ a strike.

in-sti-ga-tion /ɪn'stɪgeɪʃn/ *n* [U]: *under the instigation of the students*, encouraged by them to start, happen.

in-sti-ga-tor /-tə(r)/ *n* person who instigates.

in-stil (US = **in-still**) /ɪn'stɪl/ *vt* (-ll-) introduce (ideas, etc) gradually.

in-stil-la-tion /ɪn'stɪleɪʃn/ *n* [U]

in-stinct /ɪn'stɪŋkt/ *n* **1** [U] natural tendency to behave in a certain way without reasoning or training: *Birds learn to fly by ~.* **2** [C] instance of this: *an ~ for always saying the right thing.*

in-stinc-tive /ɪn'stɪŋktɪv/ *adj* based on instinct, not from training or teaching.

in-stinc-tive-ly *adv*

in-sti-tute¹ /ɪn'stɪtju:t/ *US*: -tʊt/ *n* [C] society or organization for a special (usually a social or educational) purpose; its office(s), or building(s).

in-sti-tute² /ɪn'stɪtju:t/ *US*: -tʊt/ *vt* **1** establish, get started an inquiry, custom, rule, etc: ~ legal proceedings. **2** appoint (a vicar, etc to, into, a benefice).

in-sti-tu-tion /ɪn'stɪ'tju:ʃn/ *US*: -tʊ-/ *n* **1** [U] instituting or being instituted: *the ~ of customs/rules.* **2** [C] established law, custom or practice, eg a club or society. **3** [C] person who has become known to everyone because of long service. **4** [C] (building of an) organization with charitable purposes or for social welfare, eg an orphanage, a home for old people.

in-sti-tu-tional /-ʃənl/ *adj*: ~al food.

in-struct /ɪn'strakt/ *vt* **1** teach a school subject, a skill: ~ a class in history. **2** give orders or directions to: ~ him to start early. **3** inform: *I have been ~ed by my bank to pay the deposit.*

in-struc-tor /-tə(r)/ *n*, person who teaches; trainer.

in-struc-tress /-trɪs/, woman who teaches or trains.

in-struc-tion /ɪn'strækʃn/ *n* **1** [U] instructing or being instructed: ~ in chemistry. **2** (pl) directions; orders: *give ~s to arrive early.*

in-struc-tional /-ʃənl/ *adj* educational: ~al films.

in-struc-tive /ɪn'straktɪv/ *adj* giving or containing instruction: ~ books.

in-stru-ment /ɪn'strumənt/ *n* [C] **1** implement, apparatus, used in performing an action, esp for delicate or scientific work: *optical ~s*, eg a microscope. **2** apparatus for producing musical sounds, eg a piano, violin, flute or drum: *musical ~s.* **3** person used by another

for his own purposes: *be made the ~ of another's crime*. **4** formal (esp legal) document: *The King signed the ~ of abdication*.

in-stru-men-tal /ɪn'stru:məntl/ *adj* 1 serving as an instrument or means: *be ~ in finding well-paid work for a friend*. **2** of or for musical instruments: *~ music*.

in-stru-men-tal-ist /-təlɪst/ *n* player of a musical instrument.

in-stru-men-ta-tion /ɪn'stru:mən'teɪʃn/ *n* [U] **1** arrangement of music for instruments. **2** development and manufacture of instruments(1).

in-sub-or-di-nate /ɪn'sʊb'ɔ:dɪnət/ *adj* disobedient; rebellious.

in-sub-or-di-na-tion /ɪn'sʊb'ɔ:dɪ'neiʃn/ *n* [U] being disobedient; [C] instance of this.

in-sub-stan-tial /ɪn'sʌb'stæʃnl/ *adj* (formal) **1** not solid or real; without substance: *an ~ vision*. **2** without good foundation or proof: *an ~ accusation*.

in-suf-fer-able /ɪn'sʌfrəbl/ *adj* unbearably conceited; unbearable: *~ insolence*.

in-suf-fi-cient /ɪn'sʌfɪʃənt/ *adj* not sufficient: *~ evidence*.

in-suf-fi-cient-ly *adv*

in-suf-fi-ciency /-ʃənsi/ *n* [U]

in-su-lar /ɪn'sjʊlə(r) *US*: -səl-/ *adj* **1** of an island. **2** of or like islanders. **3** narrow-minded: *~ habits and prejudices*.

in-su-lar-ity /ɪn'sjʊ'lærəti *US*: -səl-/ *n* [U] state of being insular (esp 3).

in-su-late /ɪn'sjʊleɪt *US*: -səl-/ *vt* **1** cover or separate (something) with non-conducting materials to prevent loss of heat, passage of electricity, etc: *'insulating tape*. **2** separate; isolate: *children carefully ~d from harmful experiences*.

in-su-la-tion /ɪn'sjʊ'leɪʃn *US*: -səl-/ *n* [U] insulating or being insulated; materials used for this.

in-su-la-tor /-tə(r)/ *n* [C] substance, device, for insulating.

in-sult /ɪn'sʌlt/ *vt* speak or act in a way that hurts or is intended to hurt a person's feelings or dignity. □ *n* /ɪn'sʌlt/ [C,U] remark or action that insults.

in-sult-ing *adj*

in-sup-er-able /ɪn'sju:prəbl *US*: -'su:-/ *adj* (of difficulties, etc) that cannot be overcome: *~ barriers*.

in-sup-port-able /ɪn'sʊp'ɔ:təbl/ *adj* unbearable.

in-sur-ance /ɪn'ʃʊərəns/ *n* **1** [U] (undertaking, by a company, society, or the State, to provide) safeguard against loss, provision against sickness, death, etc in return for regular payments. **2** [U] payment made to or by such a company, etc: *When her husband died, she received £20000 ~*. **3** [C] insurance policy: *How many ~s have you?* **4** any measure taken as a safeguard against loss, failure, etc: *try for*

a place at Leeds University as an ~ against failure to obtain a place at York.

in-sure /ɪn'ʃʊə(r)/ *vt* make a contract that promises to pay, secures payment of, a sum of money in case of accident, damage, loss, death, etc: *~ one's house against fire*.

the insured, the person to whom payment will be made.

the insurer, the person or company undertaking to make payment in case of loss, etc.

in-sur-gent /ɪn'sɜ:dʒənt/ *adj* rebellious: *~ troops*. □ *n* [C] rebel soldier.

in-sur-mount-able /ɪn'sʌ'maʊntəbl/ *adj* (of obstacles, etc) that cannot be surmounted or overcome.

in-sur-rec-tion /ɪn'sʌ'rekʃn/ *n* [U] rising of people in open resistance to the government; [C] instance of this.

in-tact /ɪn'tækt/ *adj* untouched; undamaged; complete.

in-take /ɪn'teɪk/ *n* **1** [C] place where water, gas, etc is taken into a pipe, channel, etc. **2** [C, U] quantity, number, etc entering or taken in (during a given period): *an annual ~ of 200 students*. **3** (area of) land reclaimed from a moor, marsh or the sea.

in-tan-gible /ɪn'tændʒəbl/ *adj* that cannot be touched or grasped by the mind: *~ ideas*.

in-tan-gi-bil-ity /ɪn'tændʒə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

in-te-ger /ɪn'tɪdʒə(r)/ *n* [C] whole number (contrasted with fractions).

in-te-gral /ɪn'tɪgrəl/ *adj* **1** necessary for completeness: *The arms and legs are ~ parts of a human being*. **2** whole; having or containing all parts that are necessary for completeness. **3** (maths) (made up) of integers.

in-te-grally /-əli/ *adv*

in-te-grate /ɪn'tɪɡreɪt/ *vt* **1** combine (parts) into a whole; complete by adding parts. **2** join with other groups or different race(s): *The schools have ~, joined together*.

in-te-gra-tion /ɪn'tɪ'ɡreɪʃn/ *n* [U]

in-teg-rity /ɪn'tegreɪti/ *n* [U] quality of being honest, moral: *commercial ~*.

in-tel-lect /ɪn'telɪkt/ *n* **1** [U] power of the mind to reason (contrasted with feeling and instinct): *I ~ distinguishes man from other animals*. **2** (collective sing, or in pl) person of good understanding, reasoning power, etc: *the ~ (s) of the age*.

in-tel-lec-tual /ɪn'telɪktʃʊəl/ *adj* **1** of the intellect: *~ pursuits*. **2** having or showing good reasoning power: *~ people/interests*. □ *n* [C] intellectual person.

in-tel-lec-tual-ly /-tʃʊəli/ *adv*

in-tel-li-gence /ɪn'telɪdʒəns/ *n* [U] **1** the power of seeing, learning, understanding and knowing; mental ability: *You know that playing with matches is dangerous—use your ~!* *The children were given an ~ test*. **2** news; information, esp with reference to important events: *have secret ~ of the enemy's plans*. **3**

government department that secretly collects information on enemies.

in-tel-li-gent /-ənt/ *adj* having, showing, intelligence.

in-tel-li-gent-ly *adv*

in-tel-li-gible /ɪn'telɪdʒəbl/ *adj* that can be easily understood.

in-tel-li-gibly /-əbli/ *adv*

in-tel-li-gi-bil-ity /ɪn'telɪdʒə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

in-tend /ɪn'tend/ *vt* have in mind as a purpose or plan: *What do you ~ to do/ ~ doing today?*

in-tense /ɪn'tens/ *adj* **1** (of qualities) high in degree: ~ heat. **2** (of feelings, etc) deep; strong; passionate; (of persons) highly emotional: *an ~ young lady*.

in-tense-ly *adv*

in-tens-ify /ɪn'tensɪfaɪ/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp -ied) make or become more intense.

in-tens-ity /ɪn'tensəti/ *n* [U] state or quality of being intense; strength or depth (of feeling, etc).

in-ten-sive /ɪn'tensɪv/ *adj* **1** deep and thorough: *make an ~ study of a subject*. **2** (gram) giving force and emphasis: *In 'a terribly hot day' 'terribly' is used as an ~ word*.

intensive 'care, (room for) specially thorough care given to acutely ill patients in a hospital.

in-ten-sive-ly *adv*

in-tent¹ /ɪn'tent/ *adj* **1** (of looks) eager; earnest. **2** (of persons) with earnest desire or attention: *He was ~ on his work*.

in-tent-ly *adv*

intent² /ɪn'tent/ *n* **1** [U] purpose; intention: *shoot with ~ to kill*. **2** (pl) *to all intents and purposes*, in all essential points.

in-ten-tion /ɪn'tenʃn/ *n* [C, U] intending; thing intended; aim; purpose: *He hasn't the least ~ of marrying yet*.

well-intentioned, *adj* having good intentions.

in-ten-tional /ɪn'tenʃənl/ *adj* done on purpose: *If I hurt your feelings, it wasn't ~*.

in-ten-tion-ally /-ʃənəli/ *adv* on purpose.

inter /ɪn'tə(r)/ *vt* (-rr-) (formal) bury.

inter- /ɪntə(r)-/ *prefix* between, from one to another: *international*; *interplanetary*.

inter-act /ɪntər'ækt/ *vi* act on each other.

inter-ac-tion /-ækʃn/ *n* [C, U]

inter-ac-tive /-æktɪv/ *adj*

inter-cede /ɪntə'siːd/ *vi* plead (as a peace-maker, or to obtain a favour): ~ *with the father for/on behalf of the daughter*.

inter-ces-sion /ɪntə'seʃn/ *n* [C, U]

inter-cept /ɪntə'sept/ *vi* stop, catch (a person or thing) between the starting-point and destination: ~ *a letter/a messenger*.

inter-cep-tion /ɪntə'sepʃn/ *n* [U]

inter-cep-tor /-tə(r)/, person or thing that intercepts.

inter-change /ɪntə'tʃeɪndʒ/ *vt* **1** (of two persons, etc) give and receive: ~ *views*. **2** put

(each of two things) in the other's place. □ *n* [C] act of interchanging.

inter-change-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be interchanged (2): *True synonyms are ~able*.

inter-col-legi-ate /ɪntəkə'lɪdʒɪət/ *adj* carried on, etc between colleges: ~ *games/debates*.

inter-con-ti-nen-tal /ɪntəkəntɪ'nentl/ *adj* carried on, etc between continents: ~ *ballistic missiles*, that can be fired from one continent to another.

inter-course /ɪntəkɔːs/ *n* [U] **1** social conversation, dealings, between individuals. **2** exchanges of trade, ideas, etc between persons, societies, nations, etc.

sexual intercourse, ⇨ sexual.

inter-de-nomi-na-tional /ɪntə-dɪnəmi'nɪʃənl/ *adj* common to, shared by, different religious denominations, eg Methodist, Church of England.

inter-de-pen-dent /ɪntədɪ'pendənt/ *adj* depending on each other.

inter-de-pen-dence /-əns/ *n* [U]

inter-dict /ɪntədɪkt/ *vt* (formal) prohibit (an action). □ *n* /ɪntədɪkt/ [C] formal or authoritative prohibition, sp (RC Church) an order debaring a person or place from church services, etc: *lay a priest/a town under an ~*.

inter-est¹ /ɪntrɪst/ *n* **1** [U] condition of wanting to know or learn about a person or thing: *feel/take no/not much/a great ~ in politics*.

lose interest (in), stop being interested (in). **2** [U] quality that causes concern or curiosity: *of considerable/not much ~*. **3** [C] something with which one concerns oneself: *His two great ~s in life are music and painting*.

4 [C] (often pl) advantage; profit; well-being: *It is in your ~(s) to work hard*. **5** [C] legal right to a share in something, esp in its profits: *have an ~ in a brewery*.

6 [U] money charged or paid for the use of money: *rate of ~/ ~ rate*, payment made by a borrower for a loan, expressed as a percentage, eg 5%. **7** (often pl) group of persons engaged in the same trade, etc: *'business ~s*, large business firms collectively. *in the interest(s) of*, on behalf of, for the benefit of: *in the ~s of truth*.

inter-est² /ɪntrɪst/ *vt* cause (a person) to give his attention to: *He is ~ed in shipping*. (a) likes to know and learn about ships. (b) has money invested in the shipping industry.

inter-ested *adj* (a) having an interest (4) in; not impartial. (b) showing interest (1): *an ~ed look*.

inter-est-ing *adj* holding the attention; causing interest (1): *an ~ing conversation*.

inter-fere /ɪntə'fɪə(r)/ *vi* **1** (of persons) break in on (other person's affairs) without right or invitation: *Please stop interfering in my business*. **2** (of persons) meddle; tamper (with): *Do not ~ with this machine*. **3** (of events, circumstances, etc) come into opposi-

tion; hinder or prevent: *Do you ever allow pleasure to ~ with duty?*

in-ter-fer-ence /ɪntə'fɪərəns/ *n* [U]

in-ter-im /ɪntə'ɪm/ *n* 1 *in the interim*, meanwhile; during the time that comes between. 2 (as an adjective) as an instalment: *an ~ report*, one that precedes the final report.

in-ter-ior /ɪntə'ɪəriə(r)/ *adj* 1 situated inside; of the inside. 2 inland; away from the coast. 3 home or domestic (contrasted with *foreign*). □ *n* [C] 1 the inside: ~ *decorators*, those who decorate the inside of a building. 2 inland areas: *travel into the ~*. 3 (department dealing with the) domestic affairs of a country.

in-ter-ject /ɪntə'dʒekt/ *vt* put in suddenly (a remark, etc) between statements, etc made by another.

in-ter-jec-tion /ɪntə'dʒekʃn/ *n* [C] word or phrase used as an exclamation, eg *Oh! Good Gracious!* (marked *int* in this dictionary)

in-ter-lace /ɪntə'leɪs/ *vt, vi* join, be joined, (as if) by weaving or lacing together: *interlacing branches*.

in-ter-linear /ɪntə'liːniə(r)/ *adj* written, printed, between the lines.

in-ter-link /ɪntə'lɪŋk/ *vt, vi* link together.

in-ter-lock /ɪntə'lɒk/ *vt, vi* lock or join together; clasp firmly together.

in-ter-lo-per /ɪntə'ləʊpə(r)/ *n* [C] person who, esp for profit or personal advantage, pushes himself in where he has no right.

in-ter-lude /ɪntə'lud/ *n* [C] 1 interval between two events or two periods of time of different character: ~s of *bright weather*. 2 interval between two parts of a play, etc; music played during such an interval.

in-ter-marry /ɪntə'mæri/ *vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) (of tribes, races, etc) become connected by marriage between two tribes, etc.

in-ter-mar-riage /ɪntə'mæridʒ/ *n* [U]

in-ter-medi-ary /ɪntə'miːdiəri/ *US*: -diəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies), *adj* 1 (person or thing) acting as a link between (persons and groups). 2 (something) intermediate.

in-ter-medi-ate /ɪntə'miːdiət/ *adj* situated or coming between in time, space, degree, etc: *at an ~ stage*. □ *n* [C] something that is intermediate.

in-ter-medi-ate-ly *adv*

in-ter-ment /ɪntə'mənt/ *n* [U] being buried; [C] burial.

in-ter-mi-nable /ɪntə'mɪnəbl/ *adj* endless; tedious because too long: *an ~ debate*.

in-ter-mi-nably /-əbl/ *adv*

in-ter-mingle /ɪntə'mɪŋɡl/ *vt, vi* mix together (two things, one with the other).

in-ter-mit-tent /ɪntə'mɪtənt/ *adj* pausing or stopping at intervals: ~ *fever*.

in-ter-mit-tent-ly *adv*

in-tern¹ /ɪntə'n/ *vt* compel (persons, esp aliens during a war) to live in certain areas or in a special building, camp, etc.

in-tern-ment¹ *n* [U]

in-tern² (*US* also **in-terne**) /ɪntə'n/ *n* [C] (*US*) young doctor who is completing his training by living in a hospital and acting as an assistant physician or surgeon there. (*GB* = *house physician*; *house surgeon*).

in-ter-nal /ɪntə'nəl/ *adj* 1 of or in the inside: *suffer ~ injuries*. 2 domestic; of the home affairs of a country: ~ *trade*.

in-ter-nally *adv*

in-ter-na-tional /ɪntə'næʃənəl/ *adj* existing, carried on, between nations: ~ *trade*.

in-ter-na-tion-ally /-əli/ *adv*: ~ *ly famous*.

in-ter-na-tion-al-ize (also **-ise**) /-aɪz/ *vt* make international; bring under the control or protection of all or many nations: *Should the Suez Canal be ~ized?*

in-terne¹ /ɪntə'n/ *n* ⇨ **intern**².

in-ter-necine /ɪntə'nɪsɪn/ *adj* causing destruction to both sides: ~ *war*.

in-ter-plan-etary /ɪntə'plænɪtri/ *US*: -teri/ *adj* between planets: *an ~ journey in a spacecraft*.

in-ter-play /ɪntə'pleɪ/ *n* [U] operation, effect, of two things on each other: *the ~ of colours*.

in-ter-po-late /ɪntə'pəleɪt/ *vt* make (sometimes misleading) additions to a book.

in-ter-po-la-tion /ɪntə'pəleɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

in-ter-pose /ɪntə'pəʊz/ *vt, vi* 1 put forward an objection, etc as an interference: *Will they ~ their veto yet again?* 2 make an interruption. 3 step in; mediate: ~ *between two persons who are quarrelling*.

in-ter-pret /ɪntə'prɪt/ *vt, vi* 1 show, explain, the meaning of (either in words or by artistic performance): ~ *a difficult passage in a book* / *the role of Hamlet*. 2 consider to be the meaning of: *We ~ed his silence as a refusal*. 3 act as interpreter (esp when translating (1)).

in-ter-pre-tation /ɪntə'prɪ'teɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

in-ter-preter, person who gives an immediate oral translation of words spoken in another language.

in-ter-racial /ɪntə'reɪʃl/ *adj* between, involving, different races.

in-ter-reg-num /ɪntə'reɡnəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or -na /-nə/) 1 period between the end of a Sovereign's reign and the beginning of his normal or legitimate successor's reign. 2 pause or interval.

in-ter-re-late /ɪntə'reɪleɪt/ *vt, vi* come together in mutual relationship: ~ *d studies*, of separate but related subjects.

in-ter-ro-gate /ɪntə'reɡeɪt/ *vt* question thoroughly or formally: ~ *a prisoner*.

in-ter-ro-ga-tion /ɪntə'reɡeɪʃn/ *n* (a) [U] asking questions. (b) [C, U] oral examination; inquiry: ~ *s by the police*.

in-ter-ro-ga-tor /-tə(r)/, person who interrogates.

in-ter-ro-ga-tive /ɪntə'reɡeɪtɪv/ *adj* 1 showing or having the form of a question; of in-

quity: *an ~ look/glance; in an ~ tone.* **2** (gram) used in questions: *~ pronouns/adverbs*, eg 'who', 'why'. □ *n* [C] interrogative word or construction.

in-ter-roga-tory /ɪntəˈrɒɡətri/ *US*: -tɔːri/ *adj* of inquiry: *in an ~ tone.*

in-ter-rupt /ɪntəˈrʌpt/ *vt, vi* **1** break the continuity of: *The war ~ed trade between the two countries.* **2** break in on (a person speaking, doing something, etc): *Don't ~ (me) while I'm busy.*

in-ter-rup-tion /ɪntəˈrʌpʃn/ *n* [C, U]

in-ter-sect /ɪntəˈsekt/ *vt, vi* **1** divide by cutting, passing or lying across. **2** (of lines) cross each other.

in-ter-section /ɪntəˈsekʃn/ *n* [C, U]

in-ter-spense /ɪntəˈspɜːs/ *vt* place, throw, here and there.

in-ter-stel-lar /ɪntəˈstelə(r)/ *adj* between the stars: *~ communications.*

in-ter-tri-bal /ɪntəˈtraɪbl/ *adj* between tribes.

in-ter-twine /ɪntəˈtwain/ *vt, vi* twine or twist together: *a lattice ~d with vines.*

in-ter-ur-ban /ɪntəˈrɜːbən/ *adj* between towns.

in-ter-val /ɪntəˈvæl/ *n* [C] **1** time between two events or two parts of an action (esp time between two acts of a play, two parts of a concert, etc). **2** space between (two objects or points): *arranged at ~s of twenty metres.* **3** (music) difference of pitch between two notes on a given scale.

in-ter-vene /ɪntəˈviːn/ *vi* **1** (of events, circumstances) come between (others) in time: *I shall leave on Sunday if nothing ~s.* **2** (of persons) interfere (so as to try to stop something): *~ in a dispute; ~ between people who are quarrelling.* **3** (of time) come or be between: *during the years that ~d.*

in-ter-ven-tion /ɪntəˈvenʃn/ *n* [C, U]

in-ter-view /ɪntəˈvjuː/ *n* [C] **1** meeting for discussion or conference, eg between employers and applicants for posts. **2** meeting (of a reporter, etc) with a person whose views are requested: *He refused to give any 'newspaper ~s.* □ *vt* have an interview with.

in-ter-weave /ɪntəˈwiːv/ *vt* (*pt* -wove /-ˈwəʊv/, *pp* -woven /-ˈwəʊvən/) weave together (one with another).

in-tes-tate /ɪnˈtestet/ *adj* having not made a will before death occurs: *die ~.*

in-tes-tine /ɪnˈtestɪn/ *n* [C] (usually *pl*) lower part of the food canal from below the stomach to the anus: *the small/large ~, parts of this.*

in-tes-ti-nal /ɪnˈtestɪnl/ *adj*

in-ti-macy /ɪnˈtɪməsi/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] the state of being intimate; close friendship or relationship. **2** (*pl*) caresses, kisses, etc. **3** [C] sexual intercourse.

in-ti-mate /ɪnˈtɪmət/ *adj* **1** close and familiar (now often suggesting sexual intimacy): *~*

friends. **2** innermost; private and personal: *the ~ details of one's life.* **3** resulting from close study or great familiarity: *an ~ knowledge of Greek.* □ *n* [C] close friend.

in-ti-mate-ly *adv*

in-ti-mate /ɪnˈtɪmət/ *vt* make known; show clearly; suggest: *~ one's approval.*

in-ti-ma-tion /ɪnˈtɪmeɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

in-ti-mi-date /ɪnˈtɪmɪdeɪt/ *vt* frighten, esp in order to force (a person into doing something): *~ a witness, eg by threatening him.*

in-ti-mi-da-tion /ɪnˈtɪmɪdeɪʃn/ *n* [U]

into /ɪntə/ *strong form*: /ɪntuː/ *prep* **1** (showing motion or direction to a point within): *Come ~ the house/garden.* **2** (showing change of condition, result): *She burst ~ tears. The rain changed ~ snow.* **3** against: *crash ~ a tree.* **4** (maths): *5 ~ 25 (= 25 divided by 5) equals 5.*

in-tol-er-able /ɪnˈtɒlərəbl/ *adj* that cannot be tolerated or endured: *~ heat/insolence.*

in-tol-er-ably /-əblɪ/ *adv*

in-tol-er-ant /ɪnˈtɒlərənt/ *adj* not tolerant.

in-tol-er-ant-ly *adv*

in-tol-er-ance /-əns/ *n* [U]

in-ton-a-tion /ɪntəˈneɪʃn/ *n* [U] the rise and fall of the pitch of the voice in speaking.

in-tox-i-cant /ɪnˈtɒksɪkənt/ *adj, n* [C] (*formal*) alcoholic (liquor).

in-tox-i-cate /ɪnˈtɒksɪkeɪt/ *vt* **1** cause to lose self-control as the result of taking alcoholic drink. **2** (*fig*) excite greatly: *be ~d with joy.*

in-tox-i-ca-tion /ɪnˈtɒksɪˈkeɪʃn/ *n* [U]

in-tran-si-gent /ɪnˈtrænsɪdʒənt/ *adj* (*formal*) refusing to change one's opinion, esp in politics.

in-tran-si-tive /ɪnˈtrænsɪtɪv/ *adj* (*gram*) (of verbs) used without a direct object (marked *vi* in this dictionary).

in-tran-si-tive-ly *adv*

in-tra-ven-ous /ɪnˈtrəˈviːnəs/ *adj* within a vein or veins: *~ injections.*

in-trep-id /ɪnˈtreɪpɪd/ *adj* (*formal*) fearless.

in-trep-id-ly *adv*

in-tri-cacy /ɪnˈtrɪkəsi/ *n* [C, U] *pl* -ies (instance of) being intricate.

in-tri-cate /ɪnˈtrɪkət/ *adj* complicated; difficult to follow or understand: *an ~ piece of machinery.*

in-tri-cate-ly *adv*

in-trigue /ɪnˈtrɪg/ *vi, vt* **1** make and carry out secret plans or plots: *intriguing with Smith against Robinson.* **2** bring out the interest or curiosity of: *The news ~d all of us.* □ *n* /ɪnˈtrɪg/ **1** [U] secret plotting: **2** [C] secret plan, plot.

in-trin-sic /ɪnˈtrɪnsɪk/ *adj* (of value, quality) belonging naturally; existing within, not coming from outside: *a man's ~ worth.*

in-trin-si-cally /-kli/ *adv*

in-tro-duce /ɪnˈtrɒdjʊːs/ *US*: -dʊːs/ *vt* **1** bring in or forward: *~ a Bill before Parliament.* **2** bring into use or operation for the first time: *~ new ideas into a business.* **3** make (per-

sons) known by name (to one another): *He ~d me to his parents.* 4 insert: *introducing a new subject into a conversation.*

in-tro-duc-tion /ɪntrə'dʌkʃn/ *n* 1 [U] introducing or being introduced. 2 [C] introducing of persons to one another. 3 [C] opening paragraph of a letter, essay, speech, etc; explanatory article at or before the beginning of a book. 4 [C] elementary textbook: *'An I ~ to Greek Grammar.'*

in-tro-duc-tory /ɪntrə'dʌktɔəri/ *adj* serving to introduce: *an ~ chapter.*

in-tro-spect /ɪntrə'spekt/ *vi* (formal) think about oneself, one's feelings.

in-tro-spec-tion /ɪntrə'spekʃn/ *n* [U]

in-tro-spec-tive /-tɪv/ *adj*

in-tro-vert /ɪntrə'vɜ:t/ *vt* turn (one's mind, thought) inward on itself. □ *n* /ɪntrə'vɜ:t/ [C] 1 person who is more interested in his own thoughts and feelings than in things outside himself. 2 (informal) quiet, antisocial person. ⇨ extrovert.

in-trude /ɪn'tru:d/ *vt, vi* force (something, oneself, on a person, into a place); enter without invitation: *I hope I'm not intruding.*

in-truder, person or thing that intrudes.

in-tru-sion /ɪn'tru:ʒn/ *n* [U] intruding; [C] instance of this.

in-tru-sive /ɪn'tru:sɪv/ *adj* (a) intruding. (b) (of rocks) forced between layers of other rock.

intrusive 'r', one with no grammatical or spelling justification, eg the r-sound often heard after *law* in *law and order*.

in-tuition /ɪntju:'ʃn/ *US*: -tʊ-/ *n* 1 [U] (power of) the immediate understanding of something without conscious reasoning or study. 2 [C] piece of knowledge gained by this power.

in-tu-itive /ɪntju:'tɪv/ *US*: -tʊ-/ *adj*

in-tu-itive-ly *adv*

in-un-date /ɪn'ʌndeɪt/ *vt* 1 flood; cover (with water) by overflowing. 2 (fig) (esp passive) be overwhelmed: *be ~d with requests for help.*

in-un-da-tion /ɪn'ʌndeɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

in-vade /ɪn'veɪd/ *vt* 1 enter (a country) with armed forces in order to attack. 2 (fig) crowd into; enter: *a city ~d by tourists.* 3 violate; interfere with: *~ a person's rights.*

in-vader, person, thing, that invades.

in-valid /ɪn'vælid/ *adj* not valid.

in-vali-date /ɪn'vælidet/ *vt* make invalid.

in-vali-da-tion /ɪn'vælideɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

in-val-id² /ɪn'vælid/ *US*: -lɪd/ *adj* 1 weak or disabled through illness or injury: *~ soldiers.* 2 suitable for invalid persons: *an ~ chair/diet.* □ *n* [C] invalid person. □ *vt* (esp of members of the armed forces) remove from active service as an invalid: *be ~ed home.*

in-val-u-able /ɪn'væljuəbl/ *adj* of value too high to be measured: *Her services are ~ to me.*

in-vari-able /ɪn'veəriəbl/ *adj* unchangeable; constant: *an ~ temperature.*

in-vari-ably /-əblɪ/ *adv*

in-va-sion /ɪn'veɪʒn/ *n* [U] invading or being invaded; [C] instance of this: *an ~ of privacy.*

in-vec-tive /ɪn'vektɪv/ *n* [U] angry, abusive language: *speeches filled with ~.*

in-vent /ɪn'vent/ *vt* 1 create or design (something not existing before): *When was television ~ed?* 2 make up, think of: *~ an excuse.*

in-ven-tor /-tə(r)/, person who invents things.

in-ven-tion /ɪn'venʃn/ *n* 1 [U] inventing: *the ~ of the telephone.* 2 [C] something invented: *the many ~s of Edison.*

in-ven-tive /ɪn'ventɪv/ *adj* able to invent easily; imaginative: *an ~ mind.*

in-ven-tory /ɪn'ventəri/ *US*: -tɔəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) detailed list, eg of household goods, furniture, etc.

in-verse /ɪn'vɜ:s/ *adj* inverted; reversed in position, direction or relations.

in-verse-ly *adv*

in-ver-sion /ɪn'vɜ:ʃn/ *US*: -ʒn/ *n* [U] inverting or being inverted; [C] instance of this; something inverted.

in-vert /ɪn'vɜ:t/ *vt* put upside down or in the opposite order, position or arrangement.

in,verted 'commas, = quotation marks ("—" or "—").

in-vert-ebrate /ɪn'vɜ:təbrət/ *adj* not having a backbone or spinal column, eg insects, worms. □ *n* [C] invertebrate animal.

in-vest /ɪn'vest/ *vt, vi* 1 put (money in): *~ £1000 in a business.* 2 (informal) buy: *~ in a new hat.* 3 clothe; give (authority); decorate; surround (with qualities): *~ed with full military power.*

in-ves-tor /-tə(r)/, person who invests money.

in-ves-ti-gate /ɪn'vestɪgeɪt/ *vt* examine, inquire into; make a careful study of: *~ a crime/the market for sales of a product.*

in-ves-ti-ga-tion /ɪn'vestɪ'geɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

in-ves-ti-ga-tor /-tə(r)/, person who investigates.

in-ves-ti-ture /ɪn'vestɪtʃə(r)/ *US*: -tʃʊə(r)/ *n* [C] (from invest(3)) ceremony of investing a person (with a rank, power, etc).

in-vest-ment /ɪn'vestmənt/ *n* 1 [U] investing money: *careful ~ of capital.* 2 [C] sum of money that is invested; that in which money is invested: *profitable ~s.* 3 [C] = investiture.

in-vet-er-ate /ɪn'vetəreɪt/ *adj* (esp of habits, feelings) long-established: *an ~ liar.*

in-vidi-ous /ɪn'vɪdiəs/ *adj* likely to cause anger, resentment, (because of real or apparent injustice).

in-vidi-ous-ly *adv*

in-vigi-late /ɪn'vɪdʒɪleɪt/ *vi* watch over students during examinations.

in-vigi-la-tion /ɪn'vɪdʒɪleɪʃn/ *n* [U]

in-vigi-la-tor /-tə(r)/, person who invigilates.

in-vig-or-ate /ɪn'vɪgəreɪt/ *vt* give strength,

energy or courage to: *an invigorating climate.*

in-vin-cible /ɪnˈvɪnsəbl/ *adj* too strong to be overcome or defeated: *an ~ will.*

in-vin-cibly /-əblɪ/ *adv*

in-viol-able /ɪnˈvaɪələbl/ *adj* not to be violated or dishonoured: *an ~ oath.*

in-viol-ate /ɪnˈvaɪələt/ *adj* kept sacred; held in respect; not violated.

in-vi-sible /ɪnˈvɪzəbl/ *adj* that cannot be seen: *stars that are ~ to the naked eye.*

in-vi-si-bil-ity /ɪnˈvɪzəˈbɪləti/ *n* [U]

in-vi-sibly /-əblɪ/ *adv*

in-vi-ta-tion /ɪnˈvɪteɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] inviting or being invited: *admission by ~ only.* 2 [C] request to come or go somewhere, or do something: *send out ~s to a party.*

in-vite /ɪnˈvaɪt/ *vt* 1 ask (a person to do something, come somewhere, etc): *~ a friend to one's house.* 2 ask for: *~ questions.* 3 encourage: *Don't leave the windows open—it's inviting thieves to enter.*

in-vit-ing *adj* tempting; attractive.

in-vit-ing-ly *adv*

in-voc-a-tion /ɪnˈvɒʊˈkeɪʃn/ *n* [U] invoking or being invoked; [C] prayer or appeal that invokes.

in-voice /ɪnˈvɔɪs/ *vt, n* [C] (make a) list of goods sold with the price(s) charged.

in-voke /ɪnˈvəʊk/ *vt* 1 call on God, the power of the law, etc for help or protection. 2 request earnestly: *~ vengeance on one's enemies.* 3 summon up (by magic): *~ evil spirits.*

in-vol-un-tary /ɪnˈvɒləntəri/ *US: -teri/ adj* done without intention; done unconsciously: *an ~ movement of fear.*

in-vol-un-tar-ily /ɪnˈvɒləntərəli/ *US: inˈvɒləntərəli/ adv*

in-volve /ɪnˈvɒlv/ *vt* 1 cause (a person or thing) to take part or be mixed up (in trouble, a difficult condition, etc): *They are deeply ~d in debt.* 2 have as a necessary result: *The new design is involving me in a lot of extra work.*

involved *adj* complicated in form, etc: *an ~d sentence/style.*

in-volve-ment *n* [C,U]

in-vul-ner-able /ɪnˈvʌlnərəbl/ *adj* that cannot be wounded, hurt or attacked.

in-ward /ɪnˈwəd/ *adj* 1 situated within; inner: *one's ~ (ie mental or spiritual) nature.* 2 turned towards the inside: *an ~ curve.*

in-ward-ly *adv* in mind or spirit: *suffer ~ly, ie not showing one's grief.*

in-ward-ness *n* [U] (person's) inner nature.

in-ward(s) *adv* (a) towards the inside. (b) into or towards the mind or soul.

iod-ine /ˈaɪədiːn/ *US: -dam/ n* [U] chemical substance widely used as an antiseptic, in photography and in the manufacture of some dyes.

ion /ˈaɪən/ *n* [C] electrically charged particle formed by losing or gaining electrons.

ion-ize (also **-ise**) /ˈaɪənəɪz/ *vt* convert into

ions.

iono-sphere /aɪˈɒnəsfiə(r)/ *n* the ~, (also known as the *Heaviside Layer*) set of layers of the earth's atmosphere, which reflect radio waves and cause them to follow the earth's shape.

iota /aɪˈəʊtə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) 1 the Greek letter (i). 2 extremely small part: *not an ~ of truth in the story, no truth at all.*

ipso facto /ɪpsəʊ ˈfæktəʊ/ *adverbial phrase* (Latin) by that very fact.

irate /aɪˈreɪt/ *adj* angry.

ire /aɪə(r)/ *n* [U] (poetic or formal) anger.

iri-descent /ɪrɪˈdesnt/ *adj* (formal) showing colours like those of the rainbow; changing colour as light falls from different directions.

iri-descence /ɪrɪˈdesns/ *n* [U]

iris /ˈaɪərɪs/ *n* [C] 1 coloured part round the pupil of the eye. 2 kinds of flowering plant with sword-shaped leaves.

irk /ɜːk/ *vt* trouble; annoy.

irk-some /-səm/ *adj* tedious; annoying.

iron¹ /ˈaɪən/ *US: ˈaɪərən/ n* 1 [U] commonest of all metallic elements (symbol **Fe**), used in various forms. 2 [C] tool, etc made of iron, esp a flat-bottomed implement heated and used for smoothing clothes, etc. ⇨ **strike²**(1). 3 (pl) chains for the ankles and wrists of a prisoner: *put him in ~s.*

the Iron Age, period when man used tools and weapons made of iron.

iron curtain, (fig) frontier(s) between countries, considered as a barrier to information and trade.

iron lung, apparatus fitted over the whole body, except the head, to provide artificial respiration.

iron-monger, dealer in metal goods.

iron-mongery, business of an ironmonger.

iron rations, store of food for use in an emergency as for troops or explorers.

iron² /ˈaɪən/ *US: ˈaɪərən/ vt, vi* smooth cloth, clothes, with an iron: *She's been ~ing all afternoon.* **iron out**, (a) remove by ironing: *~ out wrinkles.* (b) (fig) remove: *~ out misunderstandings.*

iron-ing-board, padded board on which to iron clothes, etc.

ironic /aɪˈrɒnɪk/ (also **ironi-cal** /-kl/) *adj* of, using, expressing, irony: *an ~ smile.*

ironi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

irony /ˈaɪərəni/ *n* (pl -ies) 1 [U] saying something which is the direct opposite of one's thoughts in order to make one's remarks forceful. 2 [C] event, situation, etc which is itself desirable, but which, because of the circumstances, is of little or no value, and appears to be directed by evil fate: *Inheriting a large fortune and dying a month later might be called one of life's ironies.*

ir-ra-tional /ɪˈræʃənəl/ *adj* 1 not being able to reason: *an ~ animal.* 2 absurd; illogical: ~

fears/behaviour.

ir-ra-tion-ally *adv*

ir-rec-on-cil-able /ɪˈrɛkənˈsaɪəbl/ *adj* **1** (of persons) that cannot be reconciled. **2** (of ideas, opinions, actions) that cannot be agreed.

ir-re-cover-able /ɪrɪˈkʌvərəbl/ *adj* that cannot be recovered: ~ losses.

ir-re-fut-able /ɪrɪˈfjuːtəbl/ *adj* that cannot be proved false: *an ~ argument*.

ir-regu-lar /ɪˈregjələ(r)/ *adj* **1** contrary to rules, to what is normal and established: ~ attendance. **2** uneven; not regular in shape, arrangement, etc: *a coast with an ~ outline*. **3** (gram) (of words), not having the usual endings or forms in a sentence: 'Child' has an ~ plural. 'Go' is an ~ verb.

ir-regu-lar-ly *adv*

ir-regu-lar-ity /ɪˈregjələˈlærəti/ *n* [C, U]

ir-rel-evant /ɪˈrɛləvnt/ *adj* not to the point; having nothing to do with: ~ remarks.

ir-re-li-gious /ɪrɪˈlɪdʒəs/ *adj* opposed to, showing no interest in, religion: ~ acts/ persons.

ir-re-mov-able /ɪrɪˈmuːvəbl/ *adj* that cannot be removed (esp from an appointment).

ir-rep-ar-able /ɪˈreprəbl/ *adj* (of a loss, injury, etc) that cannot be put right or restored: ~ damage.

ir-re-plac-e-able /ɪrɪˈpleɪsəbl/ *adj* of which the loss cannot be supplied.

ir-re-proach-able /ɪrɪˈprəʊtʃəbl/ *adj* free from blame or fault: ~ conduct.

ir-re-sist-ible /ɪrɪˈzɪstəbl/ *adj* too strong, convincing, delightful, etc to be resisted: ~ temptations.

ir-re-spec-tive /ɪrɪˈspektɪv/ *adj* not taking into account: ~ of the danger.

ir-re-spon-sible /ɪrɪˈsponsəbl/ *adj* (esp) (doing things, done) without a proper sense of responsibility: ~ behaviour.

ir-re-spon-si-bil-ity /ɪrɪˈsponsəˈbɪləti/ *n* [U]

ir-re-triev-able /ɪrɪˈtrɪvəbl/ *adj* that cannot be retrieved or remedied: *an ~ loss*.

ir-rev-er-ence /ɪˈrevərəns/ *n* [U] state of being irreverent.

ir-rev-er-ent /ɪˈrevərənt/ *adj* feeling or showing no respect for sacred things.

ir-rev-er-ent-ly *adv*

ir-re-vers-ible /ɪrɪˈvɜːsəbl/ *adj* that cannot be reversed or revoked: *an ~ decision*.

ir-revo-cable /ɪˈrevəkəbl/ *adj* final and unalterable: *an ~ legal decision*.

ir-ri-gate /ɪˈrɪgeɪt/ *vt* **1** supply (land, crops) with water (by means of rivers, pipes, etc): ~ desert areas to make them fertile. **2** construct reservoirs, canals, etc for the distribution of water (to fields).

ir-ri-ga-tion /ɪrɪˈgeɪʃn/ *[U]*

ir-ri-table /ɪˈrɪtəbl/ *adj* easily annoyed or made angry.

ir-ri-table-ly *adv*

ir-ri-ta-bil-ity /ɪrɪˈtəˈbɪləti/ *n* [U]

ir-ri-tant /ɪˈrɪtənt/ *adj* causing irritation. □ *n* [C] irritating substance.

ir-ri-tate /ɪˈrɪteɪt/ *vt* **1** make angry or annoyed: *irritating delays*. **2** cause discomfort to (part of the body): make sore or inflamed: *The smoke ~d her eyes*.

ir-ri-ta-tion /ɪrɪˈteɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

ir-rup-tion /ɪˈrʌpʃn/ *n* [C] sudden and violent entry; bursting in.

is ⇨ be¹.

-ise /-aɪz/ *suffix* ⇨ -ize.

-ish /-ɪʃ/ *suffix* **1** (national name + ~ = adjective): *Spanish*. **2** resembling: *childish*. **3** a little like, near to: *reddish*; *twentyish*.

Is-lam /ɪˈzlɑːm/ *n* faith, religion, proclaimed by the Prophet Muhammad; all Muslims; all the Muslim world.

Is-lamic /ɪzˈlæmɪk/ *adj*

is-land /ˈaɪlənd/ *n* [C] **1** piece of land surrounded by water. **2** something like an island because it is detached, separate or isolated. ⇨ traffic island.

is-lander, person born on or living on an island.

isle /aɪl/ *n* [C] island (not much used, except in proper names): *the British Isles*.

is-let /ˈaɪlət/ *n* [C] small island.

-ism /-ɪzəm/ *suffix* (used to form a noun) **1** showing qualities typical of: *Americanism*. **2** doctrine, principle, cause: *Communism*.

isn't /ɪznt/ ⇨ be¹.

iso-bar /ˈaɪsəbɑː(r)/ *n* [C] line on a map, esp a weather chart, joining places with the same atmospheric pressure at a particular time.

iso-late /ˈaɪsələɪt/ *vt* separate, put or keep apart from others: *isolating the infected children*.

iso-la-tion /ˈaɪsələʃn/ *n* [U] isolating or being isolated: *an ~ ward*, one for persons with infectious diseases.

isos-celes /aɪˈsɒsɪlɪz/ *adj* (of a triangle) having two sides equal.

iso-therm /ˈaɪsəθɜːm/ *n* [C] line on a map joining places having the same average temperature.

iso-tope /ˈaɪsəʊtəʊp/ *n* [C] form of a chemical element having a nuclear mass different from other forms of the same element: *radio-active ~s*, unstable forms used in medicine and industry.

issue /ɪʃuː/ *vi, vt* **1** come, go, flow, out: *blood issuing from a wound*. **2** distribute for use or consumption: ~ travel tickets to the passengers. **3** publish (books, etc). **4** put stamps, banknotes, shares¹ (3), etc into circulation. □ *n* **1** [U] outgoing; outflowing; [C] the act of flowing out; that which flows out: *an ~ of blood*. **2** [C, U] publication: *the ~ of a newspaper*; *the most recent ~s of a periodical*. **3** [C] question that arises for discussion: *argue political ~s*. **4** [C] result; outcome; consequence:

await the ~. **5** [U] (legal) children: *die without ~*, ie without children.

-ist /-ɪst/ suffix ⇨ -ism; *dramatist*.

isthmus /'ɪsməs/ *n* (pl ~es) strip of land joining two larger bodies of land: *the I~ of Panama*.

it /ɪt/ *pron* (pl they /ðeɪ/, them /ðəm/) **1** (used of lifeless things, animals and of a baby or small child when the sex is unknown or unimportant): *Where's my book?—Have you seen ~? Where's the cat?—I~'s in the garden. She's expecting another baby and hopes ~ will be a boy.* **2** (used to refer to a group of words which follows, this being the grammatical subject): *Is ~ difficult to learn Chinese? I~ was hard for him to live on his pension. I~'s no use trying to do that. Does ~ matter what you do next?* **3** (used to identify a person or thing): *'Who's that at the door?'—'I~'s the postman.'* **4** (used as a subject with *be*, etc): *I~ is raining. I~'s six o'clock. I~'s ten miles to Oxford. Whose turn is ~ next?* **5** (used to bring into prominence one part of a sentence): *I~ was work that exhausted him. I~ was John I gave the book to, not Harry.*

italic /'ɪtælk/ *adj* (of printed letters) sloping: *This is ~ type.* □ *n* (pl) italic letters.

itch /ɪtʃ/ *n* [C] **1** (rarely pl) feeling of irritation on the skin, causing a desire to scratch: *have an ~.* **2** restless desire or longing: *an ~ to travel.* □ *vi* **1** have an itch(1): *scratch where it ~es.* **2** have a strong desire: *~ing to go on holiday.*

itchy *adj* (-ier, -iest)

item /'aɪtəm/ *n* [C] **1** single article or unit in a list, etc: *~s of clothing; the first ~ on the programme.* **2** detail or paragraph (of news): *interesting ~news ~s/ ~s of news.* □ *adv* also (used to introduce successive articles in a list).

item-ize (also **-ise**) /-aɪz/ *vi* give, write, every detail or unit of: *an ~ized account.*

it-er-ate /'ɪtəreɪt/ *vi* say again and again.

it-er-ation /'ɪtə'reɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

itin-er-ant /aɪ'tʊnərənt/ *adj* (formal) travelling from place to place: *~ circus performers.*

itin-er-ary /aɪ'tʊnərəri/ *US*: -reri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) plan for, details of, a journey.

it'll /ɪt'l/ = *it will.*

it's /ɪts/ = *it is; it has.*

its /ɪts/ *adj* of it: *The dog wagged ~ tail.*

itself /ɪt'self/ *pron* **1** (reflex): *The dog got up and stretched ~.* **by itself**, (a) automatically: *The machine works by ~.* (b) alone. **2** (used for emphasis): *The thing ~ is not valuable.*

I've /aɪv/ = *I have.*

-ive /-ɪv/ suffix having a tendency, quality: *active; productive.*

ivory /'aɪvəri/ *adj*, *n* [U] **1** (of the) white substance forming the tusks of elephants. **2** (of) its colour.

ivy /'aɪvi/ *n* [U] climbing, clinging, evergreen plant with dark, shiny leaves.

-ize (also **-ise**) /-aɪz/ suffix (used to form a

verb) **1** cause to be, make like: *dramatize; computerize.* **2** act with the qualities of: *criticize.*

Jj

J, j /dʒeɪ/ (pl J's, j's /dʒeɪz/) the tenth letter of the English alphabet

jab /dʒæb/ *vi*, *vi* (-bb-) **1** poke or push (at, into): *He ~bed at the lid with a knife. He ~bed his elbow into my side.* **2** force or push out by jabbing: *Don't ~ my eye out with your umbrella!* □ *n* [C] **1** sudden blow or thrust. **2** (informal) injection or inoculation: *smallpox ~s.*

jab-ber /'dʒæbə(r)/ *vi*, *vi* talk excitedly or in a confused manner: *Listen to those children ~ing away!* □ *n* [U] chatter: *the ~ of monkeys.*

jack ¹ /dʒæk/ *n* [C] **1** (usually portable) device for raising heavy weights off the ground, esp one for raising a car so that a wheel may be changed. **2** (in a pack of playing-cards) knave. **Jack Frost**, frost personified.

Jack of all trades, person who has many skills.

the Union Jack, flag of the United Kingdom.

jack ² /dʒæk/ *vi* lift with a jack(1): *J~ (up) the car and change the wheel.*

jackal /'dʒækəl/ *n* [C] wild animal like a dog.

jack-ass /'dʒækəs/ *n* [C] **1** male ass. **2** foolish person.

jack-daw /'dʒækds/ *n* [C] bird of the crow family (noted for flying off with small bright objects).

jacket /'dʒækt/ *n* [C] **1** short coat with sleeves. **2** outer covering round a tank, pipe, etc. **3** skin (of a potato): *baked in their ~s.* **4** (also 'dust ~) loose paper cover in which a hardback book is issued.

jack-knife /'dʒæk naɪf/ *n* [C] large pocket-knife with a folding blade. □ *vi* (esp of an articulated truck) fold and double back.

jack-pot /'dʒækpɒt/ *n* [C] collected stake(3) in various games, increasing in value until won.

jade /dʒeɪd/ *adj*, *n* [U] **1** (of a) hard, usually green stone, carved into ornaments, etc. **2** (of) its colour.

jaded /'dʒeɪdɪd/ *adj* worn out; over worked: *She looks ~d.*

jag ¹ /dʒæg/ *n* [C] sharp projection, eg of rock.

jag ² /dʒæg/ *vi* (-gg-) cut or tear unevenly.

jag-ged /'dʒæɡɪd/ *adj* with rough, uneven edges: *~ged rocks.*

jag-uar /'dʒæɡjuə(r)/ *n* [C] large, flesh-eating animal of the cat family, of Central and South America.

jail /dʒeɪl/ ⇨ gaol.

jam ¹ /dʒæm/ *n* [U] fruit boiled with sugar until

it is thick, and preserved in jars, pots, tins, etc.

'jam-jar/-pot, jar for jam.

jam² /dʒæm/ *vi, vi* (-mm-) **1** crush, be crushed, between two surfaces or masses; squeeze, be squeezed: *a piano ~med in the doorway*. **2** (of parts of a machine, etc) (cause to) become fixed so that movement or action is prevented: *~ the brakes on/ ~ on the brakes*. **3** push (things) together tightly: *~ clothes into a suitcase*. **4** make the reception of a broadcast programme impossible or difficult by broadcasting that deliberately interferes: *~ the enemy's stations during a war*. □ *n* [C] **1** number of things or people crowded together so that movement is difficult or impossible: *'traffic-~s in our big towns*. **2** stoppage of a machine due to jamming(2). **3** (sl) awkward position; difficult situation: *be in/get into a ~*.

jam-boree /ˌdʒæmbɔːri/ *n* [C] **1** merry meeting. **2** large rally or gathering, esp of Scouts.

jam-pack /ˌdʒæmˈpæk/ *vi* (informal) crowd to capacity: *a stadium ~ed with spectators*.

jangle /ˈdʒæŋɡl/ *vi, vi* (cause to) give out a harsh metallic noise. □ *n* [U] harsh noise.

jani-tor /ˈdʒænitə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** doorkeeper. **2** (US) person hired to take care of a building, offices, etc, eg by cleaning, etc.

Jan-uary /ˈdʒænjʊəri/ *US*: -jʊəri/ *n* the first month of the year, with 31 days.

ja-pan /dʒəˈpæn/ *vi* (-nn-), *n* [U] (cover with a) hard, shiny black enamel.

jar¹ /dʒɑː(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (usually harsh) sound or vibration: *We felt a ~ when the train started to move*. **2** shock; thrill of the nerves; discord: *an unpleasant ~ to my nerves*.

jar² /dʒæ(r)/ *n* [C] tall vessel of glass, stone or earthenware, usually round, with a wide mouth; its contents: *a ~ of jam*; *a 'jam-~*.

jar-ful /-fʊl/ *n* [C] as much as a jar can hold.

jar³ /dʒɑː(r)/ *vi, vi* (-rr-) **1** strike with a harsh unpleasant sound. **2** have an unpleasant effect: *The way he laughs ~s on my nerves*. **3** send a shock through (the nerves): *He was badly ~ed by the blow*. **4** be out of harmony: *His opinions ~ with mine*.

jar-ring *adj* causing disharmony; harsh: *a ~ring note*.

jar-ring-ly *adv*

jar-gon /ˈdʒɑːɡɒn/ *n* [U] **1** language difficult to understand, because it is a bad form or spoken badly: *a baby's ~*. **2** language full of technical or special words: *scientific ~*.

jas-mine /ˈdʒæzmɪn/ *n* [C] kinds of shrub with white or yellow and fragrant flowers.

jas-per /ˈdʒæspə(r)/ *n* [U] semi-precious stone, red, yellow or brown.

jaun-dice /ˈdʒɔːndɪs/ *n* [U] **1** disease, caused by stoppage of the flow of bile, marked by yellowness of the skin and the whites of the eyes. **2** (fig) state of mind in which one is jealous, spiteful, envious and suspicious. □ *vi* (usually passive) affect with jaundice: *have/take a ~d*

view, one influenced by jealousy, etc.

jaunt /dʒɔːnt/ *n* [C] short journey for pleasure. □ *vi* make such a journey.

jaunty /ˈdʒɔːnti/ *adj* (-ier, iest) feeling or showing self-confidence and self-satisfaction.

jaunt-ily /-əlɪ/ *adv*

jav-elin /ˈdʒævln/ *n* [C] light spear for throwing (in sport).

jaw /dʒɔː/ *n* [C] **1** **lower/upper jaw**, either of the bone structures containing the teeth. **2** (pl) framework of the mouth, including the teeth; (sing) lower part of the face: *a man with a strong ~*. **3** (pl) narrow mouth of a valley, channel, etc. **4** (fig) something like jaws(2): *the ~ of death*. **5** (pl) parts of a tool, machine, etc, eg a vice, between which things are gripped or crushed. □ *vi* (sl) talk boringly for a long time.

'jaw-bone, one in which the teeth are set.

jay /dʒeɪ/ *n* [C] (sorts of) noisy European bird with brightly coloured feathers.

'jay-walker, person who walks across a street at an unauthorized place.

jazz /dʒæz/ *n* [U] popular music first played by Negro groups in Southern USA in the early 20th century, characterized by improvisation and strong rhythms, called *traditional ~*; similar music played by large bands for dancing; a later variation much influenced by the blues to produce an unhurried emotive style, called *modern ~*. □ *vi* **1** play or arrange in the style of jazz. **2** **jazz up**, (fig) liven up: *~ up a party*.

'jazz-band, group of musicians playing jazz.

jazzy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (informal) (a) of or like jazz. (b) showy: *a ~y sports car*.

jeal-ous /ˈdʒeləs/ *adj* **1** feeling or showing fear or unkind feeling because of possible or actual loss of rights or love: *a ~ husband*; *~ looks*. **2** feeling or showing unhappiness because of the better fortune, etc of others: *~ of her success*. **3** taking watchful care (of): *~ of one's rights*.

jeal-ous-ly *adv*

jeal-ousy *n* (pl -ies) (a) [U] being jealous: *a lover's ~y*. (b) [C] instance of this; jealous act or speech.

jeans /dʒiːnz/ *n* pl trousers (usually of denim) worn informally by men, women and children.

jeep /dʒiːp/ *n* [C] small, light, military motor-vehicle with great freedom of movement.

jeer /dʒɪə(r)/ *vi, vi* make fun of, laugh rudely: *a ~ing crowd*. □ *n* [C] jeering remark.

jeer-ing-ly *adv*

Je-ho-vah /dʒɪˈhəʊvə/ *n* name of God used in the Old Testament.

jell /dʒel/ *vi, vi* (informal) take shape: *My ideas are beginning to ~*.

jelly /ˈdʒeli/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] soft, semi-solid food made from gelatin, animal fat or fruit juice and sugar. **2** [C, U] (portion of) fruit jelly prepared in a mould, flavoured and coloured,

as a sweet dish. **3** [U] substance like jelly. □ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) (cause to) become like jelly.

'jelly-fish, kinds of fish like jelly, with long tentacles.

jeopard-ize (also **-ise**) /'dʒepədəɪz/ *vt* put in a dangerous position: ~ *one's future by failing the exams*.

jeopardy /'dʒepədɪ/ *n* [U] **be in jeopardy** (*of*), be in danger (of one's life, etc).

jerboa /dʒɜːˈboʊə/ *n* [C] small animal, like a rat, of Asia and the N African deserts with long hind legs and the ability to jump well.

jere-miad /,dʒerɪˈmaɪəd/ *n* [C] long, sad and complaining story of troubles, misfortunes, etc.

jerk /dʒɜːk/ *n* [C] **1** sudden push, pull, start, stop, twist, lift or throw: *The train stopped with a ~*. **2** sudden involuntary twitch of a muscle or muscles. □ *vt, vi* move with a jerk: *He ~ed the fish out of the water*.

jerky *adj* (-ier, -iest) with jerks: *a ~y ride in an old bus*.

jer-kin /'dʒɜːkɪn/ *n* [C] short, close-fitting jacket (as worn by men in olden times).

jerry /'dʒeri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (*sf*) chamber-pot.

'jerry-builder/-building, builder/building of houses of poor quality with bad materials. Hence, **'jerry-built** *adj*.

'jerry-can, army-style metal container used for carrying water or petrol.

jer-sey /'dʒɜːzi/ *n* (*pl* ~s) **1** [U] (~wool) soft knitted fabric used for clothes. **2** [C] jumper knitted with jersey-wool. **3** **J**~, cow of the breed that originally came from Jersey, one of the Channel Islands (near the French coast).

jest /dʒest/ *n* [C] joke. **in jest**, as a joke. □ *vi* make jokes: *He's not a man to ~ with*.

jes-ter /'dʒestə(r)/ *n* [C] person who jests, esp (in olden times) a man whose duty it was to make jokes to amuse the court or noble household in which he was employed.

Jesus /'dʒiːzəs/ *n* the founder of the Christian religion.

jet¹ /dʒet/ *n* [C] **1** fast, strong stream of gas, liquid, steam or flame, forced out of a small opening: *a ~ of water*. **2** narrow opening from which a jet comes out: *a 'gas-~*. **3** = jet plane. □ *vi* (-tt-) **1** come, send out, in a jet or jets. **2** travel by jet plane.

jet engine, one that is used to propel an aircraft by sending out gases in jets at the back.

jet plane/aircraft, one operated by jet engines.

jet propulsion, method of producing movement using jets of air or water.

'jet set, wealthy persons who often travel in jet aircraft for holidays.

'jet stream, exhaust of a jet engine.

jet² /dʒet/ *adj*, *n* [U] (made of a) hard, black mineral that takes a brilliant polish.

jet 'black, deep, glossy black.

jet-sam /'dʒetsəm/ *n* [U] goods thrown over-

board from a ship at sea to lighten it, eg in a storm.

jet-ti-son /'dʒetɪsn/ *vt* **1** throw (goods) overboard in order to lighten a ship, eg during a storm. **2** abandon, discard (what is unwanted): ~ *part of a spacecraft*.

jetty /'dʒeti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) structure built out into a body of water as a breakwater or as a landing-place for ships and boats.

jewel /'dʒuːəl/ *n* [C] **1** precious stone, eg a diamond or a ruby; ornament with jewels set in it. **2** artificial diamond: *This watch has 15 ~s*. **3** (*fig*) highly valued person or thing: *His wife is a ~*. □ *vt* (-ll-, US -l-) adorn with jewels: (usually in *pp*) *a ~led ring*.

jew-el-ler, (US = **jew-eler**) /'dʒuːələ(r)/, trader in jewels.

jew-el-ry, **jew-el-lery** /'dʒuːəlri/ *n* [U] jewels collectively.

jib¹ /dʒɪb/ *n* [C] **1** small triangular sail (in front of the mainsail). **2** projecting arm of a crane or derrick.

jib² /dʒɪb/ *vi* (-bb-) **1** (of a horse, etc) stop suddenly; refuse to go forwards. **2** (*fig*) refuse to proceed. **jib at**, (*fig*) show unwillingness or dislike: *He ~bed at working overtime*.

jibe /dʒaɪb/ *vi* = gibe.

jiffy /'dʒɪfi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (*informal*) moment: *I won't be a ~. in a jiffy*, soon.

jig /dʒɪg/ *n* [C] **1** (music for a) quick, lively dance. **2** appliance that holds a piece of work and guides the tools that are used on it. □ *vi, vt* (-gg-) **1** dance a jig. **2** move up and down in a quick, jerky way: ~ *ging up and down in excitement*.

jig-saw /'dʒɪɡsoʊ/ *n* [C] (also ~ *puzzle*) picture, map, etc pasted on cardboard or wood and cut in irregularly shaped pieces which are to be fitted together again.

ji-had /dʒɪˈhɑːd/ *n* [C] religious war by Muslims against unbelievers.

jilt /dʒɪlt/ *vt* give up, send away, a man after giving him encouragement or a promise to marry: *When he lost his job, she ~ed him*. □ *n* [C] person who jilts.

jingle /'dʒɪŋɡl/ *n* [C] **1** metallic clinking or ringing sound (as of coins, keys or small bells).

2 series of the same or similar sounds in words, esp when designed to attract the attention: *advertising ~s*. □ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) make a light, ringing sound: *He ~d his keys*. **2** (of verse) be full of repetition and rhymes that make it easy to remember.

jinks /dʒɪŋks/ *n* (only in) **high jinks**, noisy merry-making; uncontrolled fun.

jinx /dʒɪŋks/ *n* [C] (*sf*) person or thing that brings bad luck.

jit-ters /'dʒɪtəz/ *n* (*pl* (*sf*)) extreme nervousness: *give her/have/get the ~*.

jit-tery /'dʒɪtəri/ *adj* nervous; frightened.

jiu-jitsu /,dʒuːˈdʒɪtsuː/ *n* = judo (the usual word).

jive /dʒaɪv/ *n* [C] (1950's) style of popular music with a strong beat; dancing to this. □ *vi* dance to jive music.

job /dʒɒb/ *n* [C] 1 piece of work, either to be done, or completed. **on the job**, (informal) at work; busy. **make a good/fine/poor, etc job of sth**, do it well/badly. **odd jobs**, bits of work not connected with one another. **an odd-¹ job man**, one who makes a living by doing any work he is asked to do. 2 (informal) employment; position: *He has lost his ~.* 3 a **good job**, a fortunate state of affairs: *He lost his seat in Parliament, and a good ~, too!* **make the best of a bad job**, do what one can in a bad or an unfortunate state of affairs. 4 **be/have a (hard) job doing/to do sth**, be/have (great) difficulty. 5 a **job 'lot**, collection of miscellaneous articles, bought together. 6 (informal) **just the job**, exactly what is wanted. 7 (sl) something done dishonestly for private profit or advantage. 8 (sl) criminal act, esp theft.

jockey /dʒɒki/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) professional rider in horse-races. ⇨ also disc jockey. □ *vt, vi* trick; cheat: *He ~ed Green out of his job.*

jo-cose /dʒəʊ'kəʊs/ *adj* (formal) humorous.

joc-u-lar /dʒɒkjʊlə(r)/ *adj* (formal) funny.

joc-u-lar-ly *adv*

joc-u-lar-ity /dʒɒkjʊlə'rɪti/ *n* [C,U]

joc-und /dʒɒkənd/ *adj* (formal) merry; cheerful.

joc-und-ity /dʒəʊ'kəndəti/ *n* [C,U]

jodh-purs /dʒɒdpəz/ *n* pl breeches for horse-riding, close-fitting from the knee to the ankle.

jog /dʒɒg/ *vt, vi* (-gg-) 1 give a slight knock or push to: ~ *up and down on a horse.* *He ~ged my elbow, touched it, eg to attract my attention.* **jog sb's memory**, (try to) make him remember something. 2 **jog along/on**, make slow, patient progress: *We ~ged along the bad roads.* *We must ~ on somehow until business conditions improve.* 3 (of a horse) trot. 4 (of a person) run slowly (esp for exercise). □ *n* [C] 1 slight push, shake or nudge. 2 (also 'jog-trot) slow trot. 3 slow run.

joggle /dʒɒgl/ *vt, vi* shake, move, by or as if by repeated jerks. □ *n* [C] slight shake.

joie de vivre /ʒwaː də'viːvrə/ (*n* (Fr) carefree enjoyment of life.

join /dʒɔɪn/ *vt, vi* 1 unite; connect (two points, things) with a line, rope, bridge, etc: ~ *one thing to another*; ~ *two things together.* **join hands**, clasp each other's hands. **join forces (with)**, unite in action; work together. 2 come together: *Parallel lines never ~.* 3 become a member of: ~ *the army.* **join up**, (informal) join the army. 4 come into the company of; associate with: *I'll ~ you in a few minutes.* *May I ~ in (the game)?* □ *n* [C] place or line where two things are joined.

joiner /dʒɔɪnə(r)/ *n* [C] skilled workman who

makes the inside woodwork of buildings, etc.

join-ery, work of a joiner.

joint¹ /dʒɔɪnt/ *adj* held or done by, belonging to, two or more persons together: ~ *responsibility*.

joint account, bank account in the name of more than one person, eg a husband and wife.

joint-¹stock company, group of persons who carry on a business with capital contributed by all.

joint-ly *adv*

joint² /dʒɔɪnt/ *n* [C] 1 place, line or surface at which two or more things are joined: *Can you see the ~s?* 2 device or structure by which things, eg lengths of pipe, bones, are joined together: 'finger ~s. **put sb's nose out of joint**, upset him, his plans, etc. 3 limb (shoulder, leg) or other division of meat. 4 (sl) place for gambling, drinking or drug-taking. 5 (sl) cigarette containing a drug.

joint³ /dʒɔɪnt/ *vt* 1 provide with a joint or joints (2): *a ~ed doll.* 2 divide into joints (3).

joist /dʒɔɪst/ *n* [C] 1 one of the pieces of timber (from wall to wall) to which floorboards are fastened. 2 steel beam supporting a floor or ceiling.

joke /dʒɒk/ *n* [C] something said or done to cause amusement. **play a joke on sb**, cause him to be the victim of a joke. **It's no joke**, It's serious. □ *vi* make jokes: *I was only joking when I said that.*

jok-ing-ly *adv* in a joking manner.

joker /dʒɒkə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 person who is fond of making jokes. 2 extra playing-card which is used in some games as the highest trump.

jolly /dʒɒli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) joyful; gay; merry. □ *adv* (GB dated informal) very: *Take ~ good care of it!* □ *vi* (pl, pp -ied) **jolly sb along**, keep him in a good humour (esp in order to win his co-operation).

jolt /dʒɒlt/ *vt, vi* give a jerk or jerks to; shake up; (of a vehicle) move along by jerks: *The old bus ~ed along.* □ *n* [C] sudden bump or shake.

jostle /dʒɒsl/ *vt, vi* push roughly (against): *We were ~d by the crowd.*

jot¹ /dʒɒt/ *n* [C] small amount: *not a ~ of truth in it*, no truth at all.

jot² /dʒɒt/ *vt* (-tt-) **jot sth down**, make a quick written note of: ~ *down my name and address.*

'jot-ter, notebook or pad for rough notes.

'jot-tings, notes jotted down.

jour-nal /dʒɜːnl/ *n* [C] 1 newspaper; periodical: *the Economic J-.* 2 daily record of news, events, business accounts, etc.

jour-nal-ese /dʒɜːnə'lɪz/, style of English used by some journalists.

jour-nal-ism /-ɪzəm/, work of writing for, editing or publishing journals.

jour-nal-ist /-ɪst/, person engaged in journalism.

jour-nal-is-tic /dʒɜːnə'lɪstɪk/ *adj*

jour-nei /'dʒɜːni/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) (distance travelled in) going to a place, esp a distant place: *go on a ~ round the world*. □ *vi* travel.

jour-nei-man /'dʒɜːnimən/ *n* [C] (*pl* -men /-mən/) skilled workman who works for a master (contrasted with an *apprentice*).

joust /dʒaʊst/ *vi, n* [C] (engage in a) fight on horseback with lances (as between knights in the Middle Ages).

joy-ial /'dʒɔɪəl/ *adj* (*formal*) full of fun and good humour; merry: *in a ~ mood*.

joy-ially /-iəl/ *adv*

joy-ial-ity /'dʒɔɪiələti/ *n* [C, U]

jowl /dʒaʊl/ *n* [C] jaw; lower part of the face: *a man with a heavy ~*.

joy /dʒɔɪ/ *n* 1 [U] deep pleasure; great gladness: *I wish you ~*. 2 [C] something that gives joy: *the ~s and sorrows of life*. □ *vi* (*poetic*) rejoice: *~ in a fr end's success*.

'joy-ride, (*sl*) ride in a car, esp at speed for fun and thrills.

'joy-stick, (*sl*) control lever on an aircraft.

joy-ful /-fl/ *adj* filled with, showing, causing, joy.

joy-fully /-fəl/ *adj*

joy-ful-ness *n* [U]

joy-less *adj* without joy; gloomy; sad.

joy-ous /'dʒɔɪəs/ *adj* full of joy.

joy-ous-ly *adv*

ju-bi-lant /'dʒuːbɪlənt/ *adj* triumphant.

ju-bi-lant-ly *adv*

ju-bi-la-tion /'dʒuːbɪləʃn/ *n* [C, U] (instance of) expressing triumph.

ju-bi-lee /'dʒuːbɪli/ *n* [C] celebration of a special anniversary of some event, eg a wedding.

'diamond jubilee, 60th anniversary.

'golden jubilee, 50th anniversary.

'silver jubilee, 25th anniversary.

Ju-da-ism /'dʒuːdeɪzəm/ *n* -ɪzəm/ the religion of the Jewish people; their culture and social way of life.

judge 1 /dʒʌdʒ/ *n* [C] 1 public officer with authority to hear and decide cases in a law court. 2 person who decides in a contest, competition, dispute, etc. 3 person qualified and able to give opinions on merits and values: *a good ~ of horses*.

judge 2 /dʒʌdʒ/ *vt, vi* (*present participle* judging) 1 act as a judge (1). 2 give a decision (in a competition, etc): *Who is going to ~ the long-jump competition?* 3 estimate; consider; form an opinion about: *Judging from what you say, he ought to succeed*.

judge-ment (US, and GB legal **judg-ment**) /'dʒʌdʒmənt/ *n* 1 [U] judging or being judged: *sit in ~ on a case*, (in a law court); *pass ~ on a prisoner*, give a decision after trial. 2 [C] decision of a judge or court: *The ~ was in his favour*. 3 [U] process of judging: *an error of ~*. 4 [U] good sense; ability to judge (2,3): *He showed excellent ~ in choosing a wife*. 5 [C]

misfortune considered to be a punishment from God: *Your failure is a ~ on you for being so lazy*. 6 [C, U] opinion: *in the ~ of most people*.

'judgement Day, the **'Day of 'Judge-ment**, the day when God will judge all men.

ju-di-ca-ture /'dʒuːdɪkətʃə(r)/ *n* 1 [U] administration of justice: *the Supreme Court of J~*, full title of the English Courts of Justice. 2 [C] body of judges.

ju-di-cial /'dʒuːdɪʃl/ *adj* 1 of or by a court of justice; the judge or of judgement: *the ~ bench*, the judges. 2 critical; impartial: *a ~ mind*.

ju-di-cially /-ʃəli/ *adv*

ju-di-ci-ary /'dʒuːdɪʃəri/ *US*: -ɪəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) 1 the judges of a State collectively. 2 the system of law courts in a country.

ju-di-cious /'dʒuːdɪʃəs/ *adj* (*formal*) showing or having good sense.

ju-di-cious-ly *adv*

judo /'dʒuːdaʊ/ *n* [U] Japanese art of wrestling and self-defence in which an opponent's own weight and strength are used against him.

jug /dʒʌg/ *n* [C] 1 deep vessel with a handle and lip: *a 'milk-~*. 2 the contents of such a vessel: *a ~ of milk*. 3 (*sl*) prison.

jug-ful /-fʊl/, as much as a jug can hold.

jug-ger-naut /'dʒʌgənɔːt/ *n* [C] 1 (*fig*) cause or belief to which persons sacrifice themselves: *the ~ of war*. 2 (*informal*) huge long-distance transport vehicle.

juggle /'dʒʌgl/ *vi, vt* 1 do tricks, perform (with balls, plates, etc thrown into the air) to amuse people. 2 play tricks (with facts, figures, etc) to deceive people.

jug-gler, person who juggles.

jugu-lar /'dʒʌgjulə(r)/ *adj* of the neck or throat: *~ veins*. □ *n* [C] jugular vein.

juice /dʒuːs/ *n* [C, U] 1 fluid part of fruits, vegetables and meat: *a glass of 'orange ~*. 2 fluid in organs of the body: *gastric ~s*. ⇨ also stew. 3 (*informal*) electricity, petrol or other source of power.

juicy /'dʒuːsi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) 1 containing much juice: *~ oranges*. 2 (*informal*) interesting (esp because scandalous, etc).

juici-ness *n* [U]

juke-box /'dʒuːk bɒks/ *n* [C] coin-operated record-player in pubs, cafés, etc.

July /dʒuːlaɪ/ *n* seventh month of the year, with 31 days.

jumble /'dʒʌmbəl/ *vi, vt* mix, be mixed, in a confused way: *toys ~d up together in the cupboard*. □ *n* [C] muddle; confused mixture.

'jumble-sale, sale of a mixed collection of old or second-hand articles, usually for charity.

jumbo /'dʒʌmbəʊ/ *adj* unusually large: *~ jets*.

jump 1 /dʒʌmp/ *n* [C] 1 act of jumping. 2 sudden movement caused by fear. 3 sudden rise in

amount, price, value, etc: *a ~ in car exports.*

jumpy *adj* (-iə, -iəst) excited and nervous.

jump² /dʒʌmp/ *vi, vt* **1** move quickly by the sudden use of the muscles of the legs or (of fish) the tail: *~ to one's feet/over a fence.* **2** pass over by moving in this way: *~ a ditch; cause (a horse, etc) to move in this way: ~ a horse over a fence.* **3** (fig) move, act, suddenly or aimlessly: *~ from one subject to another in a speech.* **jump down sb's throat**, answer, interrupt, him with sudden anger. **4** move with a jerk or jerks from excitement, joy, etc; start suddenly: *~ for joy; ~ up and down in excitement.* **5** rise suddenly in price: *Gold shares ~ed on the Stock Exchange yesterday.* **6** spring on, attack: *The thieves ~d him and stole his money.* **7 jump at**, accept eagerly: *~ at an offer.* **jump to conclusions**, reach them hastily. **8 jump (one's) bail**, fail to surrender to one's bail. **jump the gun**, start too soon. **jump the queue**, (fig) obtain something without waiting one's turn.

juniper /'dʒʌmpə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** loose-fitting knitted clothing pulled on over the head and coming down to the hips. **2** person, animal or insect, that jumps.

junction /'dʒʌŋkʃn/ *n* **1** [U] joining or being joined; [C] instance of this. **2** [C] place where roads, railway lines or sections of an electrical circuit meet or diverge.

junction /'dʒʌŋkʃ(ə)r/ *n* [C] (formal) **1** junction(1). **2** state of affairs, esp the phrase: *at this junction*, at this time.

June /dʒu:n/ *n* sixth month of the year, with 30 days.

jungle /'dʒʌŋgl/ *n* [C] (land covered with) thickly growing undergrowth and tangled vegetation: *cut a path through the ~.* **the law of the jungle**, (fig) ruthless competition or exploitation.

jun-gly /'dʒʌŋɡli/ *adj*

junior /'dʒu:niə(r)/ *n* [C], *adj* **1** (person) younger, lower in rank, than another: *He is my ~ by two years.* *Tom Brown, Junior* (or abbr to *Jun*, *Jnr* or *Jr*), used of a son having the same first name as his father, or the younger of two boys of the same surname in a school, etc. **2** (US) student in his third year (of four) at school or college.

junk¹ /dʒʌŋk/ *n* [U] old, discarded things of little or no value: *a ~ shop.*

junk² /dʒʌŋk/ *n* [C] flat-bottomed Chinese sailing-vessel.

junkie, junky /'dʒʌŋki/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (sl) drug (esp heroin) addict.

junta /'dʒʌntə/ *US*: 'hʌntə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) **1** (in Spain and Italy) deliberative or administrative council. **2** group of army officers who have seized power by a coup d'état.

Jupi-ter /'dʒu:pɪtə(r)/ *n* **1** (ancient Rome) ruler of gods and men. **2** largest planet of the solar system.

ju-ridi-cal /dʒʊ'ridɪkl/ *adj* of law or legal proceedings.

ju-ris-dic-tion /,dʒʊərɪs'dɪkʃn/ *n* [U] administration of justice; legal authority; right to exercise this; extent of this: *This matter does not come/fall within our ~.* We have no authority to deal with it.

ju-ris-pru-dence /,dʒʊərɪs'pru:dəns/ *n* [U] science and philosophy of human law.

jur-ist /'dʒʊərɪst/ *n* [C] expert in law.

juror /'dʒʊərə(r)/ *n* [C] member of a jury.

jury /'dʒʊəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** body of persons (in US and GB twelve) who swear to give a true decision (a verdict) on issues of fact in a case in a court of justice: *The ~ found the prisoner not guilty.* **2** group of persons chosen to decide in a competition.

'jury-box, enclosure for a jury in court.

'jury-man, = juror.

just¹ /dʒʌst/ *adj* **1** fair; in accordance with what is right: *a ~ man; be ~ to a person.* **2** well deserved; fairly earned: *get/receive one's ~ rewards.* **3** reasonable; based on reasonable grounds: *~ suspicions.*

just-ly *adv*

just² /dʒʌst/ *adv* **1** (of an immediate past): (GB) *I've ~ had dinner.* (US) *I ~ had dinner.* **2** exactly; precisely: *It's ~ two o'clock. This is ~ what I wanted.* *J ~ my luck!* **3 just as** (+ adj) **as/so**, (a) exactly as: *Leave everything ~ as (tidy as) you find it.* (b) when: *He arrived ~ as I was leaving.* (c) in the same way as: *J ~ as you hate Mr Green, so I dislike his wife.* **4** exactly: *~ here/there.* **5** more or less: *Put it ~ over there, near that place.* **6** at this, that very moment: *We're ~ off/going/about to start.*

just now, (a) at this moment: *I'm busy ~ now.* (b) a short time ago: *Tom came in ~ now.* **7** barely: *We (only) ~ caught the train, almost missed it.* **8** (used informally, esp with imperatives, to call attention to something): *J ~ listen to him! J ~ a moment, please.* Please wait a moment. **9** only; merely: *He's ~ an ordinary man. Would you walk five miles ~ to see a film? I ~ meant that...* **10** (informal) absolutely: *The concert was ~ splendid.*

jus-tice /'dʒʌstɪs/ *n* **1** [U] just conduct; the quality of being right and fair: *treat all men with ~.* **2** [U] the law and its administration: *a court of ~.* **3** [C] judge of the Supreme Courts: *the Lord Chief J ~.*

'Justice of the Peace, magistrate.

Department of Justice, (US) executive department, headed by the Attorney General, supervising internal security, naturalization, immigration, etc.

jus-tify /'dʒʌstɪfaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) **1** show that (a person, statement, act, etc) is right, reasonable or proper: *You can hardly ~ such conduct.* **2** be a good reason for: *Your wish to go for a walk cannot ~ leaving the baby alone in the house.*

justi-fi-able /ˌdʒʌstɪˈfaɪəbl/ *adj* that can be justified.

justi-fi-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

justi-fi-ca-tion /ˌdʒʌstɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/ *n* [U]

jut /dʒʌt/ *vi* (-tt-) **jut out**, stand out from; be out of line (from what is around): *The balcony ~s out over the garden.*

jute /dʒu:t/ *n* [U] fibre from the outer skin of certain plants, used for making canvas, rope, etc.

ju-ven-ile /ˈdʒu:vənail/ *n* [C] young person. □ *adj* of, characteristic of, suitable for, juveniles: *a ~ court.*

juvenile delinquency, law-breaking by young people.

juvenile delinquent, young offender.

jux-ta-pose /ˌdʒʌkstəˈpəʊz/ *vt* place side by side.

jux-ta-po-si-tion /ˌdʒʌkstəpəˈzɪʃn/ *n* [U]

Kk

K, k /keɪ/ (*pl* K's, k's /keɪz/) the 11th letter of the English alphabet.

ka-leido-scope /kəˈlaɪdəskəʊp/ *n* [C] **1** tube containing mirrors and small, loose pieces of coloured glass, turned to produce changing patterns. **2** (*fig*) frequently changing pattern of bright scenes: *a ~ of colour in the landscape.*

ka-leido-scopic /kəˈlaɪdəskəpɪk/ *adj*

kan-ga-roo /ˌkæŋɡəˈru:/ *n* [C] Australian animal that jumps along on its large back legs. The female has a pouch in which its young are carried.

kangaroo court, one set up without authority by workers, prisoners, etc to try someone whom they consider to have acted against their interests.

kao-lin /ˈkeɪəlɪn/ *n* [U] fine white clay used in making porcelain, etc.

ka-pok /ˈkeɪpɒk/ *n* [U] soft material like cotton, used for filling cushions, etc.

karat /ˈkærət/ = carat.

ka-rate /kəˈrɑ:t/ *n* [U] Japanese method of unarmed combat using blows made with the sides of the hands, foot, head or elbow.

karma /ˈkɑ:mə/ *n* [C] (in Buddhism) person's acts in one of his successive existences, looked on as deciding his fate in his next existence.

kayak /ˈkaɪæk/ *n* [C] **1** Eskimo canoe of light wood covered with sealskins. **2** any rigid, canvas-covered canoe.

ke-bab /kəˈbæb/ *n* [C] dish of small pieces of meat, seasoned and roasted on skewers.

ked-gerie /ˈkedʒəri:/ *n* [U] rice cooked with fish, eggs, etc.

keel /ki:l/ *n* [C] timber or steel structure on which the framework of a ship is built up. **on an even keel**, steady. □ *vt, vi* **1** turn (a ship) over on one side to repair it, etc. **2** **keel over**, capsize; upset; (of persons) collapse.

keen /ki:n/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (of points and edges) sharp: *a knife with a ~ edge.* **2** (*fig*) sharp: *a ~ (= cutting) wind.* **3** (of interest, the feelings) strong; deep: *He has a ~ interest in his work.* **4** (of the mind, the senses) active; sensitive: *~ eyesight.* **5** (of persons, their character, etc) eager; anxious to do things: *a ~ sportsman.* □ **mustard. keen on**, (*informal*) enthusiastic about: *~ on going abroad.*

keen-ly *adv*

keen-ness *n* [U]

keep ¹ /ki:p/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* kept /kept/) (For idiomatic uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*, ⇨ 18 below. For *keep* and *nouns* not given here, ⇨ the *noun* entries, eg *keep pace/step* (with) *sb*, *keep time*, *keep watch*.) **1** cause to remain in a specified state or position: *~ the children quiet/happy. The cold weather kept us indoors. keep an eye on*, (*informal*) watch over closely: *Please ~ an eye on the baby. keep sth in mind*, ⇨ *mind*¹(1). **2** cause a process or state to continue: *~ a person waiting. Please ~ the fire burning.* **3** **keep sb/sth from doing sth**, prevent him/it: *What kept you (from joining me)?* **4** **keep sth (back) from**, (a) not let others know about it: *She can ~ nothing (back) from her friends.* (b) refuse to give; withhold: *They ~ back £3 a month from my salary for National Insurance.* **keep sth to oneself**, (a) not express, eg comments, views, etc: *You may ~/K~ your remarks to yourself, I don't want to hear them.* (b) refuse to share: *He kept the good news to himself. keep a secret*, ⇨ *secret.* **5** pay proper respect to; be faithful to; observe; fulfil: *~ a promise/a treaty/an appointment/the law.* **6** celebrate: *~ Christmas/one's birthday.* **7** guard; protect: *~ goal.* ⇨ *goalkeeper.* **8** continue to have; have in one's possession and not give away: *K~ the change*, ie from money offered in payment. *Please ~ these things for me while I'm away.* **9** support; take care of; provide what is needed for; maintain: *Does he earn enough to ~ himself and his family?* **10** have habitually on sale or in stock: *'Do you sell batteries for transistor sets?' — 'Sorry, but we don't ~ them'.* **11** **keep house**, be responsible for the housework, cooking, shopping, etc. ⇨ *housekeeper.* **12** own or manage, esp for profit: *~ hens; ~ a shop.* **13** make entries in, records of: *~ a diary.* ⇨ *book-keeper.* **14** continue to be, remain, in a specified condition: *Please ~ quiet! I hope you're ~ing well.* **keep fit**, (do physical exercise to) remain in good health. **15** continue in a particular direction; remain in a particular relationship to a place, etc: *K~ straight on until you get to the*

church. Traffic in Britain *~s* (to the) left. **16** continue doing something: *K~ smiling! Why does she ~ (on) giggling? keep going*, not stop; not give up: *This is exhausting work, but I manage to ~ going. keep pace (with)*, ⇨ pace(2). **17** (of food) remain in good condition: *Will this meat ~ till tomorrow?*

18 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

keep at sth, continue to work at it: *K~ at it! Don't give up!*

keep away (from), avoid, prevent coming or going near (to): *K~ away from the edge.*

keep back (from), remain in the rear, at the back. **keep sb back**, prevent him from advancing. **keep sth back**, ⇨ 4 above.

keep sb down, hold him under (esp government) control (often unjustly). **keep sth down**, (a) control: *He couldn't ~ down his anger.* (b) limit: *We must ~ costs down.*

keep from, refuse to share: *He kept the news from his friends.* ⇨ also 3 above.

keep in with sb, remain on good terms with, continue to be friendly with: *You must ~ in with your customers*, have and go on having their goodwill.

keep off, remain at a distance; not come: *if the rain ~s off*, if it doesn't start to rain. **keep off sth**, refrain from: *Please ~ off that subject*, say nothing about it. **keep sb/sth off**,

hold, cause to remain, at a distance: *K~ your hands off*, Don't touch it, me, etc.

keep on (doing sth), continue; persist: *~ on (working) although one is tired.* ⇨ also 16 above. **keep sth on**, continue to wear: *I'll ~ my coat on.* **keep sb on**, continue to employ him. **keep on at sb**, worry with repeated complaints, questions, etc.

keep out (of), remain outside: *Danger! K~ out! K~ out of their quarrels*, Don't get involved in them. **keep sb/sth out (of)**, prevent from entering: *K~ that dog out of the kitchen.*

keep to sth, (a) do what one has agreed to do: *He always ~s to his promises.* (b) limit oneself to: *~ to the subject.* **keep (one, self) to one's self**, avoid meeting people.

keep up (with), go at the same pace or speed as: *Harry couldn't ~ up with the class.* *I can't ~ up with you*, walk as fast as you. **keep sb up**, delay a person from going to bed. **keep sth up**, (a) prevent from sinking or getting low: *K~ your chin up! Cheer up*, have courage, etc. (b) observe: *~ up old customs.* (c) continue: *They kept up the attack all day.* (d) maintain in proper condition: *How much does it cost you to ~ up your large house and garden?* **keep it up**, continue without slowing down: *He works far too hard; he'll never be able to ~ it up.*

keep² /ki:p/ n 1 [U] (food needed for) support: *The dog doesn't earn his ~*, is not worth the cost of keeping him. 2 [C] (in olden times)

tower of a fortress, etc: *the castle ~*. 3 **for keeps**, (sf) permanently.

keeper /'ki:pə(r)/ n [C] 1 guard, eg a person who looks after animals in a zoo. 2 (in compounds) person with special duties: *'park~*; *'goal~*; *'shop~*; *'house~*.

keeping /'ki:piŋ/ n [U] 1 care. **in safe keeping**, being kept carefully. 2 (in verbal senses of keep(12)): *the ~ of bees*; *'bee~*. 3 agreement: *His actions are not in ~ with his promises.*

keep-sake /'ki:pseik/ n [C] something kept in memory of the giver.

keg /keg/ n [C] small barrel, usually of less than 10 gallons: *a ~ of brandy.*

ken-nel /'kenl/ n [C] 1 hut to shelter a dog. 2 (establishment for a) pack of hounds. 3 place where dogs are cared for, eg during quarantine. □ vt, vi (-ll-, US also -l-) put, keep, live, in a kennel.

kept /kept/ ⇨ keep¹.

kerb (also **curb**) /kɜ:b/ n [C] stone edging to a raised path or pavement.

'kerb-stone, stone forming a part of this.

ker-nel /'kɜ:nl/ n [C] 1 softer, inner part of a nut or fruit-stone. 2 part of a seed, eg a grain of wheat, within the husk. 3 (fig) central or important part of a subject, problem, etc.

kero-sene /'kerəsi:n/ n [U] paraffin oil.

kes-trel /'kestrəl/ n [C] kind of small hawk.

ketch-up /'ketʃəp/ n [U] sauce made from tomato juice.

kettle /'ketl/ n [C] metal vessel with a lid, spout and handle, for boiling water. ⇨ pot¹ (2).

kettle-drum /'ketldrəm/ n [C] drum shaped like a hemisphere with parchment over the top.

key¹ /ki:/ n [C] 1 metal instrument for moving the bolt of a lock. 2 instrument for winding a clock or a watch by tightening the spring. 3 (fig) something that provides an answer (to a problem or mystery). 4 set of answers to exercises or problems; translation from a foreign language. 5 operating part (lever or button) of a typewriter, piano, organ, flute, etc pressed down by a finger. 6 winged fruit of some trees, eg the ash and elm. 7 (music) scale of notes definitely related to each other and based on a particular note called the '*key-note*: *the ~ of C major*. 8 (fig) tone or style of thought or expression: *in a minor ~*. sadly. **in a low key**, = low-keyed. 9 (also used as an adjective) place which, from its position, gives control of a route or area: *a ~ position*. 10 (as an adjective) ~ industry, one essential to the carrying on of others; *a ~ man*, one essential to the work of others.

'key-board, row of keys(5) (on a piano, typewriter, etc).

'key-hole, hole (in a door, etc) for a key.

'key-note, (a) note on which a key(7) is

based. (b) (fig) most important attitude or idea: *The ~note of the Minister's speech was the need for higher productivity.*

'key-ring, ring on which to keep keys.

key² /ki:/ vt **key up**, (fig) stimulate or, excite raise the standard of (a person, his activity, etc): *The crowd was ~ed up for the football match.*

key³ /ki:/ n [C] low island or reef, esp off the coasts of Florida, W Indies.

key-stone /'ki:stəʊn/ n [C] 1 stone at the top of an arch locking the others into position. 2 (fig) central principle on which everything depends.

khaki /'kɑ:kɪ/ n [U], adj (cloth, military uniform, of a) dull yellowish-brown.

kha-lif /'keɪlɪf/ n = caliph.

kha-lif-ate /'kælɪfeɪt/ n = caliphate.

kick¹ /kɪk/ n [C] 1 act of kicking: *The bruise was caused by a ~.* *The ~ of an old rifle.* 2 (informal) thrill of pleasure or excitement: *He gets a big ~ out of motor-racing.* 3 [U] strength: *He has no ~ left in him,* is exhausted.

'kick-back, (sl) payment made to a person who has helped one to make money.

'kick-start(er), lever on a motor-bike, etc used to start the engine.

kick² /kɪk/ vt, vi 1 hit with the foot; move the foot: *~ a ball; ~ a hole in the door.* **kick the bucket**, (sl) die. 2 (of a gun) jolt, recoil when fired: *This old rifle ~s badly.* 3 **kick against/at**, show annoyance; protest: *He ~ed at/against the treatment he was receiving.* **kick off**, (football) start the game. Hence, **'kick-off** n [C]. **kick up a fuss/row, etc.** (informal) cause a disturbance, eg by protesting strongly.

kid¹ /kɪd/ n 1 [C] young goat. 2 [U] leather made from skin of this: *~ gloves.* **handle sb with kid gloves**, (fig) deal with him gently. 3 (sl) child. 4 (US sl) young person.

kiddy n [C] (pl -dies) (sl) child.

kid² /kɪd/ vt (-dd-) (sl) deceive: *You're ~ding (me)!*

kid-nap /'kɪdnæp/ vt (-pp-, US -p-) steal (a child) (esp in order to obtain a ransom).

kid-nap-per, person who kidnaps.

kid-ney /'kɪdni/ n [C] (pl ~s) one of a pair of organs in the abdomen that separate urine from the blood; kidney of sheep, cattle, etc as food: *~ soup.*

'kidney bean, (plant with a pod containing) reddish-brown kidney-shaped bean.

'kidney machine, one which does the work of diseased kidneys.

kill /kɪl/ vt, vi 1 put to death; cause the death of: *~ animals for food.* **kill sb/sth off**, get rid of: *The frost ~ed off most of the insect pests.* **kill time**, find ways of passing the time without being bored, eg when waiting for a train. 2 neutralize, make ineffective, by contrast: *That floral carpet ~s the effect of your*

curtains. 3 cause the failure or defeat of: *~ a proposal.* 4 overwhelm with admiration; impress deeply: *~ her with kindness.* □ n (sing only) act of killing, esp in hunting.

'kill-joy, person who makes sad those who are enjoying themselves.

killer, person who, that which, kills.

kill-ing adj (dated informal) (a) amusing: *a ~ing joke.* (b) exhausting: *a ~ing experience.* □ n **make a killing**, be extraordinarily successful (in making money).

kill-ing-ly adv

kiln /'kɪln/ n [C] furnace or oven for burning, baking or drying, esp 'brick~, for baking bricks, 'hop~, for drying hops.

kilo /'ki:ləʊ/ n [C] (pl ~s) abbr of kilogram.

kilo- prefix 1000.

kilo-cycle /'kɪləsaɪkl/ n [C] unit of frequency of vibration, used of radio waves.

kilo-gram(me) /'kɪləgræm/ n [C] 1000 grammes.

kilo-litre /'kɪləlɪtə(r)/ n [C] 1000 litres.

kilo-metre (US = -meter) /'kɪləmɪtə(r)/ US also GB: 'kɪləmɪtə(r) n [C] 1000 metres.

kilo-watt /'kɪləwɒt/ n [C] 1000 watts.

kilt /kɪlt/ n [C] pleated skirt, usually of tartan cloth, worn as part of male dress in the Scottish Highlands; similar skirt worn by women and children.

kim-ono /kɪ'məʊnəʊ/ US: -nə/ n [C] (pl ~s) 1 wide-sleeved, long, flowing gown, characteristic of Japanese traditional costume. 2 similar style of loose dress worn as a dressing-gown.

kin /kɪn/ n (used collectively) family; relations. **next of kin**, nearest relation(s).

kind¹ /kaɪnd/ adj (-er, -est) having, showing, thoughtfulness, sympathy or love for others: *be ~ to animals.* *It was ~ of you to help us.*

'kind-hearted adj being kind; showing kindness.

kind-ly adv (a) in a kind manner: *treat her/ speak ~ly.* (b) (used in polite formulas) *Will you ~ly tell me the time?* (c) naturally; easily: *He doesn't take ~ly to being cheated.*

kind-ness n (a) [U] kind nature; being kind: *do something out of ~ness.* (b) [C] **do sb a kindness**, perform a kind act: *He has done me many ~nesses.* ⇨ milk¹ (1).

kind² /kaɪnd/ n [C] 1 race, natural group, of animals, plants, etc: *man~.* 2 class, sort or variety: *What ~ of tree is this?* **nothing of the kind**, not at all like it. **of a kind**, (a) of the same kind: *two of a ~.* (b) scarcely deserving the name: *They gave us coffee of a ~.* **a kind of...**, (used when there is uncertainty): *I had a ~ of suspicion (= I vaguely suspected) that he was cheating.* 3 [U] nature; character: *They differ in degree but not in ~.* 4 **in kind**, (a) (of payment) in goods or natural produce, not in money: *benefits in ~*, benefits other than wages or salary, eg the right to buy at cost price. (b) (fig) in the same manner: *repay*

abuse in ~.

kin-der-gar-ten /'kɪndəgɑ:tən/ *n* [C] school for children below five years old.

kindle /'kɪndl/ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) catch fire or burst into flames or flaming colour: *The sparks ~d the dry wood.* **2** rouse, be roused, to a state of strong feeling, interest, etc: *kindling the interest of an audience.*

kind-ly¹ /'kaɪndli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) friendly: *give ~ advice.*

kind-ly² /'kaɪndli/ *adv* ⇨ *kind*¹.

kin-dred /'kɪndrɪd/ *n* (*sing only*) **1** [U] relationship by birth between persons: *claim ~ with a person.* **2** (used with a *pl verb*) (*rare*) all one's relatives. □ *adj* **1** related; having a common source: ~ languages, eg English and Dutch. **2 a kindred spirit**, person whom one feels to be congenial, sympathetic.

kin-etic /kaɪ'netɪk/ *adj* of, relating to, produced by, motion.

kinetic 'energy, energy of a moving body because of its motion.

kin-etics *n* [U] (used with a *sing verb*) science of the relations between the motions of bodies and the forces acting on them.

king /kɪŋ/ *n* [C] **1** male sovereign ruler. **turn King's/Queen's evidence**, (of one who has shared in a crime) give evidence against accomplices (often in order to escape punishment). **2** person of great influence: *an 'oil ~.* **3** (chess) principal piece. **4** (playing-cards) court-card with a picture of a king: *the ~ of spades.* **5** largest variety of a species; most prominent member of a group, category, etc: *the ~ of beasts, the lion; the ~ of the forest, the oak.*

King's/Queen's Bench, ⇨ *bench*.

King's/Queen's Counsel, (abbr **KC, QC**) barrister appointed to act for the State.

'king-fisher, small brightly-coloured bird feeding on fish in rivers, etc.

'king-pin, (a) vertical bolt used as a pivot. (b) (fig) indispensable or essential person or thing.

'king-size *adj* extra large: *I prefer ~-size cigarettes.*

'king-like, king-ly *adj* of, like, suitable for, a king.

king-ship, state, office, of a king.

king-dom /'kɪŋdəm/ *n* [C] **1** country ruled by a king or a queen: *the United K~.* **2** the spiritual reign of God: *Thy K~ come*, May the rule of God be established. **3** any one of the three divisions of the natural world: *the animal, vegetable and mineral ~s.* **4** realm or province: *the ~ of thought, the mind.*

kink /kɪŋk/ *n* [C] **1** twist in a length of wire, pipe, cord, etc such as may cause a break or obstruction. **2** (fig) something abnormal in a person's way of thinking. □ *vt, vi* make, form, a kink: *This hosepipe ~s easily.*

kinky *adj* (ier, -iest) (*informal*) eccentric;

perverted.

kins-folk /'kɪnzfəʊk/ *n pl* relations by blood. **kin-ship** /'kɪnʃɪp/ *n* [U] relationship by blood; similarity in character.

kins-man /'kɪnzməŋ/ *n* [C] (*pl* -men) (*old use*) male relative.

kins-woman /'kɪnzwʊmən/ *n* [C] (*pl* -women) (*old use*) female relative.

kiosk /'kiɒsk/ *n* [C] **1** small open-fronted structure for the sale of newspapers, sweets, cigarettes, etc. **2** small booth for a public telephone.

kip /kɪp/ *n* (*GB sl*) sleep: *have a ~.* □ *vi* (-pp-) go to bed; sleep: *time to ~ down.*

kip-per /'kɪpə(r)/ *n* [C] salted herring, dried or smoked.

kirk /ks:k/ *n* [C] (*Scot*) church.

kiss /kɪs/ *vt, vi* touch with the lips to show affection or as a greeting: ~ the children good-night. □ *n* [C] touch, caress, given with the lips.

kiss of death, (fig) (*informal*) action, etc with disastrous consequences.

kiss of life, breathing air into the mouth, eg of a person rescued from drowning.

kisser, (*sl*) mouth.

kit /kɪt/ *n* **1** (used collectively) all the equipment (esp clothing) of a soldier, sailor or traveller: ~ inspection, examination of kit by an officer to see that it is complete, etc. **2** [C] equipment needed by a workman for his trade: *a plumber's ~.* **3** [C, U] outfit or equipment needed for sport or some other special purpose: ~skiing ~; a survival ~, articles to be used by a person in distress, eg a pilot who has come down in a desert or jungle. □ *vt* (-tt-) **kit out/up (with sth)**, fit out, be fitted out, with a kit.

'kit-bag, long canvas bag in which kit(1) is carried.

kit-chen /'kɪtʃɪn/ *n* [C] room in which meals are cooked or prepared, and for other forms of housework.

'kitchen-sink, = sink¹(1).

'kitchen-maid, employed to help in a kitchen, usually to help the cook.

'kitchen unit, combined kitchen equipment, eg a sink and a storage cabinet.

kit-chen-ette /'kɪtʃɪn'et/ *n* [C] tiny room or alcove used as a kitchen (esp in a small flat).

kite /kaɪt/ *n* [C] **1** bird of prey of the hawk family. **2** framework of wood, etc covered with paper or cloth, made to fly in the wind at the end of a long string or wire.

kith /kɪθ/ *n* (only in **kith and kin**, friends and relations).

kit-ten /'kɪtn/ *n* [C] young cat.

kitty¹ /'kɪti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) playful name for a kitten.

kitty² /'kɪti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** (in some card-games) money to be played for. **2** (*informal*) any combined fund, eg of savings.

kiwi /'ki:wi:/ *n* [C] New Zealand bird with

undeveloped wings.

klaxon /'klæksən/ *n* [C] powerful electric horn for a motor-car.

klep-to-mania /kleptə'meɪniə/ *n* [U] irresistible wish to steal, not necessarily from poverty.

klep-to-maniac /-niæk/, person with kleptomania.

knack /næk/ *n* [C] (rarely *pl*) cleverness (intuitive or acquired through practice) enabling one to do something skilfully: *It's quite easy when you have/get the ~ of it.*

knacker /'nækə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who buys and slaughters useless horses (to sell the meat and hides). **2** person who buys and breaks up old houses, ships, etc for the materials in them.

knapsack /'næpsæk/ *n* [C] canvas, nylon or leather bag, strapped to the back and used (by soldiers, travellers) for carrying things.

knave /neɪv/ *n* [C] **1** (old use) dishonest man. **2** (also *Jack*) (playing-cards) court-card between 10 and Queen in value: *the ~ of hearts.*

knavery /'neɪvəri/ *n* [C, U]

knead /ni:d/ *vt* **1** make (flour and water) into a firm paste (*dough*) by working with the hands; do this with wet clay; make (bread, pots) in this way. **2** massage (muscles, etc) as if making dough.

knee /ni:/ *n* [C] **1** joint between the thigh and the lower part of the leg in man; corresponding part in animals. *be on/go (down) on one's knees*, be kneeling/kneel down (to pray, or in submission). *bring sb to his knees*, force him to submit. **2** part of an article of clothing covering the knees: *the ~s of a pair of trousers.*

'knee-breeches /brɪtʃɪz/ *n pl* breeches reaching down to or just below the knees.

'knee-cap, flat, movable bone at the front of the knee.

'knee-deep *adj, adv* so deep as to reach the knees: *The water was ~-deep.*

kneel /ni:l/ *vi* (*pt, pp* knelt /nelt/) go down on the knees; rest on the knees: *Everyone knelt in prayer.*

knell /nɛl/ *n* (*sing* with *a* or *the*) sound of a bell, esp for a death or at a funeral.

knelt /nelt/ ⇨ kneel.

knew /nju:/ *US*: nu:/ ⇨ know¹.

knicker-bock-ers /'nɪkəbɒkəz/ *n pl* loose wide breeches gathered in below the knees.

knickers /'nɪkəz/ *n pl* **1** (informal) knicker-bockers. **2** = panties.

knick-knack /'nɪk næk/ *n* [C] small ornament, piece of jewellery, article of dress, etc.

knife /naɪf/ *n* [C] (*pl* knives /naɪvz/) sharp blade with a handle, used as a cutting instrument or as a weapon: *a 'table ~*, used for food at table; *a 'pocket ~*, one with hinged blade(s). *get one's knife into sb*, have the wish to harm him. □ *vt* stab (a person) with a knife. **'knife-edge**, cutting edge of a knife. *on a*

knife-edge, (of an important outcome, result, etc) extremely uncertain.

knight /naɪt/ *n* [C] **1** (in the Middle Ages) man, usually of noble birth, raised to honourable military rank. **2** (modern use) man on whom a title or honour is conferred (lower than that of baronet) as a reward for services to the State or to a political party. (Note: The title *Sir* is used before Christian name and surname, as *Sir James Hill*.) **3** (chess) piece with a horse's head. □ *vt* make (a person) a knight(2).

'knight-hood *n* (a) [U] rank, character or dignity of a knight; [C] (used after *confer*): *The Queen conferred ~hoods on two bankers.* (b) [U] knights collectively: *the ~hood of France.*

knight-ly *adj* chivalrous; brave and gentle.

knit /nɪt/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* ~ted or ~; -tt-) **1** make (an article of clothing, etc) by looping wool, etc on long needles: *She often ~s while reading.* **2** unite firmly or closely: *The two families are ~ together by common interests.* **knit the brows**, frown.

knit-ter, person who knits.

knit-ting, (a) action of a person who knits. (b) material being knitted.

'knit-ting-machine, machine that knits.

'knit-ting-needle, long slender rod of steel, wood, etc used to knit.

'knit-wear, /-weə(r)/, (*trade use*) knitted clothes.

knives /naɪvz/ ⇨ knife.

knob /nɒb/ *n* [C] **1** round handle of a door, drawer, etc. **2** (informal) control, eg of a radio, television set, etc. **3** round swelling or mass on the surface of eg a tree trunk.

knob-bly /'nɒbli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) having knobs(3): ~bly knees.

knock¹ /nɒk/ *n* [C] **1** (short, sharp sound of a) blow: *He got a nasty ~ on the head when he fell. I heard a ~ at the door.* **2** sound of knocking in a petrol engine. ⇨ knock²(3). **3** (sl) criticism; insult; financial loss: *He's taken a bad ~*, had an unfortunate experience.

knocker, person or thing that knocks, esp a hinged metal device on a door.

knock² /nɒk/ *vt, vi* **1** hit; strike; cause to be (in a certain state) by hitting; make by hitting: *Someone is ~ing at the door. He ~ed the bottom out of the box. He ~ed (= accidentally hit) his head on/against the wall.* ⇨ shape¹(1). **2** (sl) surprise; shock: *I was ~ed flat by her news.* **3** (of a petrol engine) make a tapping or thumping noise. **4** (sl) criticize unfavourably: *Why must you always ~ British products?*

5 (uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*):

knock sth back, (sl) drink (quickly): ~ back a pint of beer.

knock sb down, strike to the ground or floor: *He was ~ed down by a bus.* **knock sth down**, (a) demolish: *These old houses are to*

be ~ed down. (b) take to pieces: *The machines will be ~ed down before being packed for shipment.* (c) lower (a price): *He ~ed down the price by ten per cent.*

knock sth in, strike so that it goes in: ~ in a nail.

knock off (work), stop work. **knock sth off**, (a) deduct: *I'll ~ 50p off the price.* (b) compose or finish rapidly: ~ off an article. (c) (sl) break into, rob: ~ off a bank.

knock sb out, (a) (boxing) strike (an opponent) so that he cannot rise to his feet for the count. (b) (fig) shock: *She was ~ed out by the news.*

knock (things) together, make roughly or hastily: *The bookshelves had obviously been ~ed together.*

knock sb up, (GB informal) waken him by knocking at his door, etc. **knock sth up**, (a) arrange, put together quickly: ~ up a meal. (b) score (runs) at cricket.

'knock-down adj (of prices, eg at an auction) lowest at which goods are to be sold.

'knock-'knead adj having legs curved so that the knees touch when walking.

'knock out adj, n [C] (a) (abbr KO) (blow) that knocks a boxer out. (b) (in a tournament or competition) round for eliminating weaker competitors. (c) impressive or attractive (person, thing): *Isn't she a ~ out!* (d) (sl) drug, etc which induces sleep or unconsciousness: ~ out pills.

knoll /nəʊl/ n [C] small hill.

knot /nɒt/ n [C] 1 parts of one or more pieces of string, rope, etc twisted together to make a fastening: *tie/make a ~*. 2 (fig) something that ties together: *the 'marriage-~*. 3 piece of ribbon, etc twisted and tied as an ornament. 4 difficulty; hard problem. 5 hard lump in wood where a branch grew out from a bough or trunk. 6 group of persons or things: *People were standing about in ~s, anxiously waiting for news.* 7 measure of speed for ships, one nautical mile per hour. □ vt, vi (-tt-) make a knot in; tie with knots: ~ two ropes together.

'knot-hole, hole (in a board) from which a knot(5) has come out.

knotty adj (-ier, -iest) full of knots(1,5). **a knotty problem**, one that is difficult to solve.

know¹ /nəʊ/ vt, vi (pt knew /nju: US: nu:/, pp ~n /nəʊn/) 1 have in the mind as the result of experience or of being informed, or because one has learned: *Every child ~s that two and two make four. Do you ~ how to play chess? There's no ~ing (= It is impossible to know) when we shall meet again. At your age you should ~ better, be more sensible.* 2 be acquainted with (a person): *Do you ~ Mr Hill? I ~ Mr White by sight but have never spoken to him. They're twins and it's almost impossible to ~ one from the other. not know sb from*

Adam, ⇨ Adam. 3 have personal experience of: *He's ~n better days*, has not always been so poor, etc. 4 be able to recognize: *He ~s a good drama when he sees one.* **know the ropes/a thing or two**, have relevant experience. 5 **know about/of**, have information concerning; be aware of: *I knew about that last week.* ⇨ also mind¹(2).

'know-all, person who claims to know everything about a subject, etc.

'know-how, knowledge of methods; practical ability through experience.

know² /nəʊ/ n (only in) **in the know**, (informal) having information not shared by all or not available to all.

know-ing /'nəʊɪŋ/ adj cunning; having, showing that one has, intelligence, sharp wits, etc: ~ looks.

know-ing-ly adv (a) intentionally: *I didn't hurt her ~ly.* (b) in a knowing way: *look ~ly at somebody.*

knowl-edge /'nɒlɪdʒ/ n [U] 1 understanding: *A baby has no ~ of good and evil.* 2 familiarity gained by experience; range of information: *My ~ of French is poor. It has come to my ~ (= I have been informed) that you have been spreading gossip about me. To the best of my ~ (= As far as I know) he is honest and reliable.*

knowl-edge-able /-əbl/ adj having much knowledge.

knuckle /'nʌkl/ n [C] 1 bone at a finger-joint. 2 (in animals) knee-joint, or part joining leg to foot (esp as food). □ vi **knuckle 'down to**, (of a task, etc) apply oneself earnestly.

knuckle 'under, submit, yield.

ko-ala /kəʊ'ɑ:lə/ n [C] Australian tree-climbing mammal, like a small bear.

Ko-ran /kə'rɑ:n US: kəʊ'ræn/ n sacred book containing the Prophet Muhammad's oral revelations.

Ko-ranic /kə'rænik/ adj

ko-sher /'kəʊʃə(r)/ adj fulfilling the requirements of Jewish dietary law.

kow-tow /'kəʊ'təʊ/ vi show great humility.

L

L, l /el/ (pl L's l's /elz/) 1 the 12th letter of the English alphabet. 2 the Roman numeral 50.

lab /læb/ n [C] (informal) (abbr of) laboratory.

label /'leɪbl/ n [C] 1 piece of paper, cloth, metal, wood or other material used for describing what something is, where it is to go, etc: *put ~s on one's luggage.* 2 short word or phrase describing a person or thing: *the ~ of thief.* 3 (informal) trade name. □ vi (-ll-, US

-l-) 1 put a label on: *properly ~led luggage*. 2 give a label (2) to: *~led as untrustworthy*.

la-bial /'leɪbəl/ *adj* of, made with, the lips: ~ sounds, eg m, p, b.

la-bor /'leɪbə(r)/ *n* (US) = labour.

lab-or-a-tory /lə'bɒrətəri/ *US*: 'læbrətəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) room, building, for scientific experiments, research, etc. ⇨ language laboratory.

la-bori-ous /lə'bɔːriəs/ *adj* 1 (of work, etc) requiring great effort: *a ~ task*. 2 showing signs of great effort: *a ~ style of writing*. 3 (of persons) hard-working.

la-bori-ous-ly *adv*

la-bour (US = **la-bor**) /'leɪbə(r)/ *n* 1 [U] bodily or mental work: *manual ~*. 2 [C] task; piece of work. **a labour of love**, task gladly undertaken (eg one for the good of a person one loves). 3 [U] workers as a class (contrasted with the owners of capital, etc): *skilled and unskilled ~*. 4 [U] process of childbirth: *a woman in ~*. □ *vi, vt* 1 work; try hard: *~ in the cause of peace*. 2 move, breathe, slowly and with difficulty: *The old man ~ed up the hill-side*. 3 **labour under**, be the victim of, suffer because of: *~ under the disadvantage of being poor*. 4 deal with at great length: *There's no need to ~ the point*.

hard labour, hard physical work (done by criminals as a punishment).

labour leader, top official of the Labour Party or a trade union.

the Labour Party, (GB) one of the main political parties, representing socialist opinion. **labour relations**, relations (4) between labour (3) and employers.

labour-saving *adj* reducing the amount of physical work needed.

la-boured (US = **la-bored**) *adj* (a) slow and troublesome: *~ed breathing*. (b) not easy or natural; showing too much effort: *a ~ed style of writing*.

la-bourer (US = **la-borer**), man who performs heavy unskilled work: *farm ~ers*.

la-bur-num /lə'bʌːnəm/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) small tree with yellow flowers that hang down.

lab-yr-inth /'læbərɪnθ/ *n* [C] 1 network of winding paths, roads, etc difficult to get through. 2 (fig) similar confused state.

lab-yr-in-thine /'læbərɪnθaɪn/ *US*: -θɪn/ *adj*

lace /leɪs/ *n* 1 [U] delicate material with the threads making patterns: *a ~ collar*. 2 [C] string or cord put through small holes in shoes, etc to fasten edges together: *'shoe ~s*. □ *vt, vi* 1 fasten or tighten with laces (2): *lacing (up) one's shoes*. 2 put (a lace) (through holes). 3 **lace with, flavour or strengthen (a drink) (with an alcoholic spirit): *milk ~d with rum*.**

lac-er-ate /'læsəreɪt/ *vt* (formal) 1 tear (the flesh). 2 (fig) hurt the feelings.

lac-er-ation /'læsə'reɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

lack /læk/ *vt, vi* 1 be without; not have; have

less than enough of: *He's ~ing in/He's ~s courage*. 2 **be lacking**, be in short supply, not be available: *Money was ~ing to complete the building*. 3 **lack for**, (formal) need: *They ~ed for nothing, had everything they wanted*. □ *n* [U] want, need, shortage: *~ of water*.

lack-a-daisi-cal /'lækə'deɪzɪkəl/ *adj* appearing tired, unenthusiastic.

lack-a-daisi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

la-conic /lə'kɒnɪk/ *adj* (formal) using, expressed in, few words: *a ~ person/reply*.

la-coni-cally /-kli/ *adv*

lac-quer /'lækə(r)/ *n* [C, U] 1 (sorts of) varnish used to give a hard, bright coating to metal (esp brass). 2 kind of varnish used for wood. □ *vt* coat with lacquer.

la-crosse /lə'krɒs/ *US*: 'krɒs/ *n* [U] outdoor game, played with a ball which is caught in, carried in and thrown from a racket (called a *crosse*).

lac-tic /'læktɪk/ *adj* of milk.

lacy /'leɪsi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) of or like lace (1).

lad /læd/ *n* [C] (informal) boy; young man.

lad-der /'lædə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 two lengths of wood, metal or rope, with crosspieces (*rungs*), used in climbing up and down. 2 fault which looks like a ladder in a sock or in tights. 3 (fig) scale; means of progressing: *the social ~*; *~ of success*. □ *vi, vt* (of tights, etc) (cause to) develop ladders: *Have you any tights that won't ~?*

ladder-proof *adj* impossible, difficult, to ladder.

lad-die /'lædi/ *n* [C] = lad.

laden /'leɪdn/ *adj* weighted or burdened (with): *trees ~ with apples*.

la-di-da /,ləː dɪˈdɑː/ *adj* (informal) behaving with too much self-importance (esp by speaking with a false, aristocratic accent).

lad-ing /'leɪdɪŋ/ *n* [U] cargo; freight.

bill of lading, details of a ship's cargo.

lad-le /'leɪdl/ *n* [C] large, deep, spoon for serving liquids: *a 'soup ~*. □ *vt* 1 serve with a ladle: *~ out soup*. 2 (fig) distribute: *~ out honours*.

lady /'leɪdi/ *n* [C] (pl -dies) 1 (corresponding to *gentleman*) woman belonging to the upper classes. 2 woman who has good manners. 3 (used courteously for any) woman. 4 (pl only) form of address (1), esp 'Ladies and Gentlemen'. 5 (as an adjective) female: *a ~ doctor*. 6 **L~**, (title in GB) used of and to the wives and daughters of some nobles.

Ladies, (used as a *sing noun*) public toilet for women and girls.

Our Lady, the Virgin Mary.

Lady-chapel, one dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

lady-bird, reddish-brown (sometimes yellow) flying beetle with black spots.

Lady Day, 25th March.

lady-killer, man with the reputation of being successful with women.

lady-like *adj* behaving as a lady (1, 2).

'Lady-ship /-ʃɪp/, used in speaking to or of a Lady(6): *Your/Her L~ship*.

lag¹ /læɡ/ vi (-gg-) go too slow, not keep up with: ~ *behind*. □ n [C] **'time lag**, ⇨ *time*¹.

lag² /læɡ/ n [C] (sl) person convicted of crime: *an old ~*, one who has often been imprisoned.

lag³ /læɡ/ vt (-gg-) wrap (waterpipes, cisterns, etc) with material that will prevent heat or cold from escaping.

lag-ging, material used for this.

la-ger /'lɑ:gə(r)/ n 1 [U] sort of light beer. 2 [C] bottle or glass of this.

lag-gard /'læɡəd/ n [C] 1 person who lags behind. 2 person who has no energy, enthusiasm, etc.

la-goön /lə'gu:n/ n [C] (usually shallow) lake separated from the sea by a sandbank or coral reef.

laid /leɪd/ pt, pp of *lay*².

lain /leɪn/ pp of *lie*².

lair /leə(r)/ n [C] home, sleeping-place, of a wild animal.

laird /leəd/ n (Scot) landowner.

laity /'leɪti/ n [C] (usually with *the* and a pl verb) 1 all laymen. 2 those outside a particular profession, eg used by a doctor of those not trained for the medical profession.

lake /leɪk/ n [C] large area of water enclosed by land. ⇨ *Great Lakes*.

the 'Lake District, part of NW England with many lakes.

'Lake Poet, poet who lived in the Lake District, eg Coleridge, Wordsworth.

lama /'lɑ:mə/ n [C] (pl ~s) Buddhist priest in Tibet or Mongolia.

lama-sery /'lɑ:masəri/ US: -səri/ n [C] (pl -ies) monastery of lamas.

lamb /læm/ n 1 [C] young of the sheep; [U] its flesh as food: *roast ~*. 2 [C] innocent, mild-mannered person. **like a lamb**, without resistance or protest. □ vi give birth to lambs: *the ~ing season*.

'lamb-kin, newborn lamb.

'lamb-skin, [C] skin of a lamb with the wool on it; [U] leather made from this.

lam-baste /læm'beɪst/ vt (sl) beat; scold.

lame /leɪm/ adj (-r, -st) 1 not able to walk normally because of an injury or defect. 2 (of an excuse, argument, etc) unconvincing; unsatisfactory. 3 (of the rhythm of verse) irregular, unattractive. □ vt make lame.

lame 'duck, (a) disabled person or ship. (b) business or commercial organization in financial difficulties.

lame-ly adv

lame-ness n [U]

lamé /'lɑ:meɪ/ US: 'lɑ:'meɪ/ n [U] cloth made of metal threads.

la-ment /lə'ment/ vt, vi show, feel, express, great sorrow or regret: ~ (over) *the death of a friend*. □ n [C] 1 expression of grief. 2 song or poem expressing grief: *a funeral ~*.

lam-en-table /'læməntəbl/ adj regrettable: *a ~able* (= poor, unsatisfying) *performance*.

lam-en-tably /-əbli/ adv

lam-en-ta-tion /læmənt'eɪʃn/ n [C, U]

lami-nate /'læmɪneɪt/ vt, vi 1 beat or roll (metal, wood, etc) into thin layers. 2 make material strong by putting these layers together.

lamp /læmp/ n [C] 1 apparatus for giving light (from gas, electricity, etc). 2 apparatus for heating: *a 'spirit ~*. 3 apparatus for giving a particular kind of light: *an infra-red ~*. 4 container with oil and a wick, used to give light.

'lamp-light, light from a lamp: *read by ~light*.

'lamp-post, tall post for a street light.

'lamp-shade, covering placed round or over a lamp.

lam-poon /læm'pu:n/ n [C] piece of writing attacking and ridiculing someone. □ vt write a lampoon.

lance¹ /lɑ:ns US: læns/ n [C] 1 weapon with a long wooden shaft and a pointed steel head used by a horseman. 2 similar instrument used for spearing fish.

lance-'cor-poral, lowest grade of non-commissioned officer in the army.

lancer, soldier of a cavalry regiment originally armed with lances.

lance² /lɑ:ns US: læns/ vt cut open with a lancet: ~ *an abscess*.

lan-cet /'lɑ:nsɪt/ US: 'læn-/ n [C] 1 pointed, two-edged knife used by surgeons. 2 high, narrow, pointed arch or window.

land¹ /lænd/ n 1 [U] solid part of the earth's surface (contrasted with *sea, water*): *travel over ~ and sea*. **by land**, (travelling) by train, car, etc not by plane, ship, etc. **make land**, see, reach, the shore. 2 [U] surface of the moon, a planet, etc. 3 [U] ground, earth, as used for farming, etc: *working on the ~*. 4 [U] (sometimes pl) property in the form of land: *Do you own much ~ here?* 5 [C] country (which is the usual word) and its people: *my native ~*. **the land of the 'living**, this present existence. ⇨ also *lie*² (4) and *lie*² n.

'land-agent, person employed to look after, buy, or sell land (4).

'land-holder, owner or tenant of land (4).

'land-lady, woman who lets others live in her property for money.

'land-locked, adj (a) (of a country) with no frontier at the sea. (b) (of a bay, harbour, etc) almost or completely surrounded by land.

'land-lord, (a) man who lets others live in his property for money. (b) owner, manager, of a public house, lodging-house, etc.

'land-lubber, (used by sailors) person not used to the sea and ships.

'land-mark, (a) object that marks the boundary of a piece of land. (b) object, etc easily seen by travellers and helpful to them.

(c) (fig) event, discovery, change, etc that marks a stage or turning-point: *~marks in the course of social history*.

'land-mine, explosive put in the ground and exploded by vehicles, footsteps, etc.

'land-owner, owner of land (4).

'land-slide, (a) sliding down of earth, rock, etc from the side of a cliff, hillside, etc. (b) sudden change in political opinion resulting in a very large majority of votes for one side in an election; a *Democratic ~slide*.

land² /lænd/ *vt, vi* **1** go, come, put, on land (from a ship, aircraft, etc): *The airliner ~ed safely. The pilot ~ed the airliner safely. land on one's feet*, (fig) be lucky; escape injury. **2** *land in*, get into (trouble, difficulties, etc): *What a mess you've ~ed us all in!* **land up**, (informal) find oneself: *You'll ~ up in prison one day.* **3** (informal) obtain: *~ a good job.* **4** (sl) hit: *She ~ed him one in the eye.*

landed *adj* (a) consisting of land: *~ed property.* (b) owning land: *the ~ed classes.*

land-less *adj*

land-ing /'lændɪŋ/ *n* [C] **1** act of coming or bringing to land: *The pilot made an ~emergency*. **~. 2** place where people and goods may be landed from a ship, etc. **3** area at the top of a flight of stairs on to which doors can open.

'landing-craft, ship with an end that opens up to allow soldiers, vehicles, etc to get ashore without being lifted out.

'landing-field/-strip, place for (small) aircraft to take off from and land on.

'landing-gear, undercarriage and wheels of an aircraft.

'landing-stage, platform where passengers and goods from ships are landed.

land-scape /'lændskeɪp/ *n* [C] (picture of) inland scenery. **2** [U] branch of art dealing with this.

'landscape 'gardening / 'architecture, planning of parks, gardens, etc.

lane /leɪn/ *n* [C] **1** narrow country road. **2** narrow street: *Drury L~.* **3** marked division of a road to guide motorists; line of vehicles within such a division: *the inside/outside ~.* **4** marked division to guide competitors in a race (eg on a running track or a swimming pool). **5** passage made or left between lines of persons. **6** route regularly used by liners or aircraft.

lan-guage /'læŋɡwɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [U] human communication of knowledge, ideas, feelings, etc using a system of sound symbols. **2** [C] form of this used by a nation or race: *foreign ~s.* **3** [U] words, phrases, etc used by a profession or class: *medical/legal ~.* **4** [C] system of signs used as language: *'finger ~.*, as used by the deaf. **5** [C] (fig) expression of feelings, etc: *the ~ of flowers.*

'language laboratory, room where languages are taught using tape-recorders, etc.

lan-guid /'læŋɡwɪd/ *adj* having no energy.

lan-guid-ly *adv*

lan-guish /'læŋɡwɪʃ/ *vi* **1** lose health and strength: *~ in prison.* **2** be unhappy because of a desire: *~ for love and sympathy.*

lan-guor /'læŋɡə(r)/ *n* (formal) **1** [U] loss of strength, energy, happiness. **2** [U] stillness or heaviness: *the ~ of a hot summer day.* **3** (often *pl*) loving, affectionate mood.

lan-gor-ous /-əs/ *adj*

lank /læŋk/ *adj* **1** (of hair) straight and limp. **2** (of persons) tall and lean.

lanky /'læŋki/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) tall and thin (and so unattractive): *a ~ girl.*

lano-lin /'lænəlɪn/ *n* [U] fat from sheep's wool used as a basis of ointments for the skin.

lan-tern /'læntən/ *n* [C] case for a light from a candle or flame, used to protect it from the wind.

lan-yard /'lænjəd/ *n* [C] **1** cord (worn by sailors and soldiers) for a whistle or knife. **2** short rope used on a ship for fastening.

lap¹ /læp/ *n* [C] one complete journey round a track or race-course. □ *vt* (-pp-) overtake another competitor who is a lap behind.

lap² /læp/ *n* [C] front part of a person from the waist to the knees, when sitting: *The mother had the baby on her ~.* (Note: not used in the *pl* of one person.) **the lap of 'luxury**, fortunate, wealthy, state or condition.

lap³ /læp/ *vi, vt* (-pp-) **1** drink by taking up with the tongue, as a cat does. **2** (fig) (of human beings) take quickly or eagerly: *~ up compliments.* **3** (of water) move with a sound like the lapping up of liquid: *waves ~ping on the shore.* □ *n* [C] **1** act of lapping up. **2** sound of lapping: *the ~ of the waves against the side of the boat.*

la-pel /lə'pel/ *n* [C] part of the front of a coat or jacket folded back and forming a continuation of the collar.

lapse /læps/ *n* [C] **1** small error in speech, behaviour, memory, etc. **2** disappearance of what is right: *a moral ~.* **3** (of time) passing away; interval: *a long ~ of time.* **4** (legal) ending of a right, etc because of failure to use it or renew it. □ *vi* **1** make a lapse (1). **2** change (from good ways into bad ways): *lapsing into bad habits.* **3** (of time) pass: *Several hours ~d before he woke up.* **4** (legal) (of rights and privileges) be lost because not used or renewed.

lap-wing /'læpwɪŋ/ *n* [C] bird of the plover family; pewit.

lar-ceny /'lɑ:səni/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] stealing; theft. **2** [C] instance of this.

larch /lɑ:tʃ/ *n* [C] deciduous tree with small cones and light-green leaves. **2** [U] its wood.

lard /lɑ:d/ *n* [U] fat of pigs used in cooking. □ *vt* put lard on. **lard with**, (often used disapprovingly) fill with: *a speech ~ed with boring quotations.*

lar-der /'lɑ:də(r)/ *n* [C] room, cupboard, for storing meat and other kinds of food.

large /lɑ:dʒ/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** of great size; taking up much space; able to contain much: *A man with a ~ family needs a ~ house.* (Note: *large* is less informal than *big* and not so emotive as *great*. 'A great city' is large, but the use of 'great' suggests that it is also important or famous. *Large* is not often used of a person's size except in phrases such as *be (a little) on the ~ side*, but may be used of sizes of clothes.) **2** generous; unprejudiced: *He has a ~ heart.* **3** not confined or restricted: *give an official ~ powers; ~ ideas.* □ *n* (only in) **at large**, **(a)** free: *The escaped prisoner is still at ~.* **(b)** in general: *Did the people at ~ approve of the government's policy?* **(c)** at full length; with details: *to talk/write at ~* (at length is more usual). □ *adv* **by and large**, **by** (2).

'large-scale *adj* **(a)** extensive: *~scale operations.* **(b)** made or drawn to a large scale: *a ~scale map.*

large-ish /-ɪʃ/ *adj* rather large.

large-ly *adv* to a great extent: *His success was ~ly due to luck.*

large-ness *n* [U]

lark /lɑ:k/ *n* [C] (kinds of) small songbird: *the sky ~.*

lark /lɑ:k/ *n* [C] bit of fun: *He did it for a ~, in fun. What a ~! How amusing!* □ *vi* fool about: *Stop ~ing about and get on with your work.*

larva /'lɑ:və/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~e /'lɑ:-vi:/) insect in the first stage of its development after coming out of the egg.

lar-val /'lɑ:vəl/ *adj.*

lar-yn-gi-tis /,lærɪn'dʒɪtɪs/ *n* [U] inflammation of the larynx.

lar-yinx /,lærɪŋks/ *n* [C] upper part of the windpipe where the vocal cords are.

las-civ-ious /lə'sɪvɪəs/ *adj* (formal) feeling, causing, showing, lust.

las-civ-ious-ly *adv*

laser /'leɪzə(r)/ *n* [C] device for generating, amplifying and concentrating light waves into an intense, highly directional beam, used to cut metal and jewels, to aim weapons, etc.

lash /læʃ/ *n* [C] **1** flexible part of a whip; blow or stroke given with a lash: *given twenty ~es.* **2** = eyelash.

lash /læʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** whip; strike violently; make a sudden movement of (a limb, etc): *The rain was ~ing (against) the windows. The tiger ~ed its tail angrily. He ~ed the horse across the back with his whip.* **2** **lash out (against/at)** *sb/sth*, attack violently (with blows or words): *He ~ed out against the government.* **3** fasten tightly (together) (with rope, etc).

lash-ing /'læʃɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] cord or rope used for binding or fastening. **2** [C] whipping or beating. **3** (*pl*) (informal) plenty: *~s of cream.*

lass /læs/ *n* [C] (informal) girl; young woman.

las-sie /'læsi/ *n* [C] = lass.

lassi-tude /'læstɪtʃud/ *US*: -tʊd/ *n* [U] (formal) tiredness; state of being uninterested.

lasso /læ'su:/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or ~es) looped rope with a slipknot, used for catching horses and cattle, esp in America. □ *vt* catch with a lasso: *~ing steers.*

last /lɑ:st/ *US*: læst/ *adj* **1** (contrasted with first; ⇨ late) coming after all others in time or order: *the ~ Sunday in June; the ~ time I saw you. ~last but not ~least*, coming at the end, but not least in importance. *be on one's ~last legs*, ⇨ leg (1). *have the ~last word*, ⇨ word (2). **2** (contrasted with next) coming immediately before the present: *~ night/year; on Tuesday ~.* **3** only remaining: *This is our ~ hope. I wouldn't marry you if you were the ~ person on earth.* **4** least likely, suitable, willing, desirable, etc: *That's the ~ thing I should expect him to do.* **5** final; leaving nothing more to be said or done: *That's my ~ word on the subject.* **6** latest, most up-to-date: *This is the ~ thing in electronic devices.* □ *adv* **1** (contrasted with first) after all others: *I am to speak ~ at the meeting.* **2** (contrasted with next) on the last occasion before the present time: *She was quite well when I saw her ~/when I ~ saw her.* □ *n* the ~, that which comes at the end: *These are the ~ of our apples. see the last of sb/sth*, ⇨ see (2). **at (long) last**, in the end; after (much) delay: *At (long) ~ we reached London.*

last-ly *adv* (as in making a list) finally: *L~ly I must explain that...*

last /lɑ:st/ *US*: læst/ *vi* go on; be enough (for): *How long will the fine weather ~?*

last-ing *adj* continuing for a long time; for ever.

last /lɑ:st/ *US*: læst/ *n* [C] block of wood shaped like a foot for making shoes on.

latch /lætʃ/ *n* [C] fastening for a door or gate, the bar falling into a catch and being lifted by a small lever. □ *vi, vt* **1** fasten with a latch. **2** **latch on (to)**, (informal) cling to; get possession of; understand.

late /leɪt/ *adj* (-r, -st) ⇨ last¹, latter. **1** (contrasted with early) after the right, fixed or usual time: *Am I ~? 2* far on in the day or night, in time, in a period or season: *in the ~ afternoon.* **3** recent; that recently was: *the ~st news/fashions.* **4** former, recent (and still living): *the ~ prime minister.* **5** former, recent (and now dead): *her ~ husband.* **6** of late, recently. **at the latest**, before or not later than: *Be here by Monday at the ~st.*

late /leɪt/ *adv* **1** (contrasted with early) after the usual, right, fixed or expected time: *get up/go to bed/arrive home ~. later on*, at a later time; afterwards. *sooner or later*, ⇨ soon (4). **2** recently: *I saw him as ~ as/no ~r than yesterday.*

lat-ish /'leɪtɪʃ/ *adj* rather late.

late-ly /'leɪtli/ *adv* in recent times; recently: *Have you been to the cinema ~? It is only ~ that she has been well enough to go out.*

latent /'leɪtənt/ *adj* present but not yet active, developed or visible: ~ energy.

lat-eral /'lætərəl/ *adj* of, at, from, to, the side(s).

lath /lɑːθ/ *US*: læθ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s /lɑːðz/ *US*: /læðz/ long, thin strip of wood, etc as used for plaster walls and ceilings.

lathe /leɪð/ *n* [C] **1** machine for holding and turning pieces of wood or metal while they are being shaped, etc. **2** potter's wheel.

lather /'lɑːðə(r)/ *US*: 'læð-/ *n* [U] **1** soft mass of white froth from soap and water. **2** frothy sweat on a horse. □ *vi*, *vt* **1** make foam on: ~ one's chin before shaving. **2** form foam.

Latin /'lætɪn/ *US*: lætən/ *adj*, *n* (of the) language, peoples, of ancient Rome.

Latin A'merica, countries of S and Central America in which Spanish and Portuguese are spoken.

the Latin Church, the Roman Catholic Church.

the Latin races/peoples, those of Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, etc.

lati-tude /'læɪtjʊd/ *US*: -tʊd/ *n* **1** [C] distance north or south of the equator measured in degrees. **2** (*pl*) geographical regions or districts: warm ~s. **3** [U] (measure of) freedom in action or opinion: ~ in political belief.

lati-tudi-nal /'læɪtʃjʊ:dɪnl/ *US*: -tʊ:-/ *adj*

la-trine /'lætrɪn/ *n* [C] (in places where there are no sewers, eg camps) pit or ditch for human urine and excrement.

lat-ter /'lætə(r)/ *adj* **1** recent; belonging to the end (of a period): the ~ half of the year. **2** the ~, (contrasted with the former) the second of two things or persons already mentioned: Of these two men the former is dead, but the ~ is still alive.

'latter-day *adj* modern: ~-day saints.

lat-ter-ly *adv* recently; nowadays.

lat-tice /'lætɪs/ *n* [C] framework of crossed laths or metal strips as a screen, fence or door, or for climbing plants: a ~ window.

laud /lɔːd/ *vt* (rare except in hymns) praise; glorify.

laud-able /-əbl/ *adj* deserving praise: a ~able effort to complete the work on time.

laud-ably /-əbl/ *adv*

lauda-tory /'lɔːdətəri/ *US*: -tɔːri/ *adj* expressing or giving praise.

laugh /lɑːf/ *US*: læf/ *vi*, *vt* **1** make sounds and movements of the face and body, showing amusement, joy, contempt, etc: The jokes made everyone ~. **laugh at**, (a) be amused by: ~ at a joke. (b) make fun of: It's unkind to ~ at a person who is in trouble. (c) disregard; treat with indifference: ~ at difficulties. **laugh in sb's face**, show contempt for; defy. **laugh one's head off**, ☞ head¹ (20). **laugh up one's sleeve**, ☞ sleeve¹ (1). **2** arrive at a state, obtain a result, by laughing: ~ oneself silly/helpless. □ *n* [C] sound, act, of laughing:

We've had such a good ~ over his foolishness.

have the last laugh, win after an earlier defeat. ☞ also belly-laugh; raise (3).

laugh-able /-əbl/ *adj* amusing; ridiculous: a ~able mistake.

laugh-ably /-əbl/ *adv*

laugh-ing *adj* showing happiness, amusement, etc: ~ing faces; burst out ~ing. ☞ also matter (4). □ *n* [U] laughter.

laugh-ter *n* [U] laughing; burst into ~ter.

launch¹ /lɔːntʃ/ *n* [C] boat with an engine (used on rivers and lakes and in harbours).

launch² /lɔːntʃ/ *vi*, *vt* **1** set (a ship, esp one newly built) afloat: ~ a new passenger liner. **2** set in motion; send; aim: ~ an attack; ~ a missile/spacecraft. **3** (fig) get started; set going: ~ a new business enterprise. **4** **launch (out) into**, make or start (on): ~ into a new career. □ *n* [C] act of launching (a ship or spacecraft).

'launching-pad, base or platform from which spacecraft, etc are launched.

'launching-site, place for launching-pads.

laun-der /'lɔːndə(r)/ *vi*, *vt* wash and press (clothes): Send these sheets to be ~ed.

laun-der-ette /lɔːndə'ret/ *n* [C] place with coin-operated automatic washing-machines and dryers.

laun-dress /'lɔːndrɪs/ *n* [C] woman who earns money by washing and ironing clothes.

laun-dry /'lɔːndri/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [C] place where clothes, sheets, etc are sent to be laundered. **2** the ~, clothes (to be) laundered: Has the ~ come back yet?

laur-eate /'lɔːriət/ *US*: 'lɔːr-/ *adj* crowned with a laurel wreath. ☞ poet laureate.

laurel /'lɔːrəl/ *US*: 'lɔːrəl/ *n* [C] evergreen shrub with smooth, shiny leaves, used by ancient Romans and Greeks as an emblem of victory, success and distinction. **look to one's laurels**, be on the look out for possible successes among rivals. **rest on one's laurels**, be content with present achievements.

lav /læv/ *n* [C] (informal) (abbr of) lavatory.

lava /'lævə/ *n* [U] hot liquid material flowing from a volcano: a stream of ~.

lava-tory /'lævətəri/ *US*: -tɔːri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** toilet. **2** room for washing the hands and face in.

lav-en-der /'lævɪndə(r)/ *adj*, *n* [U] (of the) plant with pale purple scented flowers; (of) its colour or perfume.

'lavender water, scent from lavender.

lav-ish /'lævɪʃ/ *adj* **1** giving or producing freely, liberally or generously: ~ in giving money to charity. **2** (of what is given) given in great amounts; excessive: ~ praise. □ *vi* give generously: ~ care on an only child.

lav-ish-ly *adv*

law /lɔː/ *n* **1** [C] rule made by authority for the proper regulation of a community or society or for correct conduct in life: 'traffic ~s. **2** the

~, the whole body of laws considered collectively: *If a man breaks the ~ he can be punished.* **lay down the law**, say with, or as if with, authority what must be done: *She's been laying down the ~ all weekend about which flowers to plant.* **3** [U] controlling influence of the laws. **law and order**, state of respect for, keeping of, laws: *L~ and order must be maintained.* **4** [U] the laws as a system or science; the legal profession: *study ~; ~ students.* **5** (with a defining word) one of the branches of the study of law: *commercial/international ~.* **6** [U] operation of the law (as providing a remedy for wrongs). **take the law into one's own hands**, try to get justice without legal help or disregarding the law(2). **7** [C] rule of action or procedure, esp in art or life, or a game: *the ~s of perspective/of tennis.* **be a law unto oneself**, disregard rules and conventions. **8** (also **law of nature** or **natural law**) factual statement of what always happens in certain circumstances; regularity in nature, eg the order of the seasons: *Newton's ~; the ~ of supply and demand.*

'law-abiding *adj* obeying the law(2).

'law-breaker, person who disobeys the law(2).

'law court, court of justice.

'law list, published list of barristers and solicitors.

'law report, account of legal proceedings of a lawsuit.

'Law Society, one which controls the legal profession and sets examinations for law students.

'law-suit, case in a law court.

law-ful /-fl/ *adj* (a) allowed by law; according to law: ~ful acts. (b) (of offspring) legitimate: *the ~ful heir.*

law-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

law-less *adj* not according to, not conforming to, the law.

law-less-ness *n* [U]

lawn¹ /lɔ:n/ *n* [C] **1** area of grass cut short and smooth. **2** such an area of grass used for a game: *a tennis ~.*

'lawn-mower, machine for cutting grass.

'lawn tennis, played on a grass court.

lawn² /lɔ:n/ *n* [U] kind of fine linen.

law-yer /'lɔ:je(r)/ *n* [C] person who practises law, esp an attorney or solicitor.

lax /læks/ *adj* **1** not taking care; not strict or severe: ~ in morals. **2** (of the bowels) free in action.

lax-ity /'læksəti/ *n* [C, U]

lax-ly *adv*

laxa-tive /'læksətiv/ *n* [C], *adj* (medicine, drug) causing the bowels to empty.

lay¹ /lei/ *adj* **1** of, for, done by, persons who are not priests: *a ~ brother/sister*, one who has taken religious vows but who does manual work and is excused other duties. ⇨ **laity**. **2**

non-professional; not expert (esp with reference to the law and medicine): ~ *opinion*, what non-professional people think.

'lay-man, lay person.

lay² /lei/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* laid /leɪd/) (For uses with adverbial particles and prepositions ⇨ 11 below.) **1** put on a surface; put in a certain position: *He laid his hand on my shoulder.* **2** (of non-material things, and fig) place; put. **lay (one's) hands on sth/sb**, (a) seize; get possession of: *He keeps everything he can ~ (his) hands on.* (b) do violence to: *How dare you ~ hands on me?* (c) find: *The book is somewhere, but I can't ~ my hands on it just now.* (d) ordain (a person) as a deacon or priest by the laying on of hands (as a bishop does); consecrate (a person) as a bishop (as an archbishop does). **lay the blame (for sth) on sb**, say that he is responsible for what is wrong, etc. **3** cause to be in a certain state, condition, or situation. **be laid to rest**, ⇨ **rest**¹(1). **lay claim to sth**, ⇨ **claim**²(2). **lay sth at sb's door**, ⇨ **door**(1). **lay one's finger on**, ⇨ **finger**. **lay siege to**, ⇨ **siege**. **4** cause to be in a specified condition. **lay sth bare**, show; reveal: ~ *bare one's heart*, reveal one's inmost feelings, etc. **lay sth flat**, cause to be flat: *crops laid flat by heavy rainstorms.* **be laid low**, be ill in bed: *I've been laid low by influenza.* **lay oneself open to sth**, expose oneself to criticism, etc. **laid waste**, destroyed; badly damaged: *a countryside laid waste by invading armies.* **5** cause to be down, settle: *sprinkle water on the roads to ~ the dust.* **6** place or arrange (ready for use, etc): ~ *a carpet; ~ the table (for breakfast)*, put out plates, knives, etc; *lay a fire*, make it ready for lighting. **7** put down (a sum of money) as a bet: *I'll ~ you a hundred to one that...* **8** (of birds and insects) produce (an egg): *Are your hens ~ing yet?* **9** (usually passive) set (a story, etc) in time and place: *The scene is laid in Athens, in the third century, BC.* **10** cover; coat: ~ *colours on canvas*. ⇨ **lay** on below.

11 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

lay sth aside, (a) save; keep for future use: ~ *aside money for one's old age.* (b) put down: *He laid his book aside to listen to me.*

lay sth by, = **lay sth aside**(a).

lay sb/oneself down, place in a lying position. **lay sth down**, (a) pay or wager: *How much are you ready to ~ down?* (b) (begin to) build: ~ *down a new ship.* (c) convert (land) to pasture: ~ *down land to grass.* (d) store (wine) in a cellar: ~ *down claret and port.* **lay down one's arms**, put one's weapons down as a sign of surrender. **lay down the law**, ⇨ **law**(2). **lay down one's life**, sacrifice it: *He laid down his life for his country.*

lay sth in, provide oneself with a stock of: ~

in provisions/stores.

lay into sb. (a) assault, attack. (b) criticize. **lay off**, (informal) (a) discontinue: *The doctor told me to ~ off work for a week.* (b) stop doing something which annoys: *You've been seeing my sister again—Well, you can just ~ off.* **lay sb off**, dismiss (from work) temporarily: ~ off workmen, eg because of a shortage of materials. Hence, **'lay-off n** [C] period during which men are laid off.

lay sth on, (a) supply services to a building: *Are gas and water laid on?* (b) (informal) provide: *A party was laid on for the visitors.* **lay it on (thick/with a trowel)**, use exaggerated praise, flattery, etc.

lay sth out, (a) spread out ready for use or so as to be seen easily: ~ out one's evening clothes. (b) prepare for burial: ~ out a corpse. (c) spend (money): ~ out on a new suit. (d) make a plan for; arrange well: *well laid-out streets and avenues.* Hence, **'lay-out n** [C] arrangement, plan, of a printed page, a factory etc.

lay sth up, (a) save; store: ~ up provisions. (b) ensure by what one does or fails to do that one will have trouble, etc in future: ~ing up trouble for yourself. (c) put (a ship) out of commission: ~ a ship up for repairs. **be laid up**, forced to stay in bed: *He's laid up with a broken leg.*

lay-about /'leɪəbaʊt/ n [C] (GB sl) person who avoids working for a living.

lay-by /'leɪbaɪ/ n [C] (GB) area at the side of a road for vehicles to park.

layer /'leɪə(r)/ n [C] 1 thickness of material (esp one of several) laid or lying on or spread over a surface, or forming one horizontal division: *a ~ of clay.* 2 (of hens): good/bad ~s, laying eggs in large/small numbers. 3 person who bets against and on a horse, etc.

lay-ette /'leɪet/ n [C] outfit for a newborn baby.

lay-man ⇨ lay¹.

laze /leɪz/ vi, vt be lazy: *lazing away the afternoon.*

lazy /'leɪzi/ adj (-ier, -iest) unwilling to work; doing little work; suitable for, causing, inactivity: *a ~ girl; a ~ afternoon.* ⇨ idle.

'lazy-bones, lazy person.

lazi-ly adv

lazi-ness n [U]

lea /li:/ n [C] (poetic) stretch of open grassland.

lead /led/ n 1 [U] soft, heavy, easily melted metal (symbol Pb) used for pipes, etc; its colour, dull blue-grey. 2 [U] (stick of) graphite as used in a lead-pencil. 3 [C] lump of lead (1) on a line marked in fathoms for measuring the depth of the sea from ships.

'lead poisoning, diseased condition caused by taking lead (1) into the body.

lead shot, ⇨ shot (5).

leadad adj secured with strips of lead: ~ed

windows.

lead /ledn/ adj (a) made of lead. (b) having the colour or appearance of lead: ~en clouds. (c) dull and heavy: *a ~en heart.*

lead² /li:d/ n 1 (sing with the or a, an) action of guiding or giving an example; direction given by going in front; something that helps or hints. **take the lead**, take the leading place; be the first example. 2 the ~, first place or position: *have/gain the ~ in a race;* (with a, an) distance by which one leads: *an actual ~ of two metres.* 3 [C] cord, strap or chain for leading a dog. 4 [C] principal part in a play; actor or actress who plays such a part. 5 [C] (card-games) act or right of playing first: *Whose ~ is it?* 6 [C] wire, etc for an electric current.

lead³ /li:d/ vt, vi (pt, pp led /led/) 1 guide or take, esp by going in front. **lead the way (to)**, go first; show the way. 2 guide the movement of (a person, etc) by the hand, by touching him, or by a rope, etc: ~ a blind man/a horse. **lead sb astray**, (fig) encourage him to do wrong. 3 act as chief; direct by example or persuasion; direct the movements of: ~ an army/an expedition/the Conservative Party. 4 have the first place in; go first: *Which horse is ~ing, eg in a race?* 5 guide the actions and opinions of; influence; persuade: *What led you to think that?* 6 be a path, way or road to: *Where does this road ~?* 7 (fig) have as a result: *The change of plan led to great confusion.* **lead up to**, be a preparation for or an introduction to: *That's just what I was ~ing up to.* 8 (cause a person to) pass, spend (his life, etc): ~ a miserable existence. 9 (card-games) put down, as first player (a card): ~ trumps. 10 have as the main article of news: *We'll ~ with the dock strike.*

leader /'li:də(r)/ n [C] 1 person who leads: *the ~ of an army/an expedition/the Labour Party.* 2 principal counsel in a law court case: *the ~ for the defence.* 3 (GB) leading article (in a newspaper).

leader-less adj

leader-ship, being a leader; power of, qualities of, a leader.

lead-ing /'li:dɪŋ/ adj chief; most important: *the ~ men of the day; the ~ lady*, the actress with the chief part in a play. ⇨ n [U] act of leading.

'leading article, (in a newspaper) one giving editorial opinions on events, policies, etc.

'leading lady, most important actress in the cast of a play, etc.

'leading light, (informal) prominent or outstanding person.

'leading question, one formed to suggest the answer that is hoped for.

leaf /li:f/ n [C] (pl leaves /lɪvz/) 1 one of the parts (usually green and flat) growing from the side of a stem or branch or direct from the root of a tree, bush, plant, etc: *The trees will*

soon be in ~. **2** single sheet of paper forming two pages of a book. **turn over a new leaf**, (fig) make a new and better start. **3** hinged flap, etc of a table (used to make it larger). **4** [U] very thin sheet of metal, esp of gold or silver: *gold ~*. □ *vi leaf through* (a book, magazine, etc), turn over the pages quickly; glance through.

leafy *adj* (-ier, -iest) covered with, having, made by, leaves: *a ~y shade*.

leaf-let /'li:flət/ *n* [C] printed sheet (sometimes folded) with announcements, etc, esp one for free distribution.

league¹ /li:g/ *n* [C] former measure of distance (about three miles or 4.8 kms).

league² /li:g/ *n* [C] **1** agreement made between persons, groups or nations for their common welfare, eg to work for peace; the parties that make such an agreement. **in league with**, having made an agreement with; connected with (usually to do illegal or immoral things). **2** group of sports clubs or teams playing matches among themselves: *the 'football ~*. ⇨ Rugby. □ *vt, vi* form into, become, a league: *countries that are ~d together*. **the League of Nations**, that formed in 1919 after the First World War, dissolved in 1946. ⇨ United Nations.

leak /li:k/ *n* [C] **1** hole, crack, etc caused by wear, injury, etc through which a liquid, gas, etc may wrongly get in or out: *a ~ in the roof*. **2** (fig) instance of leaking (2): *a ~ of secret information*. **3** the liquid, gas, etc that gets out or in. □ *vi, vt* **1** (allow to) pass out or in through a leak: *The rain is ~ing in*. **2** (of news, secrets, etc) (cause to) become known by chance or deliberately: *Who ~ed the news to the press?*

'leak-age /-ɪdʒ/ *n* [C, U]

leaky *adj* (-ier, -iest) having a leak.

lean¹ /li:n/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (of persons and animals) having less than the usual amount of fat; (of meat) containing little or no fat. **2** not productive; of poor quality: *a ~ harvest*. □ *n* [U] meat with little or no fat.

lean-ness *n* [U]

lean² /li:n/ *vi, vt* (*pt, pp* ~ed or ~t /lent/) **1** be or put in a sloping position: ~ backwards; ~ out of a window. **lean over backward(s) (to do sth)**, (informal) make a great effort: *I've lent over backwards to help you but you still refuse to do any work*. **2** rest in a sloping position for support: ~ on one's elbows. **3** cause to rest against and be supported by: ~ a ladder against a wall. **4 lean towards**, have a tendency: *Does the Liberal Party ~ towards socialism?* **5** depend: ~ on a friend.

lean-ing *n* [C] tendency (of mind towards): *He has pacifist ~ings*.

leap /li:p/ *vi, vt* (*pt, pp* ~ed /lept/ or ~t /lept/) **1** = jump (the usual word): *He ~t at the opportunity*, seized it eagerly. **Look before you leap**, ⇨ look²(1). **2** (cause to) jump over: ~

a wall. □ *n* [C] sudden upward or forward movement: *a great ~ forward*, (fig) a great advance. **by leaps and bounds**, very rapidly.

'leap-frog *n* [U] game in which players jump with parted legs over others who stand with bent backs. □ *vt* (-gg-) jump over in this way.

'leap year, (every fourth year) in which February has 29 days.

learn /lɜ:n/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* ~t /lɜ:nt/, ~ed) **1** gain knowledge of or skill in, by study, practice or being taught: ~ a foreign language; ~ to swim/how to ride a horse. **learn sth by heart**, remember it so that it can be repeated. **2** be told or informed: *We haven't yet ~ed if he arrived safely*.

learned /'lɜ:nd/ *adj* having or showing a great deal of knowledge: ~ed men/books/members/societies.

learn-ed-ly *adv*

learner, person who is learning.

learn-ing *n* [U] (knowledge gained by) study.

lease /li:s/ *n* [C] contract by which the owner of land or a building (the lessor) agrees to let another (the lessee) have the use of it for a certain time for a fixed money payment (rent); the rights given under such a contract: *When does the ~ expire?* **get/give sb a new lease of 'life**, a better chance of living longer, or of being happier, etc. □ *vt* give, take, possession of (land, etc), by lease.

'lease-hold *n* [U], *adj* (land) (to be) held on lease. ⇨ freehold.

'lease-holder, person who has a lease.

leash /li:ʃ/ *n* [C] leather lead²(3).

least /li:st/ *adj, n* [U] (contrasted with *most*): ⇨ less, little) smallest in size, amount, extent, etc: *She has little, he has less, and I have (the) ~*. *That's the ~ of my anxieties*. **at least**: *It will cost at ~ five pounds*, five pounds and perhaps more. (**not**) **in the least**: *It doesn't matter in the ~*. **to say the least (of it)**, without saying more: *It's not a very good record, to say the ~ of it*. □ *adv* to the smallest extent: *This is the ~ useful of the four books*. **least of all**: *None of you can complain, Charles ~ of all*, Charles has the least reason for complaining.

'least-wise /-waɪz/, **'least-ways** /-weɪz/ *adv* (or) at least.

leather /'leðə(r)/ *n* [U] material from animal skins, used for making shoes, bags, etc.

leathery *adj* like leather: ~y meat, hard, tough.

leave¹ /li:v/ *vi, vt* (*pt, pp* left /left/) **1** go away from: *It's time for us to ~/time we left*. **leave for**, go away to: *We're leaving for Rome next week*. **2** go away finally or permanently; no longer live (in a place); cease to belong to a school, society, etc; give up working for (an employer, etc): *When did you ~ school?* **3** neglect or fail to take, bring or do something: *I left my books on the table*. **leave sb/sth**

behind, (deliberately) forget to bring or take: *Don't ~ me behind!* **4** allow or cause to remain in a certain place or condition: *Who left that window open?* *Don't ~ her waiting outside.* **leave sb/sth alone**, not touch, spoil or interfere with: *L~ me alone.* **leave off**, stop: *Has the rain left off yet?* **leave off sth**, stop: *It's time to ~ off work.* **leave sth off**, no longer wear: *They left off their vests when the weather got warm.* **leave sth/sb out**, omit; fail to consider: *Don't ~ me out, please!* **leave sth over**, postpone: *That matter can be left over until the committee meets next week.* **5** (cause to) remain; allow to remain: *Three from seven ~s four (7 - 3 = 4).* *When I've paid all my debts, there'll be nothing left/I'll have nothing left.* **6** hand over (before going away): *Did the postman ~ anything for me?* **7** put trust in; hand over (responsibility, etc): *I'll ~ the matter in your hands/~ it to you.* *He left his assistant in charge of the shop.* **8** bequeath by will; have at the time of one's death: *He left me £500.* *He ~s a widow and two sons.* **9** pass beyond (a place, etc) so that it is in the direction or relation shown: *L~ the church on your right and go on up the hill.*

leave² /li:v/ **n** **1** [U] permission; consent; authority, esp to be absent from duty: *You have my ~ to stay away from the office tomorrow.* **on leave**, absent with permission: *He went home on ~.* **2** [C] period, occasion, of such absence: *a six months' ~.* **put in for leave**, ask for permission to be absent from work or duty. **3** (sing only) departure. **take (one's) leave (of sb)**, (formal) say goodbye. **take leave of one's senses**, say sense(2).

leave of absence, permission to be absent.

leaven /'levn/ **n** [U] substance, eg yeast, used to make dough rise before it is baked to make bread.

leaves /li:vz/ **pl** of leaf.

leavings /'lvi:vz/ **n** **pl** what is left, eg unwanted food.

lech-er-ous /'letʃərəs/ **adj** having, giving way to, strong sexual desires.

lecher /'letʃə(r)/, lecherous man.

lech-ery /'letʃəri/ **n** [C, U]

lec-tern /'lektə:n/ **n** [C] tall, sloping desk for reading, esp aloud.

lec-ture /'lektʃə(r)/ **n** [C] talk for the purpose of teaching: *a course of philosophy ~s.* **give sb a lecture**, scold him or state one's disapproval. \square *vi, vt* give a lecture (course): *~ on modern drama.* **lecture sb (for)**, scold, tell off: *I was ~d for being lazy.*

lec-turer, person, lower in rank than a professor, who gives lectures, esp at a college or university.

lec-ture-ship, position as a lecturer.

led /led/ **pt, pp** of lead³.

ledge /ledʒ/ **n** [C] **1** narrow shelf coming out

from a wall, cliff or other upright surface: *a 'window ~.* **2** ridge of rocks under water, esp near the shore.

ledger /'ledʒə(r)/ **n** [C] **1** book in which a business firm's accounts are kept. **2** (music) **1** (or 'leger) line, short line added above or below the stave to increase its range.

lee /li:/ **n** [C, U] (place giving) protection against wind. \square **adj** of or on the side away from the wind.

leech /li:tʃ/ **n** [C] **1** small blood-sucking worm living in wet places. **2** (fig) person who sucks profit out of others.

leek /li:k/ **n** [C] vegetable like an onion with a long, white bulb.

leer /liə(r)/ **n** [U] sly, unpleasant look that suggests evil desire. \square *vi* look with a leer: *~ing at his neighbour's wife.*

lee-ward /'li:wəd (among sailors) 'lu:wəd/ **adj**, **adv**, **n** [U] (on or to the) sheltered side (contrasted with windward).

lee-way /'li:weɪ/ **n** [U] **1** sideways drift (of a ship) in the direction towards which the wind is blowing. **2** small amount of freedom of action, expenditure, etc. **make up leeway**, (fig) make up for lost time.

left¹ **pt, pp** of leave.

left² /left/ **adj** **1** (contrasted with right) of the side of the body which is towards the west when a person faces north: *In Britain people drive on the ~ side of the road.* **2** (politics) having radical views, eg socialist. \square **adv** to, on, the left side: *Look ~!* \square **n** [U] **1** the left side or direction: *His house is on the ~.* **2** the L~, (politics) \Rightarrow the Left (Wing) below.

left hand **adj** of, situated on, the left side: *a house on the ~-hand side of the street.*

left-handed **adj** (of a person) using the left hand more easily or with more skill than the right. **a left-handed compliment**, one that is of doubtful sincerity.

the Left (Wing), more radical group(s), party or parties, eg socialists, communists: (used as an adjective): *~wing militants.*

left-ist /-ist/ **n** [C], **adj** (supporter) of socialism or radicalism.

leg /leg/ **n** [C] **1** one of the parts of an animal's or a person's body used for walking, esp (of a human body) the part above the foot. **be on one's last legs**, exhausted; near one's death or end. **pull sb's leg**, deceive him for fun. **show a leg**, (informal) (a) get out of bed. (b) make more effort. **not have a leg to stand on**, have nothing to support one's opinion, defence, etc. **stretch one's legs**, \Rightarrow stretch(1). **2** that part of clothing that closely covers a leg: *the ~s of a pair of trousers;* *a 'trouser-~.* **3** support of a chair, table, etc: *a chair with four ~.* **on its last legs**, weak and likely to collapse. **4** one section of a journey, esp by air: *the first ~ of a round-the-world flight.* **5** one of a series of games in a competi-

tion: *an away ~*, on the opponent's ground.

leg-acy /'legəsi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** money, etc (to be) received by a person under the will of and at the death of another person. **2** (*fig*) something handed down from ancestors or predecessors: *a ~ of firm government*.

legal /'li:gl/ *adj* connected with, in accordance with, authorized or required by, the law: *~ affairs*. **take legal action**, bring an action against somebody. ⇨ **action** (3).

legal tender, form of money which must be accepted as payment.

legally /'li:gəli/ *adv*

legal-ity /li:'gæləti/ *n* [C,U] state or quality of being legal: *the ~ of an act*.

legal-ize (also **-ise**) /'li:gəlaɪz/ *vt* make legal: *~ the sale of alcoholic drinks*.

legal-iz-ation (also **-isation**) /li:'gələɪ'zeɪʃn/ *US*: -lɪ'z-/ *n* [U]

leg-ation /lɪ'getʃn/ *n* [C] (house, offices, etc, of a) diplomatic minister below the rank of ambassador, with his staff, representing his government in a foreign country.

leg-end /'ledʒənd/ *n* **1** [C] old story handed down from the past, esp one of doubtful truth: *the Greek ~s*. **2** [U] literature of such stories: *heroes who are famous in ~*. **3** [C] inscription on a coin or medal. **4** [C] explanatory words on a map, a picture, etc.

leg-end-ary /'ledʒəndəri/ *US*: -dəri/ *adj* famous, known only, in legends: *~ary heroes*.

leger /'ledʒə(r)/ ⇨ **ledger** (2).

leg-gings /'legɪŋz/ *n pl* outer covering, of leather or strong cloth, for the leg up to the knee, or (for small children) for the whole of the leg: *a pair of ~s*.

leggy /'legi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (esp of young children, colts, etc) having long legs.

leg-ible /'ledʒəbl/ *adj* (of handwriting, print) that can be read easily.

leg-ibly /-əbli/ *adv*

legi-bil-ity /'ledʒə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

legion /'li:dʒən/ *n* [C] **1** division of several thousand men in the armies of ancient Rome. **2** great number (of armed men). **3** any great amount or number.

(**French**) **Foreign Legion**, body of non-French volunteers who serve in the French army, usually overseas.

legis-late /'ledʒɪsleɪt/ *vi* make laws: *~ against gambling*.

legis-la-tion /'ledʒɪs'leɪʃn/ *n* [U].

legis-lat-ive /'ledʒɪsleɪtɪv/ *US*: -leɪtɪv/ *adj* of, having the duty or purpose of, making laws: *~ reforms/ assemblies*.

legis-la-tor /'ledʒɪsleɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] member of a legislative body.

legis-la-ture /'ledʒɪsleɪtʃə(r)/ *n* [C] assembly which makes laws, eg Parliament in GB.

le-git-imacy /lɪ'dʒɪtɪməsi/ *n* [U] being legitimate.

le-git-imate /lɪ'dʒɪtɪmət/ *adj* **1** lawful, regu-

lar: *the ~ king*. **2** reasonable; that can be justified: *a ~ reason for being absent from work*. **3** born of persons married to one another; the result of lawful marriage: *of ~ birth*.

le-git-imate-ly *adv*

le-git-ima-tize (also **-ise**) /lɪ'dʒɪtɪmətaɪz/ *vt* make legitimate.

leg-umin-ous /lɪ'gju:mɪnəs/ *adj* of, like, the botanical family that includes peas and beans (and other seeds in pods).

lei-sure /'leɪʒə(r)/ *US*: 'li:ʒər/ *n* [U] spare time; time free from work.

lei-sure-ly *adv* without hurrying: *work ~ly*. □ *adj* unhurried: *~ly movements*.

lemon /'lemən/ *n* [C] (tree with a) pale yellow fruit with acid juice used for drinks and flavouring; [U] colour of this fruit.

lemon curd, jam made from lemons boiled with sugar.

lemon squash, drink of lemon-juice and water or soda-water.

lemon squeezer, device for pressing juice out of a lemon.

lem-on-ade /'lemə'neɪd/ *n* [C,U] drink made from lemons, sugar and water.

lemur /'li:mə(r)/ *n* [C] (kinds of) nocturnal animal similar to a monkey but with a face like a fox.

lend /lend/ *vt* (*pt, pp* lent /lent/) **1** give (a person) the use of (something) on the understanding that it or its equivalent will be returned: *I will ~ you £100*. **lend sb a hand (with sth)**, help. **2** contribute: *facts that ~ probability to a theory*. **3** help or serve: *This hot weather ~s itself to (= is favourable for) sleeping*.

len-der, person who lends.

length /leŋθ/ *n* [C] **1** measurement from end to end (space or time): *a river 300 miles in ~*; *the ~ of time needed for the work*. **at length**, (a) at last (which is more usual); finally. (b) for a long time: *speak at (great) ~*. (c) in detail; thoroughly: *treat a subject at ~*. **2** measurement of a particular thing from end to end: *The horse won by a ~*, by its own length. **3** extent; extreme. **go to any length(s)**, do anything necessary to get what one wants or needs. **4** piece of cloth, etc long enough for a purpose: *a dress ~*; *a ~ of tubing/pipe*.

lengthen /leŋθən/ *vt, vi* make or become longer: *~en a skirt*. *The days ~en in March*.

length-wise /-waɪz/, **length-ways** /-weɪz/ *adv, adj* in the direction from end to end.

lengthy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (of speech, writing) very long; too long.

leni-ent /'li:nɪənt/ *adj* not severe (esp in punishing people): *~ towards juvenile offenders*.

leni-ence /-əns/, **leni-ency** /-ənsɪ/ *n* [U] being lenient.

leni-ent-ly *adv*

lens /lenz/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) **1** piece of glass or

substance like glass with one or both sides curved, for use in spectacles, cameras, telescopes, microscopes and other optical instruments. **2** transparent part of the eye through which light is refracted.

lent /lent/ *pt, pp* of lend.

Lent /lent/ *n* (in Christian Churches) annual period of forty days before Easter, observed by devout persons as a period of fasting and penitence.

Lenten /'lentən/ *adj* of Lent: ~en services.

len-til /'lentl/ *n* [C] kind of bean plant; edible seed of this: ~ soup.

Leo /'li:əʊ/ *n* the lion, the fifth sign of the zodiac.

leopard /'lepəd/ *n* [C] large African and South Asian flesh-eating animal of the cat family with a yellow coat and dark spots.

leopard-ess /'lepədis/ *n* [C] female leopard.

leper /'lepə(r)/ *n* [C] person suffering from leprosy.

lep-rosy /'leprəsi/ *n* [U] skin disease that forms scales on the skin, causes local insensitivity to pain, etc and the loss of fingers and toes.

lep-rous /'leprəs/ *adj* of, having, leprosy.

les-bian /'lezbiən/ *n* [C] homosexual woman. *adj* of lesbians: a ~ relationship.

lesion /'li:zn/ *n* [C] **1** wound. **2** harmful change in the tissues of a bodily organ, caused by injury or disease.

less /les/ *adj* (contrasted with *more*) **1** not so much; a smaller quantity of: ~ butter/food/speed. *⇒* little¹(4). **2 less than**, I have ~ money than you. *⇒* *adv* **1** to a smaller extent; not so much: Eat ~, drink ~, and sleep more. **2** not so: Tom is ~ clever than his brother. **3 the less**, (as in): The ~ you worry about it the better it will be. *⇒* the. **no less**, (as in): He won no ~ than £50 (expressing surprise at the amount). **even/still less**, (as in): I don't suspect him of robbery, still ~ of robbery with violence. **none the less**, (all the same): Though he cannot leave the house, he is none the ~ busy and active. *□ n* [U] smaller amount, quantity, time, etc: in ~ than an hour; ~ than £50. *□ prep* minus; without: £50 a week ~ £10 for the rent.

-less /-lis/ *suffix* (noun + ~ = adjective) without: priceless.

-lessly /-lɪslɪ/ *adv*

-lessness /-lɪsnɪs/ *n*

les-see /le'si:/ *n* [C] *⇒* lease.

les-sen /'lesn/ *vt, vi* **1** make or become less: to ~ the impact/effect. **2** cause (something) to appear smaller, less important: ~ a person's contribution.

les-ser /'lesə(r)/ *adj* not so great as the other: choose the ~ evil. **to a lesser extent**, lower, smaller, in range, importance, value, etc.

les-son /'lesn/ *n* [C] **1** something to be learnt or taught; period of time given to learning or

teaching: 'English ~s. **2** (pl) children's education in general: Tom is very fond of his ~s. **3** something serving as an example or a warning: Let his fate be a ~ to you all! **4** passage from the Bible read aloud during a church service.

les-sor /les'ɔ:(r)/ *n* [C] *⇒* lease.

lest /lest/ *conj* (dated) **1** for fear that: He ran away ~ he should be seen. **2** (after fear, be afraid, anxious) that: We were afraid ~ he arrive too late.

let¹ /let/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp ~) (-tt-) (For uses with adverbial particles and prepositions *⇒* 6 below.)

1 allow (to): Her father will not ~ her go to the dance. Her father won't ~ her (go). **let a/alone**, (informal) not to mention: There were five people in the car, ~ alone the luggage and the two dogs! **let oneself go**, no longer hold back one's feelings, desires, etc. **let it go at that**, say or do no more about it: I disagree but we'll ~ it go at that. **let sb know**, inform him. **live and let live**, *⇒* live²(2). **let sb/sth loose**, release him/it. **let sth pass**, disregard it. **2** (used in imperatives or to order): L~s go! Don't ~s start yet! L~ her do it at once. L~ me be! Stop annoying/holding me! **3** (of permission or an assumption): L~ AB be equal to CD. L~ them all come! **4** give the use of (buildings, land) in return for regular money payments: This house is to be ~. **5** (in surgery) **let blood**, cause it to flow. Hence, **'blood-letting** *n*

6 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

let sth down, lower; put or take down: Please ~ the window down. This skirt needs ~ing down, lengthening by lowering the hemline. **let sb down**, (fig) disappoint; fail to help: Harry will never ~ you down. Hence, **'let-down**, *n* [C] disappointment. **let the side down**, *⇒* side¹(10).

let sb/sth in/into sth, allow to enter: Windows ~ in the light and air. Who ~ you into the building? **let sb in for**, involve in loss, difficulty, hard work, etc: He didn't realize how much work he was ~ing himself in for when he became chairman.

let sb into/in on, allow to share (a secret): She has been ~ into (= told) the secret.

let sb off, excuse, not punish (severely): He was ~ off with a fine instead of being sent to prison. Hence, **'let-off**, *n* [C] escape (from punishment). **let sth off**, explode: The boys were ~ing off fireworks.

let 'on (that), (informal) reveal a secret: He knew where the boy was but he didn't ~ on.

let sb/sth out, allow to go (flow, etc) out: He ~ the air out of the tyres. **let sth out**, make (clothes, etc) looser, larger, etc: He's getting so fat that his trousers need to be ~ out round the waist.

let sb/sth through, allow to pass (an ex-

amination, etc): *He got only 40% so the examiners couldn't possibly ~ him through.*

let up, become less strong, etc: *Will the rain never ~ up?* Hence, **'let-up**, *n* (informal): *There has been no ~-up in the rain since last Friday.*

let² /let/ *n* [C] (from let¹ (4)) lease: *I can't find a ~ for my house, can find no one willing to rent it from me.*

let-ting, (dated) property that is let: *a furnish-ed ~-ting.*

let³ /let/ *n* [C] **1** hindrance, esp in the legal phrase: *without ~ or hindrance.* **2** (tennis) ball which when served, hits the net before dropping into the opponent's court.

-let /-lɪt/ suffix small: *booklet; piglet.*

lethal /'li:θl/ *adj* causing, designed to cause, death: *a ~ dose of poison.*

leth-argy /'leðədʒi/ *n* [U] (state of) being tired, uninterested.

leth-ar-gic /'li:θɑ:dʒɪk/ *adj*

leth-ar-gi-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

let's /lets/ = *let us*. ⇨ **let¹** (2).

let-ter /'letə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** character or sign representing a sound, of which words in writing are formed: *capital ~s* (A, B, C, etc) and *small ~s* (a, b, c, etc). *Do you have any ~s* (eg BA) *after your name?* **2** written message, request, account of events, etc sent by one person to another: *I have some ~s to write.* **to the let-ter**, paying strict attention to the actual wording, to every detail: *carry out an order to the ~.* **3** (pl) literature and learning. ⇨ **man¹** (1).

'letter-box, (a) slot in a door for letters. (b) box (in the street, at a post office) in which letters are posted. (c) box (in a building) for receiving letters from the post.

'letter-head, (sheet of paper with a) printed name and address, eg of a business firm.

let-ter-ing /'letərɪŋ/ *n* [U] letters, words, esp with reference to their style and size: *the ~ing on a book cover.*

let-tuce /'letɪs/ *n* [C] garden plant with crisp green leaves used in salads; [U] these leaves as food.

leu-ke-mia /lu:'ki:mɪə/ *n* [U] (usually fatal) disease in which there are too many white blood-cells, causing anaemia.

level¹ /'levl/ *adj* **1** having a horizontal surface: ~ ground. **2** equal: *draw ~ with the other runners.* **3** *have a level head*, be well-balanced, able to judge well. Hence, **'level-headed** *adj.* *do one's level best*, do everything possible.

'level 'crossing, place where a road and a railway cross on the same level.

level² /'levl/ *n* **1** [C] line or surface parallel with the horizon; such a surface with reference to its height: *1000 metres above sea ~.* **2** natural or right position, stage, social standing, etc: *He has found his own ~, (fig) has found the kind of people with whom he is morally, so-*

cially or intellectually equal. **3** [U] (group of persons having) equal position or rank: *top-~ 'talks*, talks between persons in the highest positions (in government, etc). **4** **on the level**, (informal) honest(ly); straightforward(ly): *Is he on the ~?*

O-/A-level (examination), level of achievement (Ordinary/Advanced) in school-leaving examinations in England and Wales.

level³ /'levl/ *vt, vi* (-ll-, US -l-) **1** make or become level or flat: ~ a building with the ground.

level off/out, (fig) reach a point beyond which no further increase or progress is likely: *Inflation seems to have ~ed off at 20%.* **2** make (two or more things, persons) equal in status, etc. **3** aim (a weapon, criticism, at): ~ a gun at a tiger. **level sth against sb**, put forward (a charge, an accusation, etc). **4** **level with sb**, (informal) be honest, give him information.

lever /'li:və(r) *US*: 'levər/ *n* [C] **1** bar or other tool used to lift something or to force something open. **2** (fig) means by which force may be used: *using our oil as a ~ in the negotiations.* □ *vt* move (something up, along, into/out of position, etc) with a lever.

lever-age /-ɪdʒ/ *n* [U] action of, power or advantage gained by, using a lever.

lev-er-et /'levərɪt/ *n* [C] young (esp first-year) hare.

levi-tate /'levɪteɪt/ *vt, vi* (with reference to powers claimed by spiritualists) (cause to) rise and float in the air in defiance of gravity.

levi-ta-tion /,levɪ'teɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

lev-ity /'levɪti/ *n* [C,U] (pl -ies) (formal) (instance of) a tendency to treat serious matters without respect; absence of seriousness.

levy /'levɪ/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp -ied) **1** impose; collect by authority or force: ~ a tax/a fine. **2** **levy war on/upon/against**, declare, make, war on. **3** **levy on**, seize by law: ~ on a person's property. □ *n* [C] (pl -ies) act, amount, of levying.

lewd /lu:d/ *adj* indecent; lustful.

lewd-ly *adv*

lexi-cal /'leksɪkl/ *adj* of the vocabulary of a language.

lexi-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

lexi-cog-ra-phy /,leksɪ'kɒgrəfi/ *n* [U] dictionary compiling.

lexi-cog-ra-pher /,leksɪ'kɒgrəfə(r)/ *n* [C] person who compiles a dictionary.

lexi-con /'leksɪkən *US*: -kən/ *n* [C] dictionary (esp of Greek, Latin or Hebrew).

lexis /'leksɪs/ *n* [U] (formal) (person's) vocabulary.

lia-bil-ity /,laɪə'bɪləti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] the state of being liable: ~ to pay taxes. **2** (pl) obligations; sums of money that must be paid (contrasted with assets). **3** [C] (informal) hand-dicap: *His house is more of a ~ than an asset.*

liable /'laɪəbl/ *adj* **1** responsible according to

law: *Is a man ~ for his son's debts in your country?* **2** *be liable to sth*, be subject to: *be ~ to a heavy fine*. **3** *be liable to do sth*, have a tendency to, be likely to: *We are all ~ to make mistakes occasionally*.

li-aison /li'eizn/ US: 'li:ənz/ **n** 1 [U] connection between two separated parts of an army, a committee, etc or two different armies, committees, etc. **2** [C] illicit sexual relationship.

li-aise /li'eiz/ *vi* act as a link (with, between): *liaising with other staff members*.

liar /'liə(r)/ **n** [C] person who tells, or who has told, a lie.

lib /lib/ **n** (informal abbr for) liberation.

women's lib, movement (early 1970's) for the liberation of women from social and economic inequalities.

li-ba-tion /laɪ'beɪʃn/ **n** [C] (pouring out of an) offering of wine, etc to honour a god: *make a ~ to Jupiter*.

li-bel /'laɪbl/ **n** 1 [C,U] (the publishing of a) written or printed statement that damages a person's reputation: *sue for ~*. **2** [C] (informal) anything that brings discredit on or fails to do justice to: *The portrait is a ~ on me*. □ *vt* (-ll-, US -l-) publish a libel against; fail to do full justice to.

li-bel-lous (US = **li-bel-ous**) /'laɪbələs/ **adj** (a) containing, in the nature of, a libel: *~lous reports*. (b) in the habit of using libels: *a ~lous person/periodical*.

lib-eral /'libərəl/ **adj** 1 giving or given freely; generous: *a ~ supply of food and drink*. 2 having, showing, a mind free from prejudice. 3 (of education) directed chiefly towards creating a tolerant mind with a wide knowledge, not specially to professional or technical needs: *the ~ arts*, eg philosophy, history, languages.

4 **L**~, of the British political party with this name. ⇨ below. □ **n** [C] 1 person with moderate progressive views. **2** **L**~, member, supporter, of the Liberal Party.

the 'Liberal Party, (GB) one of the main political parties, favouring moderate reforms.

lib-er-al-ism /-ɪzəm/ **n** [U] liberal views, opinions and principles.

lib-er-al-ize (also -ise) /'libərəlaɪz/ *vt* make liberal.

lib-er-al-iz-ation (also -isation) /,libərəlaɪ'zeɪʃn/ US: -lɪ'z-/ **n** [U]

lib-er-ally /'libərəli/ *adv* generously.

lib-er-al-ity /,libərə'leɪti/ **n** (formal) (pl -ies) 1 [U] generosity; freedom from prejudice. 2 (pl) instances of generosity.

lib-er-ate /'libərəɪt/ *vt* set free: *~ the mind from prejudice*.

lib-er-ation /,libərə'reɪʃn/ **n** [U] liberating or being liberated. ⇨ lib.

lib-er-ator /-tə(r)/ **n** [C] person who liberates.

lib-erty /'libərti/ **n** (pl -ies) 1 [U] state of being free (from captivity, slavery, imprisonment, despotic control, government by others); right

or power to decide for oneself what to do, how to live, etc: *They fought to defend their ~*. **at liberty**, (of a person) free; not imprisoned: *You are now at ~ to leave any time*, may do so.

2 [U] unasked for and sometimes improper familiarity. **take the liberty of doing sth/to do sth**: *I took the ~ of borrowing your lawn-mower while you were away on holiday*. **take liberties with**: *You must stop taking liberties with the young woman*, stop treating her with too much familiarity.

Libra /'li:bərə/ **n** the Scales or Balance, the seventh sign of the zodiac.

li-brar-ian /laɪ'breəriən/ **n** [C] person in charge of a library (1).

li-brar-ian-ship **n** [C] profession, duties, of a librarian.

li-brary /'laɪbrəri/ US: -breri/ **n** [C] (pl -ies) 1 room or building for a collection of books kept there for reading; the books in such a room or building: *a public ~*; *a 'reference ~*, one in which books may be consulted but not taken away. **2** (used as an adjective): *a 'book*. **3** writing and reading room in a private house.

li-bret-tist /li'bretɪst/ **n** [C] author of the words of an opera, etc.

li-bretto /li'bretəʊ/ **n** [C] (pl ~s or -ti /-ti:/) book of words of an opera, etc.

lice /laɪs/ **n** pl of louse.

li-cence (US = **li-ense**) /laɪns/ **n** 1 [C,U] (written or printed statement giving) permission from someone in authority to do something: *a ~ to drive a car/a 'driving ~*. **2** [U] excessive or wrong use of freedom: *The ~ shown by the troops when they entered enemy territory disgusted everyone*. ⇨ also poetic licence; off-licence.

li-cense (also **li-ence**) /laɪns/ *vt* give a licence to: *shops ~d to sell tobacco*.

li-cen-see /,laɪns'si:/ **n** [C] person holding a licence (esp to sell alcohol).

li-cen-tiate /laɪ'senʃiət/ **n** [C] person who has a licence or certificate showing that he is competent to practice a profession.

li-cen-tious /laɪ'senʃəs/ **adj** immoral (esp in sexual matters).

li-cen-tious-ly *adv*

li-chee, **li-chi** /laɪtʃi:/ **n** [C] variant spellings of lychee.

lich-gate, **lych-gate** /lɪtʃgeɪt/ **n** [C] roofed gateway of a churchyard, where, at a funeral, the coffin used to await the arrival of the clergyman.

licit /lɪsɪt/ **adj** lawful; permitted.

lick /lɪk/ *vt, vi* 1 pass the tongue over or under: *The cat was ~ing its paws*. **lick sb's boots**, (informal) behave towards him like a slave, and in a cowardly, undignified way. **lick one's lips**, show eagerness or satisfaction. **lick into shape**, make satisfactory (esp of health). **lick one's wounds**, go away and

recover from experience of any form of defeat and plan a new attempt. **2** (esp of waves, flames) touch lightly: *The flames ~ed up the dry grass.* **3** (informal) overcome; triumph over. □ *n* [C] act of licking with the tongue. **give sth a lick and a promise**, a quick clean, polish, etc.

licking *n* [C] (dated informal) beating; defeat: *Our football team got such a ~ing yesterday.*

licor-ice /'likəris/ *n* = liquorice.

lid /lɪd/ *n* [C] **1** movable cover (hinged or detachable) for an opening, esp at the top of a container: *the teapot ~* **2** = eyelid.

lido /'li:dəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) open-air swimming pool.

lie¹ /laɪ/ *vi* (*pt* *pp* ~d, *present participle* lying), *n* [C] (make a) statement that one knows to be untrue: *tell ~s. He ~d to me. He's lying. What a pack of ~s!* ⇨ *pack*¹ (3), also white lie.

'lie detector, device which records the pattern of heartbeats, etc caused by emotional stresses while a person is being questioned.

lie² /laɪ/ *vi* (*pt* lay /leɪ/, *pp* lain /leɪn/, *present participle* lying) **1** be, put oneself, flat on a horizontal surface or in a resting position: ~ on one's back/side. *He lay on the grass enjoying the sunshine. (not) take sth lying down.* (not) submit to a challenge, an insult without protest. **lie in**, stay in bed after one's usual time. Hence, **'lie-in** *n*: *have a nice ~ in on Sunday morning.* **lie low**, ⇨ *low*¹ (1). **2** (of things) be resting flat on something: *The book lay open on the table.* **3** be kept, remain, in a certain state or position: *money lying idle in the bank. The snow lay thick on the ground.* **lie heavy on sth**, cause discomfort, trouble, distress: *The theft lay heavy on his conscience.* **4** be spread out to view; extend: *The valley lay before us. If you are young, your life still ~s before you.* **see/find out how the 'land lies**, (fig) learn how matters stand. **5** be situated: *ships lying at anchor. The fleet lay off the headland.* **lie 'to**, (of a ship) come almost to a stop, facing the wind. **6** (of abstract things) exist: *The trouble ~s (= is) in the engine. He knows where his interest ~s*, where he may win an advantage, make a profit. **7** (legal) be admissible. □ *n* (*sing* only) the way something lies. **the lie of the 'land**, (a) the natural features of an area. (b) (fig) the state of affairs.

lieu /lu:/ *n* (only in) **in lieu (of)**, instead (of).

lieu-ten-ancy /leɪ'tenənsɪ/ *US*: /lu:-/ *n* [C] rank, position, of a lieutenant.

lieu-ten-ant /leɪ'tenənt/ *US*: lu:-t-/ *n* [C] **1** army officer below a captain; junior officer in the Navy. **2** (in compounds) officer with the highest rank under: ~colonel; ~commander. **3** deputy or substitute; one who acts for a superior.

life /laɪf/ *n* (*pl* lives /laɪvz/) **1** [U] active condition that distinguishes animals and plants

from earth, rock, etc: *How did ~ begin?* **2** [U] living things collectively, in general; plants, animals, people: *Is there any ~ on the planet Mars?* **3** [U] state of existence as a human being: *great loss of ~ in war.* **bring to life**, cause to live; cause to recover from a faint, an illness thought to be fatal, etc. **come to life**, recover consciousness. **run for one's/for dear life**, in order, or as if to, save oneself from death. **a matter of 'life or 'death**, one on which continued existence depends. **kiss of life**, ⇨ *kiss*. **a new lease of life**, ⇨ *lease*. **4** [C] state of existence, as an individual living being: *How many lives were lost in the disaster?* **take sb's life**, kill him. **take one's own life**, commit suicide. **cannot for the life of...**, however hard I try (= even if my life depended on it): *For the ~ of me I couldn't recall her name.* **Not on your life!** (informal) Definitely not! **5** [C] period between birth and death, or between birth and the present, or between the present and death: *He lived all his ~ in London. The murderer received a ~ sentence/was sentenced to imprisonment for ~.* **early/late in life**, during the early/late part of one's life. **have the time of one's life**, ⇨ *time*¹ (10). **6** [U] human relations; the business, pleasures, social activities, etc of the world: *There is not much ~ (eg social activity) in our small village.* **true to life**, (of a story, drama, etc) giving a true description of how people live. **7** [C,U] (way of) living; career: *Which do you prefer, town ~ or country ~?* ⇨ also *highlife*. **8** [C] biography: *He has written a new ~ of Newton.* **9** [U] activity, liveliness, interest: *The children are full of ~*, are active and cheerful. **the 'life and 'soul (of the party)**, person who is the most lively and amusing member of a social gathering. **10** [U] living form or model: *a ~ drawing; a ~ class*, (in an art school) one in which students draw or paint from living models. **11** [C] fresh start or opportunity after a narrow escape from death, disaster, etc: *They say a cat has nine lives.* **12** [C] period during which something is active or useful: *the ~ of a ship's battery.*

'life-belt, belt of cork or other material to keep a person afloat in water.

'life-blood, (a) blood necessary to life. (b) (fig) something that gives essential strength and energy.

'life-boat, (a) boat built for going to the help of persons in danger at sea along the coast. (b) boat carried on a ship for use in case the ship is in danger of sinking, etc.

'life-buoy, device to keep a person afloat in water.

'life cycle progression through different stages of development: *the ~ cycle of a frog*, from the egg to the tadpole to the final stage.

life force, vital energy thought of as work-

ing for the survival of the human race and the individual.

'life-giving *adj* that strengthens or restores physical or spiritual life.

'life-guard, (a) expert swimmer on duty at dangerous places where people swim. (b) (*pl*)

'Life Guards (a) cavalry regiment in the British army. (c) bodyguard of soldiers.

'life history, record of the life cycle of an organism.

'life-jacket, one of cork, etc or that can be inflated to keep a person afloat in water.

'life-like *adj* resembling real life; looking like the person represented: *a ~like portrait*.

'life-line, (a) rope used for saving life. (b) (*fig*) anything on which one's life depends. (c) line across the palm of the hand, alleged to show one's length of life, major events in one's life, etc.

'life-long *adj* continuing for a long time; lasting throughout life.

life peer, member of the House of Lords whose title cannot be inherited.

'life-raft, structure of wood, etc used instead of a boat, eg by swimmers.

'life science, one studying living things, eg biology, botany, zoology.

'life-size(d) *adj* (of pictures, statues, etc) having the same size, proportions, etc as the person represented.

'life-span, longest period of life of an organism known from the study of it.

'life style, way of life of a person or group.

'life-time, duration of a person's life. **the chance of a lifetime**, a good opportunity that will probably never come again.

'life-work, task to which one devotes all one's life.

life-less *adj* (a) never having had life: *~less stones*. (b) having lost life; dead. (c) dull; not lively: *answer in a ~less manner*.

life-less-ly *adv*

lifer /'laɪfə(r)/ *n* [C] (*sl*) person sentenced to life imprisonment.

lift /lɪft/ *vt, vi* 1 raise, be raised, to a higher level or position: *~ a child out of his cot. This box is too heavy for me to ~. not lift a finger*, ⇨ finger. **lift off**, (of a spacecraft) rise from the launching-site, **'lift-off** *n*: *We have ~-off*. 2 make louder: *~ (up) one's voice*. 3 make more hopeful, cheerful, etc: *The good news ~ed her spirits*. 4 (of clouds, fog, etc) rise; pass away: *The mist began to ~*. 5 remove (plants, shrubs, etc) from the ground: *~ potatoes*. 6 (*informal*) steal: *~ articles in a supermarket*. Hence, **'shoplifter**, **'shoplifting**. 7 take without permission or proper acknowledgement: *long passages ~ed from other authors*. 8 end (a ban, prohibition, blockade, siege). □ *n* [C] 1 act of lifting. **get/give sb a lift**, (a) be offered/offer a free ride in a motor-vehicle: *Can you give me a ~ to the station?* ⇨ thumb(2). (b)

(of a person's spirits) become/make more cheerful, contented: *The salary increase gave me a tremendous ~*. 2 (US = elevator) moving cage for taking people up or down to another floor.

'lift-boy/-man, one who operates a lift(2).

liga-ment /'lɪɡəmənt/ *n* [C] band of strong tissues that holds two or more bones together.

light¹ /laɪt/ *adj* (-er, -est) (opposite of *dark*) 1 (of a place) well provided with light³(1): *It's beginning to get ~*. 2 pale-coloured: *~blue/-green/-brown*.

'light-coloured *adj*

light² /laɪt/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 not heavy; not having much weight (for its size): *as ~ as air/as a feather*; *a ~ fall of snow*; *~ clothes for the summer*. 2 gentle; delicate: *give her a ~ touch on the shoulder*. 3 below the correct weight, amount, etc: *give ~ weight. We're about 50p ~ on the petty cash*, 50p is missing. 4 (of beer, wines) not very strong; (of food) easily digested; (of meals) small in quantity: *a ~ supper*. 5 (of sleep) not deep; easily disturbed; (of sleepers) easily woken. 6 (of books, plays, music) primarily for amusement, not for serious entertainment or study: *~ reading/music*. 7 (of soil) easily broken up. 8 (of taxes, punishment) not difficult to bear. 9 (of work) easily done. **make/light work of sth**, do it without much effort. 10 not serious or important: *a ~ attack of flu. make light of*, treat as if of no or little importance. □ *adv* in a light manner: *sleep ~; travel ~*, with little luggage.

'light-¹fingered *adj* skilful in using the fingers, esp as a pickpocket.

'light-¹footed *adj* moving with light(2), easy steps.

'light-¹handed *adj* (a) having a light(2) hand. (b) not carrying much.

'light-¹headed *adj* (a) dizzy; delirious. (b) frivolous.

'light-¹hearted *adj* cheerful; gay.

'light-¹heavyweight *n* [C], *adj* (boxer) weighing between 160 and 175 lbs (72.5 and 79.3 kg).

'light-weight *n* [C], *adj* (a) (person, animal, thing) light in weight. (b) (boxer) weighing between 126 and 135 lbs (57 and 61 kg). (c) (*informal*) person of little influence or importance.

light-ly *adv* (esp) **get off lightly**, (*informal*) avoid having to pay a lot, be punished severely, etc.

light-ness *n* [U]

light³ /laɪt/ *n* 1 [U] that which makes things visible: *the ~ of the sun/a lamp/the fire*; *'moon-~; 'sun-~. in a good/bad light*, (a) so as to be seen well/badly: *The picture has been hung in a bad ~*. (b) (*fig*) so as to make a good/bad impression: *Press reports always make him appear in a bad ~*. (go) **out like a light**, (fall) asleep, faint, etc quickly. **see the**

light, (esp) realize the truth of something that one has been opposed to. **2** [C] something that gives light, eg a candle or lamp: *'traffic ~s. Turn/Switch the ~s on/off.* **3** [C] (something used for producing a) spark or flame: *Can you give me a ~, please?* (eg for a cigarette). **4** [U] expression of brightness or liveliness in a person's face (esp in the eyes), suggesting happiness or other emotion. **5** [U] knowledge or information that helps understanding; [C] fact or discovery that explains. **come/bring sth to light**, become/cause something to be visible or known: *Much new evidence has come to ~/has been brought to ~ in recent years.* **shed/throw (a new) light on sth**, make something clearer, provide new information. **in the light of**, with the help given by or gained from. **6** [C] way in which something appears: *I've never viewed the matter in that ~.* **7** [C] famous person; person (to be) regarded as an example or model: *one of the shining ~s of our age.* **8** [C] window or opening, in a roof, for the admission of light: *a 'sky~.* **9** [C] part of a painting or photograph shown as lighted up: *~ and shade*, contrasts. ⇨ highlight.

'light bulb, glass container for an electric light.

'light-house, tower or other tall structure containing a strong, flashing light for warning or guiding ships at sea.

'light-ship, ship provided with a light, for the same purposes as those of a lighthouse.

'light year, the distance travelled by light in one year (about 6 million million miles) used to measure distances in space.

light⁴ /laɪt/ vt, vi (pt, pp lit /lɪt/) **1** cause to begin burning or to give out light: *~ a cigarette/fire.* **2** provide lights (2) to or for: *Our streets are lit by electricity.* **3** cause to become bright: *The burning building lit up the whole district.* **4** **light up**, (a) switch on (electric) light, etc: *It's getting dark—time to ~ up.* Hence, **'lighting-up time** when, according to regulations, lamps in the roads and on vehicles must be lit. (b) (informal) begin to smoke a pipe or cigarette: *He struck a match and lit up.* **5** **light up (with)**, (of a person's face or expression) (cause to) become bright: *Her face lit up with pleasure.*

light⁵ /laɪt/ vi (pt, pp lit /lɪt/) (literary) find by chance: *~ on/upon a rare book.*

lighten¹ /'laɪtn/ vt, vi **1** make or become less heavy; reduce the weight of: *~ a ship's cargo.* **2** (fig): *Her heart ~ed when she heard the news.*

lighten² /'laɪtn/ vt, vi **1** make (more) light or bright: *using white paint to ~ the room.* **2** become light or bright: *The eastern sky ~ed.* **3** send out lightning: *It's thundering and ~ing.*

lighter¹ /'laɪtə(r)/ n [C] **1** device for lighting cigarettes or cigars. **2** (chiefly in compounds) person or thing that lights: *a 'lamp~, man who lit gas-lamps.*

lighter² /'laɪtə(r)/ n [C] shallow boat used for loading and unloading ships not brought to a wharf, and for carrying goods in a harbour or river.

light-ning /'laɪtnɪŋ/ n [U] flash of bright light produced by natural electricity between clouds in the sky or clouds and the ground, with thunder: *be struck/killed by ~.* **like lightning**: *with lightning speed*, very fast.

'lightning-rod/-conductor, metal rod fixed on the top of a high building, etc and connected to the earth, to prevent damage by lightning.

lights /laɪts/ n pl lungs of sheep, pigs, bullocks, etc used as food for pet animals.

lik-able (also **like-able**) /'laɪkəbl/ adj of a kind that is, or deserves to be, liked: *He's a very ~ person.*

like¹ /laɪk/ adj similar; having the same or similar qualities, etc; having a resemblance: *The two girls are very ~.* ⇨ alike. **Like** **'father, like 'son**. As the one is, so the other will be. □ conj as: *She can't cook ~ her mother (does).* □ n **1** [C] similar person or thing; that which is equal or similar to something else: *Music, painting and the ~, and similar branches of the arts.* **2** (pl) (informal) similar persons, things, etc: *Have you ever seen the ~s of this?* □ prep **1** such as; resembling: *What is he ~?* What sort of person is he—in looks, behaviour, etc, according to the situation? **nothing like**, nothing to be compared with: *There's nothing ~ walking as a means of keeping fit. This is nothing ~ as good, not nearly so good.* **something like**, nearly; about: *The cost will be something ~ five pounds.* **2** **'feel like**, be in a suitable state or mood for: *She felt ~ crying. We'll go for a walk if you feel ~ it.* **'look like**, look as if a person or thing might (used to show probability or in likelihood): *It looks ~ rain.* **3** characteristic of: *Isn't that just ~ a man!* **4** in the manner of; to the same degree as: *Don't talk ~ that, in that way. It fits him ~ a glove, closely, tightly (ie well). He drinks ~ a fish, a great deal.* **5** **like 'anything**, (st) as hard, etc as can be expected or imagined: *She works ~ anything when she's interested.* **like 'mad/'crazy**, as if crazy: *He complains ~ mad when things go wrong.* **like 'hell**, (a) furiously; energetically: *He moans ~ 'hell when he loses a bet.* (b) (used for emphasis): *'But you were there, weren't you? 'L~ hell, I was! I certainly wasn't!*

'like-'minded adj having the same tastes, aims, etc.

like² /laɪk/ vt, vi **1** be fond of; have a taste for; find satisfactory or agreeable: *Do you ~ fish? She ~s him but she doesn't love him. Well, I ~ that!* (what has been said or done is surprising, unexpected, unacceptable, etc). **2** (in negative sentences) be unwilling or reluctant: *I didn't ~*

to disturb you. **3** *would/should like*, (of a wish): *She would ~ a cup of tea. How can she explain that, I should ~ to know*, (often ironic, meaning that it would be difficult to explain, etc). **4** prefer; choose; wish: *I ~ people to tell the truth. How do you ~ your tea?* **if you like**, (used to express consent to a request or suggestion): *I'll come if you ~*. **5** suit the health of: *I ~ lobster but it doesn't ~ me*, it gives me indigestion. □ *n* (*pl*) (only in) **'likes** and **'dislikes**, things one prefers or hates.

-like /-laɪk/ suffix resembling: *childlike*.

like-li-hood /'laɪklɪhʊd/ *n* [U] probability: *There is a strong ~ of rain tomorrow.*

like-ly /'laɪkli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** that seems reasonable or suitable for a purpose: *What do you think is the likeliest/the most ~ time to find him at home?* *That's a ~ story/excuse*, I don't believe you. **2** to be expected (to...): *He is not ~ to succeed. It's highly (= very) ~ that he will succeed.* □ *adv* **most/very likely**, probably: *I shall very ~ be here again next month.* **as likely as not**, with greater probability: *He will succeed as ~ as not.* **not likely**, (used as an int): *'Will you come to the pop concert?' 'Not ~!' I certainly will not!*

liken /'laɪkn/ *vt* *liken sth to sth*, point out the likeness of one thing (to another): *~ the heart to a pump.*

like-ness /'laɪknɪs/ *n* **1** [U] resemblance; being like: *I can't see much ~ between the two boys.* **2** [C] detail, instance, of being like: *There's a family ~ in all of them.* **3** [C] copy, portrait, picture, photograph: *The portrait is a good ~.*

like-wise /'laɪkwəɪz/ *adv* in the same or a similar way: *Watch him and do ~.* □ *conj* also; moreover.

lik-ing /'laɪkɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** being fond of: *L ~ is not the same as loving.* **2** (with *a*, but not *pl*) fondness. **have a liking for**, be fond of. **to one's liking**, as one likes it; satisfactory: *Is everything to your ~? take a liking to*, become fond of.

li-lac /'laɪlək/ *n* **1** [C] shrub with sweet-smelling pale purple or white blossom. **2** [U] pale purple or pinkish-purple: (used as an adjective) *a ~ dress.*

lilt /lɪlt/ *n* [C] (lively song or tune with a) well-marked rhythm. □ *vt, vi* go, sing with a lilt: *a ~ing waltz.*

lily /'lɪli/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (kinds of) plant growing from a bulb, of many sizes, shapes and colours: *'waterlilies.*

'lily-livered *adj* cowardly.

'lily-white *adj* (a) pure white. (b) (informal) (of a person) pure.

limb /lɪm/ *n* [C] **1** leg, arm or wing: *escape with life and ~, without serious injury.* **2** bough (of a tree). **leave sb/be/go out on a limb**, (informal) leave a person/be/put oneself in a position that can be attacked, eg because separated

from supporters.

-limbed /lɪmd/ suffix: *long-/strong-~*, having long/strong limbs.

lim-ber /'lɪmbə(r)/ *vt, vi* **limber (oneself)** *up*, make oneself fit with loose muscles ready for athletics or sport, by exercising.

limbo /'lɪmbəʊ/ *n* [U] condition of being forgotten and unwanted. **in limbo**, (informal) put to one side: *The idea is in ~ until the new Manager is appointed.*

lime /laɪm/ *n* [U] white substance used in making cement and mortar.

'lime-light, intense white light produced by heating a rod of lime in a very hot flame, formerly used for lighting the stage in theatres. **fond of/in the limelight**, liking/receiving great publicity.

'lime-stone, (kinds of) rock containing lime quarried for industrial use.

lime² /laɪm/ *n* [C] (also *linden*) tree with smooth heart-shaped leaves and sweet-smelling yellow blossoms.

lime³ /laɪm/ *n* [C] (tree with) round juicy fruit like, but more acid than, a lemon.

'lime-juice, juice of this fruit used for flavouring and as a drink.

lim-er-ick /'lɪmərɪk/ *n* [C] humorous or nonsense poem of five lines.

limit¹ /'lɪmɪt/ *n* [C] line or point that may not or cannot be passed; greatest or smallest amount, degree, etc of what is possible: *within a ~ of five miles/a five-mile ~. We must set a ~ to the expense of the trip. She has reached the ~ of her patience. She/That really is the ~!* She is the worst example! I am not going to put up with any more! ⇨ also age limit. **within limits**, in moderation: *I'm willing to help you, within ~s.* **off limits**, (US) = out of bounds.

limit² /'lɪmɪt/ *vt* put a limit or limits to; be the limit of: *We must ~ our spending to what we can afford.*

lim-ited *pp* small; restricted; narrow: *Accommodation is very ~ed.*

'limited, **'liability company**, (abbr **Ltd**) placed after the name) business whose members are liable for its debts only for the amount they have provided.

lim-it-less *adj* without limit: *~less ambitions.*

limi-ta-tion /,lɪmɪ'teɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] limiting; condition of being limited. **2** [C] condition, fact or circumstance that limits; disability or inability: *He knows his ~s, knows the extent of his ability.*

limou-sine /'lɪməzɪn/ *n* [C] car with the front seats separated from the back seats by means of a partition (as in a London taxi).

limp¹ /lɪmp/ *adj* not stiff or firm; without strength: *The flowers looked ~ in the heat.*

limp-ly *adv*

limp-ness *n* [U]

limp² /lɪmp/ *vt* walk lamely or unevenly as

when one leg or foot is hurt or stiff: *The wounded soldier ~ed off the battlefield. The damaged ship ~ed* (= managed with difficulty to get) *back to port.* □ *n* [U] (usually with *a, an*) walk that is not normal because of an injury, etc: *have/walk with a bad ~.*

lim-pet /'lɪmpɪt/ *n* [C] **1** small shellfish that fastens itself tightly to rocks. **2** (fig) person who holds on tightly to a position or another person.

lim-pid /'lɪmpɪd/ *adj* (of liquids, the atmosphere, the eyes) clear; transparent.

linch-pin /'lɪntʃpɪn/ *n* [C] **1** iron pin passed through the end of an axle to keep the wheel in position. **2** (fig) vital part; person who, because of his work, etc keeps an organization, etc together.

lin-den /'lɪndən/ *n* ⇨ lime².

line¹ /laɪn/ *n* [C] **1** piece or length of thread, string, rope or wire for various purposes: *many 'fishing/'telephone/'washing ~s. L~ engaged!* (US = L~ busy) used of a telephone line already in use. ⇨ hot line. **2** [C] long, narrow mark made on a surface: *Draw a ~ from A to B.* **3** [U] the use of lines (2) in art, etc: *a'~ drawing*, eg with a pen or pencil. **4** (in games) mark made to limit a court or ground, or special parts of them: *Did the ball cross the ~?*

5 crease on the skin of the face; furrow or wrinkle; one of the marks on the palm of the hand. **6** (pl) contour; outline: *a dress with flattering ~s.* **7** row of persons or things: *a ~ of trees/chairs/people; manufactured goods on the assembly ~.* **in line (for)**, next in order for: *He's in ~ for promotion.* **stand in line**, (esp US) form a queue. **8** edge, boundary, that divides: *cross the ~ into Canada* (ie from US). **draw the line (at)**, ⇨ draw² (11). **9** railway; single track of railway lines: *the main ~; a 'branch ~.* **reach the end of the 'line**, (fig) (of a relationship) reach the point where it breaks down, ends. **10** organized system of transport under one management and giving a regular service: *an 'air~.* **11** direction; course; track; way of behaviour, dealing with a situation, etc: *'communication ~s. Don't stand in the ~ of fire!* **choose/follow/take the line of least resistance**, the easiest way of doing things. **take a strong/firm line (over sth)**, deal with a problem, etc in a firm (2) manner: *Should the government take a stronger ~ over inflation?* **(be/get) in/out of line (with)**, in agreement/disagreement (with). **come/fall into line (with)**, accept views, conform, agree. **follow the party 'line**, vote, speak, in agreement with established political party policy. **toe the line**, ⇨ toe v. **12** connected series of persons following one another in time, esp of the same ancestry: *a long ~ of great kings.* **13** row of words on a page of writing or in print: *page 5, ~ 10.* *The leading actor was not sure of his ~s.* **drop sb a**

line, (informal) write a short letter to somebody. **read between the lines**, ⇨ read (6). **14** series of connected military defence posts, trenches, etc: *the front/enemy ~s.* **15** (mil) row of tents, huts, etc in a camp: *inspect the ~s; the 'horse ~s.* **16** business; occupation: *He's in the 'grocery ~.* *That's not much in my ~,* (fig) I don't know/care much about it. **17** class of commercial goods: *a cheap ~ in denim jeans.* **18** (pl) conditions of life; fate. **Hard lines!** Bad luck!

line² /laɪn/ *vt, vi* **1** mark with lines: *~d paper*, with lines printed on it. **2** cover with lines: *a face ~d with anxiety.* **3 line up**, (cause to) be in a line, get into a line: *The soldiers quickly ~d up.* ⇨ line-up below. **4** form, be placed, in a line or lines along: *a road ~d with trees/spectators.*

line³ /laɪn/ *vt* **1** add a layer of material to the inside of (bags, boxes, articles of clothing): *fur-~d gloves.* **2** (fig) fill (one's purse, pocket, stomach, etc): *He has ~d his pockets with bribes.* ⇨ lining.

lin-eage /'lɪnɪdʒ/ *n* [U] (formal) = ancestry.

lin-eal /'lɪniəl/ *adj* in the direct line of descent (from father to son, etc): *a ~ descendant/heir.*

lin-eal-ly /-iəlɪ/ *adv*

lin-ear /'lɪnɪə(r)/ *adj* **1** of or in lines: *a ~ design.* **2** of length: *~ measurement.*

linen /'lɪnɪn/ *n* [U] cloth made of flax; articles made from this cloth, esp sheets, tablecloths, etc. **wash one's dirty linen in public**, discuss family quarrels, unpleasant personal affairs, etc in the presence of other people.

liner /'laɪnə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** ship or aircraft of a line (10): *a jet 'air~.* **2** (also 'freight ~) long-distance express goods train between industrial centres and seaports, with facilities for fast (un)loading of goods. **3** cosmetic for drawing lines round the eyes: *an 'eye-~.*

lines-man /'laɪnzmə(n)/ *n* [C] (sport) person who helps the umpire or referee by saying whether or where the ball touches or crosses one of the lines.

line-up /'laɪn ʌp/ *n* [C] **1** way in which persons, states, etc are arranged or allied: *a new ~ of political parties; a ~ of men in an identification parade.* **2** formation of players ready for action (in a game such as baseball or football). **3** arrangement of items (esp in a radio or TV programme): *This evening's ~ includes an interview with the Chairman of British Rail.*

lin-ger /'lɪŋɡə(r)/ *vi* be late or slow in going away; stay at or near a place: *~ about/around.*

'ling-er-er, person who lingers.

ling-er-ing *adj* long; prolonged: *a ~ing illness; a ~ing look*, one showing regret; unwillingness to leave or give up something: *a few ~ing (= remaining) doubts.*

ling-er-ing-ly *adv*

linge-rie /'lɪŋɡəri/ *US: -reɪ/ n* [U] (Fr) (trade name for) women's underwear.

lingo /'lɪŋɡəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) language, esp one that one does not know; way of talking, vocabulary, of a special subject or class of people: *the strange ~ used by disc jockeys*.

lin-gua franca /'lɪŋɡwə 'fræŋkə(r)/ *n* [C] language adopted for local communication over an area in which several languages are spoken, eg Swahili in E Africa.

lin-gual /'lɪŋɡwəl/ *adj* of the tongue, speech or languages: *bi~*.

lin-guist /'lɪŋɡwɪst/ *n* [C] **1** person skilled in foreign languages: *She's a good ~*. **2** person who makes a scientific study of language(s).

lin-guis-tic /'lɪŋɡwɪstɪk/ *adj* of (the scientific study of) languages.

lin-guis-tics *n* (used with a *sing verb*) the science of language, eg of its structure, relationship to other forms of communication, etc.

applied lin'guistics, this study put to practical uses, esp in the teaching of languages.

lini-ment /'lɪnɪmənt/ *n* [C,U] (kind of) liquid for rubbing on stiff or aching parts of the body.

lin-ing /'lɪnɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] layer of material added to the inside of something: *a fur ~*. **Every cloud has a silver lining**, ⇨ *silver* (3). **2** [U] material used for this purpose.

link /lɪŋk/ *n* [C] **1** one ring or loop of a chain. **2** one of a pair of fasteners for the cuffs of a shirt: *'cuff-~s*. **3** person or thing that unites or connects two others: *the ~ between the past and the future*. **4** measure of length, one hundredth of a chain; 7-92 inches or about 20 centimetres. □ *vt,vi* join, be joined, with, or as with, a link: *~ things together; two towns ~ed by a canal. Where shall we ~ up, meet?*

links /lɪŋks/ *n* **1** (used with a *pl verb*) grassy land, esp near the sea. **2** (often used with *a, an* and a *sing verb*) golf-course.

lin-net /'lɪnɪt/ *n* [C] small brown songbird, common in Europe.

lino /'lɪnəʊ/ *n* [U] (abbr for) linoleum.

lin-oleum /'lɪnəʊliəm/ *n* [U] strong floor-covering of canvas treated with powdered cork and oil.

lin-seed /'lɪnsɪd/ *n* [U] seed of flax: *~oil*, used in making printing ink, linoleum, etc.

lint /lɪnt/ *n* [U] soft cotton material, used for dressing wounds.

lin-tel /'lɪntl/ *n* [C] horizontal piece of wood or stone forming the top of the frame of a door or window.

lion /'lɪən/ *n* [C] large, strong, flesh-eating animal of the cat family found in Africa and S Asia. **the lion's share**, the larger or largest part.

lion-ess /-es/ *n* [C] female lion.

lion-ize (also **-ise**) /-aɪz/ *vt* treat (a person) as a celebrity.

lip /lɪp/ *n* [C] **1** one or other of the fleshy edges

of the mouth: *the lower/upper ~*. **bite one's lip**, hide one's feelings. **curl one's lip**, show scorn. **give/pay 'lip-service to sth**, make insincere promises, express insincere regret. **keep a stiff upper lip**, ⇨ *stiff* (1). **lick/smack one's lips**, show (anticipation of) enjoyment. **2** edge of a hollow vessel or opening: *the ~ of a bowl/crater*. **3** [U] (*sl*) impudence: *That's enough of your ~!*

'lip-reading, method (taught to deaf people) of understanding speech from lip movements. Hence, **'lip-read** *vt,vi*.

'lip-stick, (stick of) cosmetic material for colouring the lips.

liquefy /'lɪkwɪfaɪ/ *vt,vi* (*pt,pp* -ied) make or become liquid.

li-queur /lɪ'kʃʊə(r) *US*: -'kær/ *n* [C,U] (kinds of) strong-flavoured alcoholic drink for taking in small quantities: *a ~ glass*, a very small one for liqueurs.

liquid /'lɪkwɪd/ *n* [C,U] substance like water or oil that flows freely and is neither a solid nor a gas. □ *adj* **1** in the form of a liquid: *~ food*, soft, easily swallowed, suitable for sick people. **2** clear, bright and looking wet: *~ eyes*, bright and shining. **3** (of sounds) clear; pure: *the ~ notes of a blackbird*. **4** easily changed: *~ opinions*. **5** (*finance*) easily sold or changed into cash: *~ assets*.

liqui-date /'lɪkwɪdət/ *vt,vi* **1** pay or settle (a debt). **2** bring (esp an unsuccessful business company) to an end by dividing up its property to pay debts; (of a company) go through this process. **3** (*informal*) get rid of, put an end to; kill: *gangsters who ~ their rivals*.

liqui-da-tion /'lɪkwɪdətʃn/ *n* [U] liquidating or being liquidated. **go into liquidation**, become bankrupt.

liqui-da-tor /-tə(r)/, official person who liquidates (2).

liquid-ity /'lɪkwɪdətɪ/ *n* [U] **1** state of being liquid (5). **2** state of being able to get money easily by selling assets.

liquid-ize (also **-ise**) /'lɪkwɪdaɪz/ *vt* crush, eg fruit, vegetables, to a liquid pulp.

liquid-izer (also **-iser**), device for liquidizing fruit, etc.

liquor /'lɪkə(r)/ *n* **1** [C,U] (*GB*) (kind of) alcoholic drink. **2** (*US*) distilled alcoholic drinks: *a ~ store*. **3** [U] liquid produced by boiling or fermenting a food substance.

liquor-ice (*US* = **licor-ice**) /'lɪkəɪs/ *n* [U] (plant from whose root is obtained a) black substance used in medicine and in sweets.

lisp /lɪsp/ *vi,vt* fail to use the sounds /s/ and /z/ correctly, eg by saying /θɪk'tɪn/ for *sixteen*; say in a lisping manner: *She ~s*. □ *n* [C] lisping way of speaking: *The child has a bad ~*.

lis-som, lis-some /'lɪsəm/ *adj* quick and graceful in movement.

list' /lɪst/ *n* [C] number of names (of persons,

items, things, etc) written or printed: a *'shopping ~*. □ *vt* make a list of; put on a list.

listed building, (GB) one protected because of its architectural importance.

'list price, published or advertised price.

list² /list/ *vi* (esp of a ship) lean over to one side, eg because the cargo has shifted: *The ship ~ed to starboard*. □ *n* [C] listing (of a ship).

list³ /list/ *vt, vi* (old use) listen (to).

lis-ten /'lɪsn/ *vi* **1** try to hear; pay attention: *We ~ed but heard nothing. The boys were not ~ing to me.* **listen in (to)**, (a) listen to a radio programme: *Did you ~ in to the Prime Minister yesterday evening?* (b) listen secretly to a conversation, eg by using an extension telephone receiver. **2** take (a person's) advice: *Don't ~ to him—he wants to get you into trouble.*

lis-tener, person who listens.

list-less /'lɪstlɪs/ *adj* too tired to show interest or do anything.

list-less-ly *adv*

lists /lɪsts/ *n pl* area of ground for fights (in former times) between men on horseback wearing armour and using lances. **enter the lists**, (fig) send out, accept, a challenge to a contest.

lit /lɪt/ *pt, pp* of light⁴.

lit-any /'lɪtəni/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) form of prayer for use in church services, spoken by a priest with responses from the congregation.

the Litany, that in the Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England.

lit-chi /'lɪtʃi:/ variant spelling of lychee.

litter /'lɪtə(r)/ *n* (US) ⇨ *litre*.

lit-er-acy /'lɪtərəsi/ *n* [U] ability to read and write.

lit-er-al /'lɪtərəl/ *adj* **1** connected with, expressed in, letters of an alphabet. **2** corresponding exactly to the original: *a ~ translation*. **3** taking words in their usual and obvious sense, without exaggeration, etc: *the ~ sense of a word*. **4** (of a person) not having imagination: *a ~ mind*.

lit-er-ally /'lɪtrəli/ *adv* (a) word for word; strictly: *carry out orders too ~ly*. (b) (informal) without exaggeration: *The children were ~ly starving*.

lit-er-ary /'lɪtərəri/ *US*: /'lɪtərəni/ *adj* of literature or authors: *a ~ man*, either an author or a man interested in literature; *a ~ style*, as used in literature.

lit-er-ate /'lɪtərət/ *adj* **1** able to read and write. **2** cultured; well-read: *Ben's a remarkably ~ young man*. □ *n* [C] literate person.

lit-er-a-ture /'lɪtərəʃə(r)/ *US*: -tʃʊə(r)/ *n* [U] **1** (the writing or the study of) books, etc valued as works of art (drama, fiction, essays, poetry, biography, contrasted with technical books and journalism). **2** (also with *a, an*) all the writings of a country (*French ~*) or a period (*18th century English ~*); books dealing with a

special subject: *travel ~*; *an extensive ~ dealing with the First World War*. **3** [U] printed material describing or advertising something, eg brochures: *We shall be glad to send you some ~ about our package holidays*.

lithe /laɪð/ *adj* (of a person, etc) bending, twisting or turning easily: *~ movements*.

liti-gant /'lɪtɪɡənt/ *n* [C] person engaged in a lawsuit.

liti-gate /'lɪtɪɡeɪt/ *vi, vt* go to law; make a claim at a law court.

liti-ga-tion /'lɪtɪɡeɪʃn/ *n* [U]

lit-mus /'lɪtməs/ *n* [U] blue colouring-matter that is turned red by acid and can then be restored to blue by alkali: *~paper*, used as a test for acids and alkalis.

li-totes /'laɪtəʊtɪz/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) understatement used ironically, esp using a negative to express the contrary, as 'I shan't be sorry when it's over' meaning 'I shall be very glad'.

litre (US = *liter*) /'lɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] unit of capacity in the metric system. (1 litre = about 1½ pints).

lit-ter¹ /'lɪtə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] bits of paper, wrappings, bottles, etc left lying about in a room or public place: *Pick up your ~ after a picnic*. **2** [U] straw and similar material, eg dry bracken, used as bedding for animals or for protecting plants from frost. **3** [C] all the newly born young ones of an animal: *a ~ of puppies*. □ *vt, vi* **1** make untidy with litter(1): *~ a desk with papers*; *~ up one's room*. **2** supply (a horse, etc) with straw; make a bed for an animal: *~ down a horse's stable*. **3** (of animals, esp dogs and pigs) bring forth a litter(3).

'litter-basket/-bin, container for litter(1).

litter² /'lɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** couch or bed (often with a covering and curtains) in which a person was carried about, eg on men's shoulders, and as used in ancient Rome. **2** sort of stretcher for carrying a sick or wounded person.

little¹ /'lɪtl/ *adj* (Note: in senses 1, 2 and 3 *little* has no real comparative and superlative; *~* and *~st* are occasionally used but are better avoided. ⇨ *less* and *least* for senses 5 and 6.) **1** small, or small in comparison: *the ~ finger/toe*. **2** (suggesting affection, tenderness, regard, admiration, or the contrary, depending on the preceding adjective): *What a pretty ~ house! That poor ~ girl!* **3** short (in time, distance, stature): *Won't you stay a ~ time with me?* **4** young: *How are the ~ ones*, the children? **5** not much: *I have very ~ time for reading and less for watching television*. **6** (with *a*) some but not much; a small quantity of: *He knows a ~ French. He has a ~, she has less and I have (the) least*. □ *adv* **1** (⇨ *less*, *least*) not much; hardly at all; only slightly: *He is ~ known. She slept very ~ last night. I see him very ~ (= rarely) nowadays. He left ~ more than an hour ago. He is ~ better than (= is al-*

most as bad as) a thief. **a little**, rather; somewhat: a ~ afraid/too big; a ~ on the fat side, rather fat. **not a little**, very: not a ~ annoyed.

2 (with such verbs as know, think, imagine, guess, suspect, realize, and always placed before the verb) not at all: He ~ knows/L ~ does he know that the police are about to arrest him.

Little Bear, a constellation.

little-ness *n* [U] the quality of being little.

little² /'lɪtl/ *n* [U] (↳ less, least) **1** not much; only a small amount: You have done very ~ for us. I see very ~ of him. I got ~ out of it, not much advantage or profit. He did what ~ he could. **little by little**, gradually; by degrees.

little or nothing, hardly anything. **2** (with a) a small quantity; something (a little ~ is positive; little is negative): He knows a ~ of everything. He knows ~ about it. Please give me a ~. **after/for a little**, after/for a short time or distance.

lit-urgy /'lɪtədʒi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) [C] fixed form of public worship used in a church.

li-turgi-cal /li:'tʃ:dʒɪkl/ *adj*

liv-able /'lɪvəbl/ *adj* **1** (of a house, room, climate, etc) fit to live in. **2** (of life) tolerable. **livable with**, (of persons) easy to live with.

live¹ /laɪv/ *adj* **1** having life: ~ fish. **2** burning or glowing: ~ coals; unexploded: a ~ bomb; not used: a ~ match; charged with electricity: a ~ rail, carrying current for trains. **3** (of a broadcast) not recorded in advance: This is a ~ broadcast. **4** full of energy, activity, interest, importance, etc: a ~ question/issue, one in which there is great interest. □ *adv* (from **3** above): The concert will be broadcast ~.

live-birth, baby born alive (in contrast to a still-birth, baby born dead).

live wire, (fig) lively, energetic person.

live² /lɪv/ *vi, vt* **1** exist(1); be alive (the more usual words). **2** continue to be, remain, alive: She's very ill—the doctors don't think she will ~. He ~d and died a bachelor. **live on**, continue to live: The old people died but the young people ~d on in the village. **live through**, experience and survive: He has ~d through two wars and three revolutions. **live and let live**, be tolerant. **3 live on**, (a) have as food or diet: ~ on fruit; (b) depend on for support, etc: ~ on one's salary. **live off the land**, use its agricultural products for one's food needs. **4** make one's home: ~ in England/abroad. Where do you ~? **live together**, (a) live in the same house, etc. (b) live as if married: I hear that Jane and Bill are living together. **5** conduct oneself; pass one's life in a specified way: ~ honestly/happily. **6 live sth down**, live in such a way that (past guilt, scandal, foolishness, etc) is forgotten: He hopes to ~ down the scandal caused by the divorce proceedings. **live up to sth**, put (one's faith, principles, etc) into practice; act as (good or bad) as expected: He didn't ~ up to his reputa-

tion. **live with sth**, accept and endure it: I don't like commuting, but I've learnt to ~ with it. **7** (of things without life) remain in existence; survive: No ship could ~ in such a rough sea. **8** have an interesting and enjoyable life: 'I want to ~', she said, 'I don't want to spend all my days looking after babies.' **live it up**, have great fun: Let's go into town and ~ it up a little.

live-li-hood /'lɪvliːhʊd/ *n* [C] means of living; way in which one earns money: earn/gain one's ~ by teaching.

live-long /ˌlɪvˌlɒŋ/ *US*: /'lɪvˌlɒŋ/ *adj* (only in) **the livelong day/night**, all day/night.

live-ly /'lɪvli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** full of life and spirit; gay and cheerful: The patient seems a little livelier/a little more ~ this morning. He has a ~ imagination. **2** (of colour) bright; gay. **3** (of non-living things) moving quickly or causing quick movement: a ~ ball. **4** lifelike; interesting and enthusiastic: a ~ description of a football game.

live-li-ness *n* [U]

liven /'lɪvɪn/ *vt, vi* make or become lively: How can we ~ things up?

liver¹ /'lɪvə(r)/ *n* **1** [C] large, reddish-brown organ in the body which produces bile and cleans the blood. **2** [U] animal's liver as food.

liver-ish /-ɪʃ/, **liv-ery** *adj* (informal) bilious.

liver² /'lɪvə(r)/ *n* [C] person who lives in a specified way: a clean/loose ~.

liv-ery /'lɪvəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** special dress or uniform worn by male staff in a great household (esp of a king or noble) or by members of one of the city companies of London (trade or craft guilds). **2** (poetic) dress; covering: birds in their winter ~. **3** (also ~stable) stable where horses are fed and looked after for payment; stable from which horses may be hired.

liver-ied /'lɪvərɪd/ *adj* wearing livery(1).

livery-man, (a) member of a livery company. (b) keeper of, worker in, a livery-stable.

lives /laɪvz/ *pl* of life.

live-stock /'lɪvstɒk/ *n* [U] (esp) farm animals kept for use or profit.

livid /'lɪvɪd/ *adj* **1** of the colour of lead, blue-grey. **2** (of a person or his looks) furiously angry: ~ with rage.

liv-id-ly *adv*

liv-ing¹ /'lɪvɪŋ/ *adj* **1** alive, esp now existent: ~ languages. **within/in living memory**, within the memory of people now alive. **2** (of a likeness) true to life: He's the ~ image of (= is exactly like) his father. **3** strong; active; lively: a ~ hope/faith. **4** (used as an intensifier): scare the ~ daylight out of him. □ *n* **the ~**, (used with a *pl verb*) those now alive: He's still in the land of the ~.

liv-ing² /'lɪvɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] means of keeping alive, of earning what is needed for life. ↳ make¹(9). **2** [U] manner of life: good ~, having good food, etc; a poor standard of ~. **3** [C] (Church of England) benefice.

'living-room, room for general use such as relaxing, entertaining.

liz-ard /'lɪzəd/ *n* [C] (kinds of) small, creeping, long-tailed, four-legged reptile.

llama /'lɑ:mə/ *n* [C] S American animal with a thick woolly coat, used to carry things.

lo /ləʊ/ *int* (old use) Look! See!

load¹ /ləʊd/ *n* [C] **1** that which is (to be) carried or supported, esp if heavy. **loads of**, (informal) a large amount: *~s of money/fun*. **2** (fig) weight of care, responsibility, etc: *a heavy ~ on one's shoulders*. ⇨ **mud**¹ (2). **3** amount which a car, etc can take: *a 'bus-~ of passengers*. **4** amount of work that a motor, engine, etc is required to do. **5** amount of current supplied by a generating station or carried by an electric circuit.

load² /ləʊd/ *vt, vi* **1** put a load in or on: *~ sacks on to a lorry; a poor old woman ~ed (down) with her shopping*. **load (sth) up**, fill with goods, materials, etc: *Have you finished ~ing up (the van) yet?* **2** put a cartridge or shell into (a gun). **3** put a length of film into (a camera). **4** weight with lead; add extra weight to: *~ed dice*, so weighted as to give an unfair advantage.

a loaded question, one that is intended to trap a person into making an admission which may be harmful.

loaded *adj* (sl) having a lot of money.

loaf¹ /ləʊf/ *n* [C] (pl loaves /ləʊvz/) **1** shaped block of bread: *a two-pound ~*. **Half a loaf is better than none**, (proverb) It is better to take what one can get or is offered than to run the risk of having nothing. **2** [C, U] (quantity of) food shaped and cooked: (a) *meat ~*, made of minced meat, eggs, etc. **3** (sl) **use one's loaf**, think intelligently.

loaf² /ləʊf/ *vi, vt* waste time; spend time idly: *Don't ~ about while there's so much work to be done*.

loafer, person who is idle.

loam /ləʊm/ *n* [U] fertile soil of sand and clay, often with decayed vegetable matter in it.

loamy *adj* (-ier, -iest) of or like loam.

loan /ləʊn/ *n* [C] **1** something lent, esp a sum of money: *a 'bank-~*. **2** [U] lending or being lent: *I have the book out on ~ from the library*. □ *vt* (formal) = lend.

'loan-word, word taken from another language.

loath, loth /ləʊθ/ *adj* **loath to do sth**, unwilling.

loathe /ləʊð/ *vt* **1** feel disgust for; dislike greatly: *She was seasick, and ~ed the smell of greasy food*. **2** (informal) dislike: *He ~s travelling by air*.

loath-ing, *n* [U] disgust.

loath-some /-səm/ *adj* disgusting; causing one to feel shocked: *a loathsome disease*.

loaves /ləʊvz/ *pl* of loaf¹.

lob /lɒb/ *vi, vt* (-bb-) strike or send (a ball) in a

high arc (as in tennis). □ *n* [C] ball that is lobbed.

lobby /'lɒbi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** porch, entrance-hall, corridor: *the ~ of a hotel/theatre*. **2** (in the House of Commons, etc) large hall used for interviews between members and the public; group of people who try to influence members, eg of the House of Commons, to support or oppose proposed legislation. **3** (also *division* ~) (in the House of Commons) one of two corridors to which members go when a vote is taken. □ *vt, vi* (pt, pp -ied) (try to) influence the members of a law-making body; get (a bill) passed or rejected in this way: *~ a bill through the Commons; the Miners' Union ~ing their MP's*.

'lobby-ist /-ɪst/, person who lobbies.

lobe /ləʊb/ *n* [C] **1** lower rounded part of the external ear. **2** subdivision of the lungs or the brain.

lobed *adj* having lobes.

lob-ster /'lɒbstə(r)/ *n* **1** [C] shellfish with eight legs and two claws, bluish-black before and scarlet after being boiled. **2** [U] its flesh as food.

lo-cal /'ləʊkl/ *adj* **1** of, special to, a place or district: *the ~ doctor*, working nearby; *~ customs*. **2** affecting a part, not the whole: *a ~ pain/injury*. □ *n* [C] **1** (usually pl) inhabitant(s) of a particular district: *a shopping-centre for the ~s*. **2** (informal) pub near one's home: *he's pop into the ~ for a pint*.

'local, anaes'thetic, affecting only a part of the body.

'local au'thority, officers elected to administer local government.

'local 'colour, details of the scenes and period described in a story, added to make the story more real.

'local e'lection, of representatives for local government.

'local 'government, administration of the affairs of a district (roads, education, refuse, parks, etc) by representatives elected by the residents.

'local 'time, time at any place in the world as calculated from the position of the sun.

lo-cally /-kəli/ *adv*

lo-cale /ləʊ'keɪl/ *n* [C] scene of an event; scene of a novel, etc.

lo-cal-ity /ləʊ'kæləti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [C] position of something; place in which an event occurs; place, district, neighbourhood. **2** [U] faculty of remembering and recognizing places, esp as a help in finding one's way: *She has a good sense of ~*.

lo-cal-ize (also -ise) /'ləʊkəlaɪz/ *vt* **1** make local, not general; confine within a particular part or area: *There is little hope of localizing the disease*. **2** invest with local characteristics.

lo-cal-iz-ation (also -isation) /ləʊkə-laɪ'zeɪʃn/ *US*: -laɪ'z-/ *n* [U]

lo-cate /ləu'keɪt/ US: 'ləuket/ *vt* **1** discover, show, the locality of: ~ a town on a map. **2** establish in a place: *Where is the new factory to be ~d?*

lo-ca-tion /ləu'keɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] locating or being located. **2** [C] position or place: *suitable ~s for new factories*. **3** place, not a film studio, where (part of) a cinema film is photographed. **on location**, shooting film in this way.

loch /lɒk/ *n* [C] (*Scot*) **1** long, narrow arm of the sea almost enclosed by land. **2** lake.

lock¹ /lɒk/ *n* [C] portion of hair that naturally hangs or clings together; curl.

lock² /lɒk/ *n* [C] **1** appliance, mechanism, by which a door, lid, etc may be fastened with a bolt that needs a key to work it. **be/put/keep sth under lock and key**, locked inside something. ⇨ pick³(2). **2** mechanism by which a gun is fired. **lock, stock and barrel**, completely. **3** enclosed section of a canal or river at a point where the water level changes, for raising or lowering boats by the use of gates to hold back the water. **4** [U] condition of being fixed so that movement is impossible. **5** extent of the turning arc of a steering wheel: *full ~*, with the steering wheel turned (right or left) as far as it will go.

lock-gate, gate on a lock (3).

lock-keeper, keeper of a canal or river lock (3).

lock-jaw, form of disease (*tetanus*) that causes the jaws to be firmly locked together.

lock-smith, maker and mender of locks.

lock³ /lɒk/ *vt, vi* **1** fasten a door, box, etc with a lock. **lock sth away**, (a) put it away in a locked box, drawer, etc. (b) (fig) keep securely: *have a secret safely ~ed (away) in one's heart*. **lock sb in**, put him in a room of which the door is locked on the outside. **lock sb out**, keep him outside, prevent him from entering, by locking the gate or door on the inside. ⇨ lock-out below. **lock sth/sb up**, (a) make safe by locking it/him away: *L~ up your jewellery before you go away*. (b) shut up a house, etc by locking all the doors. (c) (informal) put (a person) in prison, a mental home, etc. **2** have a lock; become locked: *This door doesn't ~*, has no lock or has a lock that does not work. **3** (cause to) become fixed, unable to move: *He ~ed the wheels of the car to prevent it from being stolen*. **4** join together: *They were ~ed in each other's arms*, embracing. *They were ~ed in battle*, fighting hard. **5** **lock on to**, (of a missile, etc) find and automatically follow (a target) by radar.

lock-out, refusal of employers to allow workmen to enter their place of work until certain conditions are agreed to or demands given up. ⇨ strike¹.

lock-up, (informal) prison. □ *adj* that can be locked: *a ~-up garage*.

locker /'lɒkə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** small cupboard, esp

one for storing one's clothes, eg at a swimming-pool. **2** box or compartment used for clothes, stores, ammunition, etc.

locker-room, (eg in a school, sports centre) place with lockers (1).

locket /'lɒkɪt/ *n* [C] small (often gold or silver) case for a portrait, a lock of hair, etc, worn round the neck on a chain.

loco /'ləukəʊ/ *adj* (*dated sl*) mad.

loco-mo-tion /ləukə'məʊʃn/ *n* [U] moving, ability to move, from place to place.

loco-mo-tive /ləukə'məʊtɪv/ *adj* of, having, causing, locomotion. □ *n* [C] self-propelled engine for use on railways.

lo-cust /'ləukəst/ *n* [C] **1** (kind of) migratory African and Asian winged insect which flies in great swarms and destroys crops and vegetables. **2** (kind of) thorny American tree.

locu-tion /lə'kju:ʃn/ *n* [U] (*formal*) style of speech; way of using words; [C] particular phrase or expression.

lode /ləʊd/ *n* [C] vein of metal ore.

lode-star /'ləʊdstɑ:(r)/ *n* [C] star by which a ship may be steered.

lode-stone /'ləʊdstəʊn/ *n* [U] magnetized iron ore.

lodge¹ /lɒdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** small house, esp one at the entrance to the grounds of a large house, occupied by a gatekeeper, gardener or other staff. **2** country house for temporary use: *a skiing ~*. **3** = porter's lodge. **4** local branch of a trade union. **5** (place of meeting for) members of a branch of a society such as the Freemasons.

lodge² /lɒdʒ/ *vt, vi* **1** supply (a person) with a room or place to sleep in for a time: *The shipwrecked sailors were ~d in the school*. **2** live as a paying guest: *Where are you lodging now?* **3** **lodge in**, (cause to) enter and become fixed: *The bullet ~d in his jaw*. **4** put (money, etc) for safety: *~ one's valuables in the bank*. **5** place (a statement, etc) with the proper authorities: *~ a complaint with the police*.

lodger, person lodging (2) in a house: *taking in lodgers*.

lodg-ing /'lɒdʒɪŋ/ *n* [C] (usually *pl*) room or rooms (not in a hotel) rented to live in: *Where can we find ~s for the night?*

loft¹ /lɒft/ US: 'lɒft/ *n* [C] **1** room, place, used for storing things, in the highest part of a house, under the roof. **2** space under the roof of a stable or barn, where hay or straw is stored. **3** gallery in a church or hall: *the 'organ-~*.

loft² /lɒft/ US: 'lɒft/ *vt* (in golf, cricket) hit (a ball) high: *~ a ball over the fielders' heads*.

lofty /'lɒft/ US: 'lɒft/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** (not used of persons) of great height: *a ~ mountain/tower*. **2** (of thoughts, aims, feelings, etc) distinguished; noble: *~ sentiments*; *a ~ style*. **3** proud; consciously superior: *in a ~ manner*.

loft-ily /-əli/ *adv*

lofti-ness *n* [U]

log¹ /log/ US: lɒg/ *n* [C] rough length of tree-trunk that has fallen or been cut down; short piece of this for a fire. **sleep like a log**, ⇨ **sleep²** (1).

log¹ cabin, cabin made of logs.

log-ging, work of cutting down forest trees for timber: *a ~ging camp*.

log² /log/ US: lɒg/ *n* [C] **1** device attached to a knotted line, trailed from a ship, to measure its speed through the water. **2** = **log-book** (a). □ *vt* (-gg-) enter (facts) in the log-book of a ship or aircraft.

'log-book, (a) book with a permanent daily record of events during a ship's voyage (esp the weather, ship's position, speed, and distance). (b) any record of performance, eg of a car or aircraft.

log³ /log/ US: lɒg/ *n* [C] (abbr of) logarithm.

lo-gan-berry /'lɒɡənberi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (large dark-red berry from a) plant that is from a blackberry and a raspberry.

log-ar-ithm /'lɒɡərɪðm/ US: 'lɒ:g-/ *n* [C] one of a series of numbers set out in tables which make it possible to work out problems in multiplication and division by adding and subtracting.

log-ger-heads /'lɒɡəhedz/ *n* (only in) **at loggerheads**, disagreeing or quarrelling: *He's constantly at ~ with his wife*.

log-gia /'lɒdʒiə/ *n* [C] (*It*) open-sided gallery or arcade; part of a house with one side open to the garden.

logic /'lɒdʒɪk/ *n* [U] **1** science, method, of reasoning. **2** (person's) ability to argue systematically and convince: *argue with ~*.

logi-cal /-kl/ *adj* (a) in accordance with the rules of logic: *a ~al conclusion*. (b) able to reason correctly: *a ~al mind*.

logi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

log-i-cian /lɒ'dʒɪʃn/ *n*, person skilled in logic.

loin /loɪn/ *n* **1** (*pl*) the lower part of the body on both sides of the spine between the ribs and the hip-bones. **2** [C] joint of meat which includes the loins: *~ of mutton*.

'loin-cloth, piece of cloth covering the body, folded between the legs, and fastened round the loins.

loi-ter /'lɔɪtə(r)/ *vi, vt* go slowly and stop frequently on the way somewhere; stand about; pass (time) in this way: *~ on one's way home*.

loi-terer, person who loiters.

loll /lɒl/ *vi, vt* **1** rest, sit or stand (*about/around*) in a lazy way. **2** (of the tongue) (allow to) hang (the usual word): *The dog's tongue was ~ing out*.

loll-i-pop /'lɒlɪpɒp/ *n* [C] large sweet of boiled sugar on a stick, held in the hand and sucked.

'ice-lollipop, frozen fruit juice on a stick.

lolly /'lɒli/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [C] (*informal*) lollipop: *iced lollies*. **2** [U] (*sl*) money.

lone /ləʊn/ *adj* solitary; without companions; not often visited. (*Note: alone and lonely are more usual.*)

lone-ly /'ləʊnli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** without companions: *a ~ traveller*. **2** sad because one has no friends, sympathy, etc: *feel ~*. **3** (of places) not often visited; far from inhabited places or towns: *a ~ mountain village*.

lone-li-ness *n* [U] state of being lonely.

lone-some /'ləʊnsəm/ *adj* **1** = lonely (2). **2** not often visited: *a ~ valley*.

long¹ /lɒŋ/ US: lɒŋ/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (of extent in space) measuring much from end to end: *How ~ is the River Nile? What ~ hair some men have nowadays! It's a ~ journey from Lagos to Kano*. **2** (used in phrases) of (great) extent. **the (long) arm of the law**, ⇨ **arm¹** (4). **3** (of duration or extent in time): *a long flight*, ie several hours; *the ~ vacation*, the summer vacation of law courts and universities. *He was ill for a ~ time*. *He won't be ~ (in) making up his mind*, will soon do so. **4** (of vowel sounds) taking more time to utter than others: *'Fit' has a short vowel and 'feel' has a ~ vowel*. **5** (in phrases concerned with extent in time) **in the 'long run**, ⇨ **run¹** (6). **in the long term**, ⇨ **term¹** (1).

'long-boat, sailing-ship's largest boat.

'long-distance *adj* covering a long distance: *a ~distance 'race/telephone call/lorry driver*.

'long-hand, ordinary handwriting (contrasted with *shorthand* and *typing*).

the 'long jump, athletic contest for jumping along the ground. ⇨ **high jump**.

long odds, (in betting) that are very risky, eg 50 to 1.

'long-play (ing) 'record, (abbr LP) playing many tunes, songs, or one long piece of music.

'long-range *adj* of long periods, distances: *a ~range weather forecast*, eg for one month ahead.

'long shot, ⇨ **shot** (2).

'long 'sighted *adj* (a) able to see things a great distance away. (b) (*fig*) having foresight.

'long-standing *adj* of long duration: *a ~standing 'promise*, made a long time ago.

long suit, many playing-cards of the same suit¹ (4).

'long-term *adj* related to a long period of time: *~term 'agreements*.

'long wave, (radio telegraphy) wave of 1000 metres or over.

'long-winded *adj* (*fig*) boring; tedious: *a ~winded 'lecturer*.

long² /lɒŋ/ US: lɒŋ/ *adv* **1** for a long time: *Stay (of) as ~ as you like*. **as/so long as**, on condition that, provided that: *You may borrow the book so ~ as you return it*. **2** at a long time (from a point of time): *~ ago/before/after since*. **3** (of duration) throughout the specified

time: *all day ~*, throughout the whole day. **4** *no/any/much longer*, after no, not much time: *I can't wait any/much ~er. He's no ~er living here.*

long-drawn-out *adj* extended; unnecessarily or inappropriately long: *a ~drawn-out visit from my mother-in-law.*

long-suffering *adj* patient and uncomplaining: *his ~suffering wife.*

long³ /lɒŋ US: lɔːŋ/ *n* (sing only) **1** long time or interval: *The work won't take ~. before long*, soon. **the long and the short of it**, all that need be said; the general effect or result. **2** long syllable, esp in Latin verse: *four ~s and six shorts.*

long⁴ /lɒŋ US: lɔːŋ/ *vi* desire, wish for, very much: *She ~ed for him to say something. I'm ~ing to see you.*

longing *n* [C,U] (a) strong desire: *a ~ing to be home.* □ *adj* having or showing a strong desire: *with ~ing eyes.*

long-ing-ly *adv*

longevity /lɒn'dʒevəti/ *n* [U] long life.

longitude /lɒndʒɪtjuːd US: -tʊd/ *n* [C] distance east or west (measured in degrees) from a meridian(1), esp that of Greenwich, in London.

longitudinal /lɒndʒɪ'tjuːdɪnəl US: -tʊ- / *adj* (a) of longitude. (b) of or in length. (c) running lengthwise: *longitudinal stripes.*

long-ways (also *-wise*) /'lɒŋweɪz, -waɪz US: 'lɔːŋ- / *adv* = lengthways.

loo /luː/ *n* [C] (GB informal) = lavatory; toilet.

loo-fah /'luːfə/ *n* [C] ⇨ sponge(2).

look¹ /lʊk/ *n* [C] **1** act of looking: *Let me have a ~ at your new car. take a look at*, examine (briefly). **take a long, cool/hard look at**, consider (facts, problems) seriously and for a long time. **2** appearance; what something suggests when seen: *There were angry ~s from the neighbours. The town has a European ~.* **3** (pl) person's appearance: *She's beginning to lose her ~s, her beauty.*

look² /lʊk/ *vi, vt* (For uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 5 below.) **1** use one's sight; turn the eyes in some direction; try to see: *~ (up) at the ceiling; ~ (down) at the floor. We ~ed but saw nothing. not much to look at*, unattractive. **Look before you leap**, (proverb) Do not act without considering the possible consequences. **2** seem to be, have a certain appearance: *~ sad/tired.* (not) **look oneself**, (not) have one's normal appearance, health, etc. **look one's age**, have an appearance that conforms to one's age: *You don't ~ your age, look younger than you are. look one's best*, appear most attractive, to the greatest advantage: *She ~s her best in black. look blue*, appear sad or discontented. **Look here!** (often used to call or demand attention). **Look sharp!** Hurry up! **look well**, (a) (of persons) be healthy in

appearance: *He's ~ing very well.* (b) (of things, a person) be attractive, pleasing: *Does this hat ~ well on me? He ~s well in naval uniform. 3 look like/as if*, appear, seem (to be); probably will: *It ~s like rain. You ~ as if you've seen a ghost! 4 pay attention; learn by seeing: L~ where you're going!*

5 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

look about (for sth), be on the watch, in search of; examine one's surroundings, the state of affairs, etc: *Are you still ~ing about for a job?*

look after sb/sth, (a) take care of; attend to: *He needs a nurse to ~ after him.* (b) follow with the eyes: *They ~ed after the train as it left the station.*

look at sth, (special uses) (a) (in negative sentences) refuse; reject: *They wouldn't ~ at my proposal.* (b) examine: *We must ~ at the question from all sides. Doctor, will you ~ at my ankle? good/bad, etc to look at*, of good, etc appearance: *The hotel/She is not much to ~ at.*

look away (from sth), turn the eyes away.

look back (on sth), (fig) think about something in the past.

look down on sb, consider oneself superior to. **look down one's nose at sb**, (informal) consider him to be inferior.

look for sb/sth, search for; try to find: *Are you still ~ing for a job? be looking for trouble*, behave in a way that will get one into trouble.

look forward to sth, think about something which will happen in the future (usually with pleasure): *We're ~ing forward to seeing you again.*

look in (on sb), make a short visit: *Won't you ~ in (on me) next time you're in town? get/give sb a look-in, (informal) get/give him chance (of doing, winning, etc).*

look into sth, (a) investigate; examine: *~ into a question.* (b) look at (the inside of): *He ~ed into the box/the mirror/her eyes.*

look on, watch: *Why don't you play football instead of just ~ing on? look on sb as*, consider as. **look on sb with**, consider in the way specified: *He seems to ~ on me with distrust. look on to*, (of a place, room, etc) provide a view of: *My bedroom ~s on to the garden.*

look out (of sth) (at sth): *He stood at the window and ~ed out (at the view). look out (for sb/sth)*, be prepared (for), be on the watch for: *Will you go to the station and ~ out for Mr Hill? Hence, 'look-out, n* (a) (sing only) state of being watchful: *keep a good ~ out; be on the ~-out for bargains.* (b) [C] place from which to watch; person who has the duty of watching. (c) (sing only) prospect; what seems likely to come or happen: *That's your*

own ~-out, something you yourself must deal with. **look sth out (for sb)**, select by making an inspection: ~ out some old toys for the school jumble sale. **look out on (to)**. = look on to.

look over sth, inspect; examine: ~ over a house before buying it. ⇨ overlook.

look round, (a) examine before deciding: Don't make a hurried decision; ~ round first.

(b) turn the head (to see): When I ~ed round for her, she was leaving the hall. **look round sth**, (go and) visit: Have we time to ~ round (the town/cathedral) before lunch?

look through, study; examine: L~ through your notes before the examination.

look to sth, be careful of or about: The country must ~ to its defences. **look to sb for sth/to do sth**, rely on: They are all ~ing to her for help. **look to/towards**, face: a house ~ing towards the river/to the south.

look up, (a) raise the eyes: Don't ~ up. (b) improve in price or prosperity: Business is ~ing up. **look sth up**, search for (a word in a dictionary, facts in a guide, etc): Please ~ up a fast train to Leeds. **look sb up**, visit: Do ~ me up next time you're in London. **look sb up and down**, look at him with contempt. **look upon sb as/with**, = look on sb as/with.

look-ing glass /'lʊkɪŋ glɑːs US: glæs/ n [C] (dated) mirror.

loom /lu:m/ n [C] machine for weaving cloth.

loom /lu:m/ vi 1 appear indistinctly and in a threatening way: The dark outline of another ship ~ed (up) through the fog. 2 (fig) appear great and fill the mind: The threat of the H-bomb ~ed large in their minds.

loon /lu:n/ n [C] 1 large diving-bird that lives on fish and has a loud, wild cry. 2 (informal) silly person.

loony /'lu:ni/ n [C], adj (sl) = lunatic.

'loony-bin, n (sl) = mental home.

loop /lu:p/ n [C] 1 (shape produced by a) curve crossing itself. 2 part of a length of string, wire, ribbon, metal, etc in such a shape, eg as a knot, fastening or handle. □ vt, vi 1 form or bend into a loop; supply with a loop: ~ things together. 2 make a loop.

loop-hole /'lu:phəʊl/ n [C] 1 narrow vertical opening in a wall (as in old forts, stockades, etc). 2 (fig) way of escape from control, esp one provided by inexact wording of a rule: find a ~ in the law.

loose /lus/ adj (-r, -st) 1 not held, tied up, fastened, packed or contained in something: That dog is too dangerous to be left ~. **break/get loose**, escape from being held or locked in: One of the tigers in the zoo has broken/got ~. 2 not close-fitting; not tight or tense: ~ fitting clothes. 3 moving more freely than is right or usual: a ~ tooth. **come/work loose**, (of a fastening, bolt, etc) come unfas-

tened or insecure. 4 not firmly or properly tied: a ~ knot. **at a loose end**, ⇨ end¹(1). 5 (of talk, behaviour, etc) not controlled: a ~ (= immoral) woman. 6 inexact; indefinite; (of translations) not close to the original: a ~ argument. 7 not compact; not closely packed: ~ soil; cloth with a ~ weave. 8 careless, inaccurate: ~ passes (in football).

loose change, money in the form of coins.

loose leaf adj (of a file, album, etc) designed so that pages can be removed or added.

loose-ly adv in a loose manner.

loose /lus/ vt loosen (which is more usual): Wine ~d his tongue, made him talk freely.

loosen /'lu:sn/ vt, vi make or become loose or looser: L~ the screw. I must exercise and ~ up my muscles.

loot /lu:t/ n [U] goods (esp private property) taken away unlawfully and by force, eg by thieves, or by soldiers in time of war. □ vt, vi carry off loot from.

looter, person who loots.

lop /lɒp/ vt (-pp-) cut, chop (branches, etc from a tree).

lope /ləʊp/ vi move along with long, easy steps or strides. □ n [C] loping step, stride.

lop-eared /'lɒp ɪəd/ adj having drooping ears: a ~ rabbit.

lop-sided /'lɒp 'saɪdɪd/ adj with one side lower than the other.

lord /lɔ:d/ n [C] 1 supreme male ruler: our sovereign ~ the King. 2 L~, God; Christ: the 'L~'s Day, Sunday; the 'L~'s 'Prayer, that given by Jesus to his followers. 3 (used in exclamations of surprise, etc): Good L~! 3 peer; nobleman. **as drunk as a lord**, very drunk.

4 title prefixed to names of peers and barons: L~ Derby. 5 person in a position of authority: the First L~ of the Admiralty, the president of the Admiralty. 6 first word in many official titles: the L~ Mayor of London. 7 My ~, respectful formula for addressing certain noblemen and judges and bishops. 8 (in feudal times): the ~ of the manor, man from whom men held land and to whom they owed service. 9 the ~s (pl) = the House of Lords.

the House of Lords, (GB) upper division of Parliament for peers, bishops, etc.

lord-ly /'lɔ:dlɪ/ adj (-ier, -iest) 1 arrogant; feeling superior. 2 like, suitable for, a lord.

lord-ship /'lɔ:dfɪp/ n 1 [U] rule, authority (over). 2 His/Your L~, (used when speaking of or to a lord).

lore /lɔ:(r)/ n [U] learning or knowledge, esp handed down from past times, or possessed by a class of people: folk ~.

lor-gnette /lɔ:'njet/ n [C] pair of framed lenses formerly held to the eyes on a long handle.

lorry /'lɒri US: 'lɔ:ri/ n [C] (pl -ies) (US = truck) strong motor-vehicle, usually without a roof, used for carrying goods.

lose /lu:z/ vi,vi (pt,pp lost /lost/ US: lɒst/) **1** no longer have; have taken away from one by accident, carelessness, misfortune, death, etc: ~ *one's* money; *She has lost her husband*. He is dead. *He has lost his job*, has been dismissed. *He's losing (his) patience*, is becoming impatient. **lose one's balance**, fall over. **lose one's head**, ⇨ head¹ (20). **lose interest (in sb/sth)**, ⇨ interest¹ (1). **lose one's temper**, ⇨ temper¹ (1). **2 be lost**, disappear; die; be dead: *Is letter-writing a lost art?* Has the art of writing (social) letters died, eg because of the use of the telephone? **be/get lost**, not know where one is: *The climbers were lost for three days on the mountain*. **be lost in sth**, be deeply occupied or filled with, eg thought, wonder, admiration: ~ *in a book*. **lose oneself in sth**, become deeply interested in it so that one is unaware of other things: *She lost herself in a book*. **3 be unable to find**: *I've lost the keys of my car*. *We lost our way in the dark*. **lose one's place**, (in a book, etc) be unable to find the page, paragraph, etc where one stopped reading. **lose sight of sth**, ⇨ sight¹ (2). **lose track of sth**, ⇨ track¹ (1). **4 be too late for**: ~ *one's train* (miss is more usual). **5 be, become, unable to be heard, seen, etc**: *The final notes were lost in applause*. **6 cause (a person) the loss of**: *Lateness will ~ you your job*. **7 fail to win, be defeated**: ~ *a game/a battle/a lawsuit*. **lose out**, be unsuccessful, fail to win something. **a lost cause**, one that has already been defeated or is sure to be defeated. **8 be, become, worse**: *You will ~ nothing by waiting*, will not suffer any loss. **9 (of a watch or clock) go too slowly; fail to keep correct time because of this**: *My watch ~s two minutes a day*. ⇨ gain² (3). **10 spend time, opportunity, efforts, to no purpose; waste**: *There's not a moment to ~*. *He lost no time in doing it*, did it at once. **loser**, person who loses or is defeated: *He's a good/bad ~r*, is cheerful/bad-tempered when he loses. **loss** /lɒs US: lɔ:s/ n **1** [U] act or fact or process of losing: *L ~ of health is more serious than ~ of money*. **2** [U] (with a, an) failure to keep, maintain or use: *an enormous ~*. *There was a temporary ~ of power*. **3** [U] failure to win or obtain: *the ~ of a game/contract*. **4** [C] that which is lost: *suffer heavy ~es in war*, men killed, wounded, captured or ships and aircraft put out of action. **a total loss**, from which nothing can be saved: *The ship was wrecked and became a total ~*. **5** (sing only) disadvantage: *Such a man is no great ~*. We need not regret losing his services. ⇨ dead loss. **6 (be) at a loss for sth/to do sth**, be uncertain: *He was at a ~ for words/to know what to say*, did not know how to express himself.

lost /lost US: lɒst/ pt,pp of lose.

lot¹ /lɒt/ n [C] (informal) **1 the ~**, the whole number or quantity: *That's the ~*, That's all or everything. *Take the (whole) ~*. **2 a lot (of); lots (and lots) (of)**, a great amount or number (of): *What a ~ of time you take to dress!* *I saw quite a ~ of her* (= saw her often) when I was in London last month. **3** (used as an adverb) very much: *He's feeling a ~ better today*.

lot² /lɒt/ n [C] **1** (one of a set of objects used in) the making of a selection or decision by methods depending on chance. **draw/cast lots**, eg by taking pieces of paper marked in some way from a box: *They drew ~s to decide who should begin*. **2** [C] decision or choice resulting from this: *The ~ came to fall on me*. **3** [C] person's fortune or destiny: *His ~ has been a hard one*. **throw in one's lot with sb**, decide to share work, interests, money, etc. **4** item, or number of items, (to be) sold at an auction sale: *L ~ 46, six chairs*. **5** collection of objects of the same kind: *We have received a new ~ of coats from Paris*. **6 a bad lot**, (informal) an immoral, unkind, etc person. **7** plot of land: *a vacant ~*, a building site.

loth /ləʊθ/ adj ⇨ loath.

lo-tion /ləʊʃn/ n [C,U] (kind of) liquid medicine for use on the skin: ~ *for the face*; *soothing ~s for insect bites*.

lot-tery /'lɒtəri/ n [C] (pl -ies) **1** arrangement to give prizes to buyers of tickets with winning numbers. **2** (fig) something considered to be uncertain: *Is marriage a ~?*

lo-tus /'ləʊtəs/ n [C] (pl -es) (kinds of) water-lily, esp the Egyptian and Asiatic kinds.

loud /laʊd/ adj (-er, -est) **1** not quiet or soft; easily heard: ~ *voices/cries/laughs*. **out loud**, ⇨ out¹ (9). **2** (of a person's behaviour; of colours) of the obvious kind that forces itself on the attention; conspicuous. □ *adv* in a loud manner: *Don't talk so ~*.

loud-ly *adv* in a loud manner: *Someone knocked ~ly at the door*.

loud-ness n [U]

loud-speaker, (often shortened to *speaker*) part of a radio receiving apparatus that converts electric impulses into audible sounds.

lounge /laʊndʒ/ vi sit, stand about, (leaning against something) in a lazy way: *lounging at street corners*. □ n [C] **1** act of lounging. **2** comfortable sitting-room, esp in a club or hotel. **3** best bar in a public house.

'lounge-suit, (dated) man's suit for informal wear.

lour, lower /'laʊə(r)/ vi **1** frown; look bad-tempered. **2** (of the sky, clouds) look dark, stormy.

louse /laʊs/ n [C] (pl lice /laɪs/) **1** (kinds of) small insect living on the bodies of animals and human beings; similar insect living on plants. **2** (sl) person deserving severe criticism, hatred: *He's an absolute ~*.

lousy /'laʊzi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** infested with lice. **2** (informal) bad: *a ~ film*. **3** (sl) well provided (with): *He's ~ with money*.

lout /laʊt/ *n* [C] clumsy, ill-mannered man.

lout-ish /-ɪʃ/ *ad*: *~ ish behaviour*.

lov-able /'lʌvəbl/ *adj* deserving, inspiring, worthy of love: *a ~ child*; *a child's ~ ways*.

love¹ /lʌv/ *n* **1** [U] warm, kind feeling; deep fondness; affectionate and tender devotion: *a mother's ~ for her children*; *a ~ of adventure*; *~ of (one's) country*, patriotism; *show ~ towards one's neighbours*. **not to be had for love or money**, impossible to get by any means. **There's no love lost between them**, They dislike each other. **a labour of love**, ⇨ labour (3). **for the love of**, (in appeals, etc) for the sake of; in the name of: *Put that gun down, for the ~ of God!* **2** [U] strong, kind feeling between two persons of opposite sex; sexual passion or desire; this as a literary subject: *whisper words of ~*. *My ~ for you is deeper than the sea*. **be/fall in love (with sb)**, have/begin to have love and desire (for). **make love (to sb)**, show that one is in love (now meaning have sexual intercourse): *Make ~, not war!* **3** form of address between lovers, husband and wife, or to a child: *Come here, my ~*. **4** (in games, eg tennis) no score, nothing, nil: *~ all*, no score for either side.

'love-affair, relationship between people in love, (now meaning a sexual relationship).

'love-bird, (a) small brightly coloured parrot which stays very near its mate. (b) (dated) (young) lover very much in love.

'love-letter, letter between persons in love and about their love.

'love-lorn /-lɔ:n/ *adj* unhappy because one's love is not returned.

'love-match, marriage made for love's sake, not for other reasons.

'love-sick *adj* suffering because of (unreturned) love.

'love-song, song about love.

'love-story, novel or story of which the main theme is love.

'love-token, something given as a symbol of love.

love-less *adj* unloved; without love: *a ~less marriage*.

love² /lʌv/ *vt* **1** have strong affection or deep tender feelings for: *loving one's parents/one's country*. *I'll never stop loving you*. **2** worship: *~ God*. **3** have kind feelings towards: *~ your neighbours*. **4** be very fond of; like very much; find pleasure in: *~ ice-cream/going to parties*. *'Will you come with me?' - 'I'd ~ to'*.

love-ly /'lʌvli/ *adj* **1** beautiful; attractive; pleasant: *a ~ view*; *a ~ woman*; *~ hair/ weather*. **2** (informal) pleasant; amusing: *We had a ~ holiday*. *It's ~ and warm here*, pleasant because warm. **3** lovable: *Oh, she's such a ~ person*.

love-li-ness *n* [U]

lover /'lʌvə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who is fond of or devoted to (something): *a ~ of music/ horses/good wine*. **2** (pl) man and woman in love: *happy ~s*. **3** (modern use) man who has a sexual relationship with a woman.

lov-ing /'lʌvɪŋ/ *adj* feeling or showing love: *a ~ husband*; *~ parents*.

lov-ing-ly *adv* in a loving way.

low¹ /ləʊ/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** not extending far upwards; not high: *a ~ wall/ceiling/shelf/hills*. *She was wearing a dress cut ~ in the neck/a ~necked dress*, one leaving part of the shoulders and breasts visible. **lie low**, (fig) keep hidden or quiet (and wait): *The escape prisoners had to lie ~ for months*. **2** below the usual or normal level or intensity: *~ pressure*, eg of the atmosphere, of gas or water; *The rivers were ~ during the dry summer*. **3** (of sounds) not loud; not high in pitch: *speak in a ~ voice*; *the ~ notes of a cello*. **4** of or in inferior rank or social class: *men of ~ birth*. **5** coarse; vulgar: *~ manners/tastes*. **bring sb/sth low**, reduce in position, wealth, etc. **6** feeble; not having strength of body or mind: *in a ~ state of health*; *feel/be ~in ~ spirit*, unhappy, depressed. **7** of small amount as measured by a scale or by degrees: *a ~ temperature*; *~ prices/wages/rates of pay*. **have a low opinion of sb/sth**, think very little of him, his work, etc. **8** (of a supply of anything) **be/run low**, be/become nearly exhausted: *The sugar is running ~*. **9** not highly developed: *~ forms of life*.

'low-'born *adj* of humble birth.

'low-'bred *adj* having coarse manners.

'low-brow *n* [C], *adj* (person) showing little interest in or taste for intellectual things.

lower case, (in printing) small letters, eg *a,b,c*, not capitals.

Lower Chamber/House, lower branch of a legislative assembly, eg the House of Commons in GB, the House of Representatives in US.

lower class *adj, n* (of the) working class.

Low Church, group in the Church of England giving a low place to the authority of bishops and priests, ecclesiastical organization, ritual, etc (contrasted with *High Church*). Hence, **Low Churchman**, supporter of this.

'low-down *adj* (informal) dishonourable: *~down behaviour/tricks*. □ *n* **get/give sb the low-down (on sth/sb)**, (informal) the true facts, inside information which is not generally known.

'low 'key(ed), *adj* (fig) in a quiet, restrained, reserved, manner.

Low Mass, celebration of the Eucharist without a choir.

'low-rise *adj* (of buildings) having only one or two storeys.

'low-'spirited *adj* depressed; sad.

Low Sunday, Low Week, coming after Easter Day and Easter Week.

low tide/water, time when the tide is far from the shore or river bank.

low-ness *n* [U]

low² /ləʊ/ *adv* (-er, -est) in or to a low position; in a low manner; *aim/shoot ~*; *bow ~ to the Queen*; *buy ~ (= at low prices) and sell high*.

low³ /ləʊ/ *n* [C] low level or figure: *Several industrial shares reached new ~s yesterday*.

low⁴ /ləʊ/ *n* [U] sound made by cows. □ *vt* (of cows) make this sound.

lower¹ /'ləʊə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** let or bring down; cause to be down: *~ the sails/a flag*. **2** make or become less high: *~ the rent of a house*. *He ~ed his voice to a whisper*. **3 lower oneself**, degrade, disgrace: *He would never ~ himself by taking bribes*. **4** weaken: *Poor diet ~s resistance to illness*.

lower² /'ləʊə(r)/ *vi* = *lour*.

lower-most /'ləʊəməʊst/ *adj* = lowest.

low-ly /'ləʊli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) humble; modest.

low-li-ness *n* [U]

loyal /'ləʊəl/ *adj* true and faithful (to): *~ supporters*; *~ to one's country*.

'loyal-ist /-ist/, person who is loyal to his ruler and government, esp one who supports the head of an established government during a revolt.

loy-ally /'ləʊəli/ *adv*

loy-alty *n* (pl -ies) (a) [U] being loyal; loyal conduct. (b) (pl) faithful attachment: *tribal loyalties*.

loz-enge /'ləʊzɪŋdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** four-sided, diamond-shaped figure. **2** sweet of this shape, esp one containing medicine: *'cough ~s*.

lu-bri-cant /'lu:brɪkənt/ *n* [U] substance that lubricates.

lu-bri-cate /'lu:brɪkeɪt/ *vt* **1** put oil or grease into (machine parts) to make (them) work easily. **2** (fig) do something that makes action, etc easier.

lu-bri-ca-tion /'lu:brɪkeɪʃn/ *n* [U]

lu-cid /'lu:sɪd/ *adj* **1** clear; easy to understand: *a ~ mind*; *a ~ explanation*. **2** mentally sound: *~ intervals*, periods of sanity between periods of insanity. **3** (poetic) bright, clear.

lu-cid-ly *adv*

luck /lʌk/ *n* [U] chance; fortune (good or bad); something considered to come by chance: *have good/bad ~*. *As ~ would have it,...* Fortunately,... (or Unfortunately,... according to context). *It was hard ~ on you that...*, *It was ~ unfortunate for you that...* **Bad luck!** (used to show sympathy). **Good Luck!** (used to encourage, express hopes of good fortune, etc). ⇨ also *pot*¹ (2).

luck-less *adj* unfortunate; having a bad result: *a ~less day/attempt*.

lucky /'lʌki/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) having, bringing,

resulting from, good luck: *a ~ man/guess/escape*. *You are ~ to be alive after being in that accident*.

luck-ily /'lʌkəli/ *adv* fortunately: *Luckily for me the train was late, so I caught it*.

lu-cra-tive /'lu:krətv/ *adj* profitable.

lu-di-crous /'lu:dɪkrəs/ *adj* ridiculous.

lu-di-crous-ly *adv*

lug /lʌg/ *vt* (-gg-) pull or drag roughly and with much effort: *~ging two heavy suitcases up the stairs*. □ *n* [C] hard or rough pull.

lug-gage /'lʌgɪdʒ/ *n* [U] bags, trunks, etc and their contents taken on a journey: *six pieces of ~*. (US = baggage.)

'luggage-rack, rack (above the seats) in a train, coach, etc for luggage.

'luggage-van, carriage for luggage on a train.

lu-gu-bri-ous /'lu:'gu:brɪəs/ *adj* (formal) dismal; mournful.

lu-gu-bri-ous-ly *adv*

luke-warm /'lu:kwɔ:m/ *adj* **1** (of liquids, etc) neither very warm nor cold. **2** (fig) not eager either in supporting or opposing: *give only ~ support to a cause*.

lull /lʌl/ *vt, vi* make or become quiet or less active: *~ a baby to sleep*, eg by rocking it and singing to it. □ *n* [C] interval of quiet or calm: *a ~ in the storm/in the conversation*.

lull-aby /'lʌləbaɪ/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** song for lulling a baby to sleep. **2** gentle, soft sound, eg made by wind in trees or by the running water of a brook.

lum-bago /lʌm'beɪɡəʊ/ *n* [U] muscular pain in the lumbar regions.

lum-bar /'lʌmbə(r)/ *adj* of the loins: *the ~ regions*, the lower part of the back.

lum-ber¹ /'lʌmbə(r)/ *n* [U] **1** roughly prepared wood; wood that has been sawn into planks, boards, etc. **2** (chiefly GB) useless or unwanted articles stored away or taking up space (eg old furniture, pictures). □ *vt* **1** fill with lumber: *a room ~ed up with useless articles*. **2** (fig) fill: *a mind that is ~ed (up) with useless bits of information*. **3** (informal) leave (something or somebody unpleasant or unwanted) with: *be ~ed with one's in-laws for the weekend*.

'lum-ber-jack, person who fells trees, saws or transports lumber.

'lum-ber-room, for storing lumber (2).

lum-ber² /'lʌmbə(r)/ *vi* move in a heavy, clumsy, noisy way: *The tanks ~ed along/by/ past*.

lu-min-ary /'lu:mɪnəri/ *US*: -nerɪ/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** star; the sun or moon. **2** (fig) great moral or intellectual leader.

lu-mi-nous /'lu:mɪnəs/ *adj* **1** giving out light; bright: *~ paint*, as used on road signs, clocks and watches, visible in the dark. **2** (fig) easily understood: *a ~ speaker/explanation*.

lu-min-os-ity /'lu:mɪnəsəti/ *n* [U]

lump¹ /lʌmp/ *n* [C] **1** hard or compact mass, usually without a regular shape: *a ~ of coal/sugar*. **a** **lump** ¹*sum*, one payment for a number of separate sums that are owed. **2** swelling or bump; bruise: *He has a bad ~ on the forehead*. **have a lump in one's throat**, a feeling of pressure (as caused by strong emotion). **3** (informal) heavy, dull person. **vt** **1** **lump together**, put together: *Can we ~ all these items together under the heading 'costs'?* **2** form into lumps.

lumpy *adj* (-ier, -iest) full of, covered with, lumps: *~y soup*.

lump² /lʌmp/ *vt* (only on) **lump it**, (informal) put up with something unpleasant or unwanted: *If you don't like it you can ~ it*.

lunacy /'lu:nəsi/ *n* [U] madness.

lu-nar /'lu:nə(r)/ *adj* of the moon.

lunar module, detachable section of a spacecraft that orbits the moon and may descend to its surface.

lunar month, average time between successive new moons, about 29½ days.

lu-na-tic /'lu:nətik/ *n* [C] mental patient (the preferred term). **adj** mad; extremely foolish: *a ~ proposal*.

'lunatic asylum, (dated) mental home or hospital.

lunatic fringe, minority group with extreme views, or engaged in eccentric activities.

lunch /lʌntʃ/ *n* [C] meal taken in the middle of the day: *They were at ~ when I called*. **vi**, *vt* eat, provide, lunch.

lunch-eon /'lʌntʃən/ *n* (formal) = lunch.

lung /lʌŋ/ *n* [C] either of the two organs in the chest of man and other animals, used for breathing.

'lung-power, power of voice.

lunge /lʌndʒ/ *n* [C] sudden forward movement, eg with a sword, or forward movement of the body (eg when aiming a blow). **vi** make a lunge: *lunging out suddenly*.

lu-pin, lu-pine /'lu:pin/ *n* [C] garden plant with tall spikes of flowers.

lurch¹ /lɜ:tʃ/ *n* (only in) **leave sb in the lurch**, leave him when he is in difficulties and needing help.

lurch² /lɜ:tʃ/ *n* [C] sudden change of weight to one side; sudden roll or pitch: *The ship gave a ~ to starboard*. **vi** move along with a lurch: *The drunken man ~ed across the street*.

lure /ljʊə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** bunch of brightly coloured feathers used to attract and recall a trained hawk; bait or decoy to attract animals or fish. **2** (fig) something that attracts or invites; attraction: *the ~ of the sea*; *the ~s used by a pretty woman*. **vi** attract, tempt: *luring him away from his duty*.

lu-rid /'ljʊərɪd/ *adj* **1** highly coloured, esp suggesting flame and smoke: *a ~ sky/sunset*; *~ thunder-clouds*. **2** (fig) sensational; shocking: *~ details of a railway accident*.

lurid-ly *adv*

lu-rid-ness *n* [U]

lurk /lɜ:k/ *vi* be, keep, out of view, lying in wait or ready to attack: *a man ~ing in the shadows*. *Some suspicion still ~ed in his mind*.

luscious /'lʌʃəs/ *adj* **1** rich and sweet in taste and smell, attractive: *~ peaches/lips*. **2** (of art, music, writing) very rich in ornament; suggesting sensual delights.

lush /lʌʃ/ *adj* **1** (esp of grass and vegetation) growing luxuriantly: *~ meadows*. **2** (fig) luxuriously comfortable.

lust /lʌst/ *n* **1** [U] great desire to possess something, esp strong sexual desire (for); passionate enjoyment (of): *filled with ~*. **2** [C] instance of this: *a ~ for power/gold*; *the ~s of the flesh*. **vi** have lust for: *~ for/after gold*.

lust-ful /-fəl/ *adj* full of lust.

lust-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

lustre (US = **lus-ter**) /'lʌstə(r)/ *n* [U] **1** brightness, esp of a smooth or polished surface: *the ~ of pearls*. **2** (fig) glory; distinction: *add ~ to one's name*.

lus-trous /'lʌstrəs/ *adj* having lustre: *~ pearls/eyes*.

lusty /'lʌsti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) healthy and strong; vigorous: *a ~ girl*; *~ cheers*.

lust-ily /-əli/ *adv*: *work/fight/shout lustily*.

lute /lut/ *n* [C] stringed musical instrument (14th to 17th centuries) associated with poets and poetry.

lut-an-ist (also **-ten-**) /'lu:tənɪst/, player of the lute.

lux-ur-iant /lʌg'zʊəriənt/ *adj* **1** strong in growth; abundant: *the ~ vegetation of the tropics*. **2** (of literary and artistic style) richly ornamented; very elaborate.

lux-ur-iant-ly *adv*.

lux-ur-iance /-əns/ *n* [U]

lux-ur-iate /lʌg'zʊəriət/ *vi* (formal) take great delight (in): *~ in the warm spring sunshine*.

lux-ur-ious /lʌg'zʊəriəs/ *adj* **1** supplied with luxuries; very comfortable: *a ~ hotel*. **2** choice and costly: *~ food*.

lux-ur-ious-ly *adv*

lux-ury /'lʌkʃəri/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] state of life in which one has and uses things that please the senses (good food and drink, clothes, comfort, beautiful surroundings): *live in ~*; *a life of ~*. **2** (used as an adjective) enabling people to live this kind of life: *a ~ hotel/ocean liner*. **3** [C] something not essential but which gives enjoyment and pleasure, esp something expensive: *His salary is low and he gets few luxuries*.

-ly /-li/ *suffix* **1** (noun + ~ = adjective) having the qualities of: *cowardly*. **2** (adjective + ~ = adverb) in the manner of the adjective: *quickly*.

ly-chee (also **li-chee**, **li-tchee**, **li-tchi**) /'lɜ:tʃi/ *n* [C] (fruit of a) tree originally from China (thin brown shell containing a white

pulp round a single seed).

ly-ing /'laɪŋ/ *present participle* of lie¹, lie².

lymph /lɪmf/ *n* [U] colourless fluid in animal matter, like blood but with no colour.

lym-phatic /lɪm'fætɪk/ *adj* of or carrying lymph.

lynch /lɪntʃ/ *vt* put to death (usually by hanging) without a lawful trial.

lynch-pin /'lɪntʃpɪn/ *n* variant spelling of lynchpin.

lynx /lɪŋks/ *n* [C] short-tailed wild animal of the cat family, noted for its good eye sight.

'lynx-eyed *adj* having good eyesight.

lyre /'laɪə(r)/ *n* [C] kind of harp with strings fixed in a U-shaped frame, used by the ancient Greeks.

lyric /'lɪrɪk/ *adj* **1** of, composed for, singing. **2** of poetry written on the theme of love, death, etc. **□ n** [C] **1** lyric poem. **2** (pl) verses of a song, eg in a musical play.

lyri-cal /'lɪrɪkl/ *adj* **1** = lyric. **2** (eg of playing music) full of emotion.

lyri-cally /-kli/ *adv*

Mm

M, m /em/ (pl M's, m's /emz/) **1** the 13th letter of the English alphabet. **2** the Roman numeral 1000.

ma /mɑ:/ *n* [C] short for mamma, mother.

ma'am /mæm/ *n* [C] **1** madam, eg as used in addressing the Queen and other royal ladies. **2** (informal) madam.

mac /mæk/ *n* (GB informal abbr for) mackintosh.

ma-cabre /mæ'kɑ:brə/ *adj* gruesome; suggesting death.

ma-cadam /mæ'kædəm/ *n* [C,U] (road with a) surface of several layers of broken rock or stone, each rolled hard before the next is put down.

maca-roni /mækə'rəʊni/ *n* [U] flour paste (pasta) made into hollow tubes (often chopped into short pieces), cooked by boiling.

maca-ron /mækə'ru:n/ *n* [C] hard, flat cake made of sugar, white of egg, and almonds or coconut.

mace¹ /meɪs/ *n* [C] **1** large, heavy club, usually with a metal head covered with spikes, used as a weapon in the Middle Ages. **2** ceremonial rod or staff carried or placed before an official, eg a Mayor.

'mace-bearer, official who carries a mace(2).

mace² /meɪs/ *n* [U] dried outer covering of nutmegs, used as spice.

Mach /mɑ:k/ *n* (also ~ number) ratio of the

air speed of an aircraft to the speed of sound: ~ two, twice the speed of sound.

ma-chete /mæ'tʃetɪ/ *n* [C] wide, heavy knife used in Latin America as a tool and weapon.

mach-i-a-vel-lian /mækɪə'veliən/ *adj* using any means to get what is wanted and not caring about morality, etc.

machi-na-tion /mækɪ'neɪʃn/ *n* [C] evil plot or scheme; evil scheming.

ma-chine /mæ'ʃɪn/ *n* [C] **1** appliance or mechanical device with parts working together to apply power: a 'sewing-~. **2** persons organized to control a political group: the party ~. **□ vt** operate on, make (something) with, a machine (esp of sewing and printing).

ma'chine-gun, gun that fires continuously while the trigger is pressed.

ma-chine-made *adj* made by machine (contrasted with *hand-made*).

ma'chine-tool, tool, mechanically operated, for cutting or shaping materials.

ma-chin-ist /mæ'ʃɪnɪst/, (a) person who makes, repairs or controls machine tools. (b) person who works a machine, esp a sewing-machine.

ma-chin-ery /mæ'ʃɪ:nəri/ *n* (pl -ies) [U] **1** moving parts of a machine; machines collectively: *How much new ~ has been installed?* **2** methods, organization (eg of government): *the ~ of state*.

mack-erel /'mækrəl/ *n* [C] (pl unchanged) kind of sea-fish used as food.

mack-in-tosh /'mæknɪtɒʃ/ *n* [C] (GB) rain-proof coat of cloth treated with rubber.

mac-ro-biotic /mæk'rəʊbaɪ'ɒtɪk/ *adj* prolonging life: ~ food, without chemicals added.

mac-ro-cosm /mæk'rəʊkɒzəm/ *n* the great world or universe. ⇨ microcosm.

mad /mæd/ *adj* (-der, -dest) **1** mentally ill.

drive/send sb mad, cause him to be mad.

as mad as a March hare/as a hatter, very mad. **2** (informal) very excited; filled with great enthusiasm: ~ about pop music. **be/go mad**, be/become wildly excited, angry, upset, etc. **3** (informal) angry: *They were ~ about/at missing the train. Dad was ~ with me for coming home late.* **4** (of a dog, etc) rabid.

'mad-man/-woman, who is mad(1).

mad-ly *adv* (a) in a mad manner. (b) (informal) extremely: ~ly excited/in love.

mad-ness *n* [U] the state of being mad; mad behaviour.

madam /'mædəm/ *n* **1** respectful form of address to a woman (married or unmarried) eg by a shop-assistant: *Can I help you, ~?* **2** (used in formal letters): *Dear M~.* **3** (informal) woman or girl who likes to order people about: *She's a bit of a ~.*

mad-den /'mædn/ *vt* make mad; irritate; annoy: ~ dening delays.

made /meɪd/ *pt, pp* of make¹.

Ma-donna /mæ'dɒnə/ *n* the ~, (picture or

statue of) Mary, Mother of Jesus Christ.

mad-ri-gal /'mædrɪɡl/ *n* [C] song for several voices without instrumental accompaniment.

mael-strom /'meɪlstrom/ *n* [C] **1** great whirlpool. **2** (fig) violent or destructive force or series of events: *the ~ of war*.

maes-tro /'maɪstrəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* maestri /'maɪstri/) (*It*) distinguished musical composer, teacher or conductor.

mag /mæg/ *n* [C] (*informal abbr of*) magazine(4): *the colour ~s*.

maga-zine /'mægəzi:n/ *US: 'mægəzi:n* *n* [C] **1** store for arms, ammunition, explosives, etc. **2** chamber for holding cartridges to be fed into the breech of a rifle or gun. **3** place for rolls or cartridges of film in a camera. **4** (weekly or monthly) periodical, with articles, pictures, etc.

ma-genta /mæ'dʒenta/ *adj, n* [U] bright crimson (substance used as a dye).

mag-got /'mægət/ *n* [C] larva or grub, eg of the house-fly.

mag-goty *adj* having maggots: *~y cheese*.

Magi /'meɪdʒaɪ/ *n pl the M~*, the three wise men from the East who brought offerings to the infant Jesus.

magic /'mædʒɪk/ *adj* done by, or as if by, magic; possessing magic; used in magic: *see arts/words*; *a ~ touch*. □ *n* [U] **1** art of controlling events by the pretended use of supernatural forces; superstitious practices based on a belief in supernatural agencies. *as if by/like magic*, in a mysterious manner. **2** art of obtaining mysterious results by tricks: *use ~ to produce a rabbit*. **3** (fig) quality produced as if by magic: *the ~ of poetry*.

black magic, ⇨ black art.

magi-cal /-kl/ *adj* = magic.

magi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

magician /mæ'dʒɪjən/ *n* [C] person skilled in magic(2); wizard.

magis-ter-ial /'mædʒɪstəriəl/ *adj* **1** of, conducted by, a magistrate. **2** having or showing authority: *a ~ manner*.

magis-ter-ially /-iəlɪ/ *adv*

magis-tracy /'mædʒɪstrəsi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** position of a magistrate. **2** the ~, magistrates collectively.

magis-trate /'mædʒɪstreɪt/ *n* [C] civil officer acting as a judge in the lowest courts (Police Courts); Justice of the Peace.

mag-nani-mous /mæg'nænɪməs/ *adj* having, showing, generosity.

mag-nani-mous-ly *adv*

mag-na-nim-ity /mæg'nænɪməti/ *n* [C,U]

mag-nate /'mæɡneɪt/ *n* [C] wealthy and powerful leader of business or industry.

mag-nesia /mæg'ni:ʃə/ *n* [U] white, tasteless powder (formula **MgO**) used in medicine and industry.

mag-nesium /mæg'ni:ziəm/ *n* [U] silver-white metal (symbol **Mg**) used in the manu-

facture of aluminium and other alloys, and in photography: *~ light*, bright light obtained by burning magnesium.

mag-net /'mæɡnɪt/ *n* [C] **1** substance able to attract iron, either natural (as in lodestone) or by means of an electric current. **2** (fig) person or thing that attracts.

mag-net-ic /mæg'netɪk/ *adj* **1** of magnetism. **2** having the properties of a magnet: *the ~ field*, area in which a magnetic force may be detected; (fig) *a ~ smile/personality*, attracting the attention of people.

magnetic needle, magnetized steel rod which, when horizontal, indicates north and south.

magnetic north, the point indicated by a magnetic needle.

magnetic pole, point near the North or South Pole to which the compass needle points.

magnetic tape, kind of tape coated with iron oxide used to record sound, vision.

mag-neti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

mag-net-ism /'mæɡnɪtizəm/ *n* [U] **1** (the science of) magnetic phenomena and properties. **2** (fig) great personal charm and attraction.

mag-net-ize (also **-ise**) /'mæɡnɪtaɪz/ *vt* **1** give magnetic properties to. **2** (fig) attract as a magnet does.

mag-ni-fi-ca-tion /'mæɡnɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U] (esp) power, strength, of magnifying, eg of a lens, a pair of binoculars.

mag-nifi-cent /mæg'nɪfɪsnt/ *adj* splendid; remarkable: *a ~ house*; *his ~ generosity*.

mag-nifi-cent-ly *adv*

mag-nifi-cence /-sns/ *n* [U]

mag-ni-fier /-faɪə(r)/ *n* [C] instrument, etc that magnifies.

mag-nify /'mæɡnɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** make (a person or thing) appear larger (as with a lens or microscope). **2** exaggerate: *~ dangers*. **3** give praise to (God): *~ the Lord*.

'magnifying-glass, lens for making objects appear larger.

mag-ni-tude /'mæɡnɪtju:d/ *US: -tu:d* *n* [C] (*formal*) **1** size. **2** (degree of) importance. **3** comparative brightness of stars.

mag-num /'mæɡnəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) (bottle containing) two quarts (of wine or spirit).

mag-num opus /'mæɡnəm 'əʊpəs/ *n* [C] **1** great literary work. **2** person's chief (literary) work.

mag-pie /'mæɡpaɪ/ *n* [C] **1** noisy black-and-white bird which is attracted by, and often takes away, small, bright objects. **2** (fig) person who talks very much. **3** (fig) person who steals small things.

ma-hog-any /mæ'həɡəni/ *n* [C,U] (tropical tree with) dark-brown wood much used for furniture.

maid /meɪd/ *n* [C] **1** (literary) girl. **2** (old use)

young, unmarried woman. **3** (*modern use*) woman servant: *It's the ~'s day off*. **4** (used in compounds): a *nurse~*. ⇨ *old maid*.

maid of 'honour, unmarried woman attending a queen or princess.

maiden /'meɪdn/ *n* [C] (*literary*) girl; young unmarried woman. □ **adj** 1 of a girl or woman. **2** first or earliest: a *ship's ~ voyage*. **3** (also *maiden 'lover*) (*cricket*) one in which no runs are scored. **4** (of an older woman) unmarried: *my ~ aunt*.

'maiden-head, (*formal*) virginity.

'maiden-hood, (*formal*) state, period, of being a girl.

maiden name, woman's family name before marriage.

maiden speech, first speech, eg in Parliament as a new member.

'maiden-like, **maiden-ly** *adj* gentle; modest; of or like a maiden.

mail¹ /meɪl/ *n* [U] body armour of metal rings or plates: a *coat of ~*; *'chain-~*.

mail² /meɪl/ *n* 1 [U] government system of collecting, carrying and delivering letters and parcels: *send a letter by air-~*. **2** [C,U] letters, parcels, etc sent or delivered by post; the letters, etc sent collected or delivered at one time: *Was there any ~ this morning?* □ *vi* (chiefly US; in GB *post* is more usual) send by post.

'mail-bag, strong bag in which mail is carried.

'mail-boat, one that transports mail.

'mail-box, (US) letter-box.

'mail-ing-card, (US) postcard.

'mail-ing-list, list of names of persons to whom something, eg a catalogue is regularly sent.

'mail-man, (US) postman.

'mail 'order, order for goods to be delivered by post.

'mail-train, train that carries mail.

maim /meɪm/ *vt* wound or injure so that some part of the body is useless: *He was seriously ~ed in the war*.

main¹ /meɪn/ *adj* chief; most important: *the ~ thing to remember*; *the ~ street of a town*; *the ~ point of my argument*; *the ~ course of a meal*.

'main deck, upper deck.

'main-land /-lənd/, country; continent or land mass, without its islands.

'main-spring, (a) principal spring of a clock or watch. (b) (*fig*) chief force or motive.

'main-stay /-steɪ/, (*fig*) chief support.

'main-stream, (a) most important aspect, direction, tendency, etc: *the ~ stream of political thought*. (b) style of jazz between traditional and modern.

main-ly *adv* chiefly; for the most part: *You are ~ly to blame*.

main² /meɪn/ *n* 1 [C] principal pipe bringing water or gas, principal wire transmitting elec-

tric current, from the source of supply into a building: *My new house is not yet connected to the ~s*. **2 in the main**, for the most part; on the whole. **3 with (all sb's) might and main**, physical force; strength. **4** (*poetry*) sea, esp a wide expanse of sea.

main-tain /meɪn'teɪn/ *vt* 1 keep up; retain; continue: *~ friendly relations (with...)*; *~ prices*; keep them stable; *~ law and order*; *~ a speed of 60 miles an hour*. **2** support, feed etc: *~ a wife and eight children*. **3** claim to be true: *~ one's innocence* / *that one is innocent*. **4** keep in good repair or working order: *~ the roads*. **5** defend: *~ one's rights*.

main-tain-able /-əbəl/ *adj* that can be maintained.

main-ten-ance /'meɪntənəns/ *n* [U] maintaining or being maintained; (esp) what is needed to support life: *A divorced woman may claim ~ (= money) for her children*.

mai-son-ette /'meɪzə'net/ *n* [C] small house; part of a house let or used separately as a self-contained dwelling.

maize /meɪz/ *n* [U] (also called *Indian corn*) sort of grain plant. ⇨ *corn-cob*.

ma-jes-tic /mæ'dʒestɪk/ *adj* having, showing, majesty.

ma-jes-ti-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

maj-esty /'mædʒəstɪ/ *n* (*pl. -ies*) 1 [U] conduct, speech, appearance, manner, causing respect; royal power. **2 His/Her/Your ~; Their/Your Majesties**, form used when speaking of or to a sovereign ruler or rulers.

ma-jor¹ /'meɪdʒə(r)/ *adj* (contrasted with *minor*) greater or more important: *~ roads*; *a ~ operation*, (in surgery) one that may be dangerous to the person's life. □ *vi* **major in sth**, specialize in (a certain subject, at college or university): *Brian ~ed in economics*.

ma-jor² /'meɪdʒə(r)/ *n* [C] army officer between a captain and a colonel.

'major-'general, army officer next above a brigadier and under a lieutenant-general.

ma-jor-ity /mæ'dʒɔrəti/ *US*: -'dʒɔr- / *n* [C] (*pl. -ies*) 1 (used with a *sing* or *pl verb*) greater number or part (of): *The ~ were/was in favour of the proposal*. **2** number by which votes for one side are more than those for the other side: *He was elected by a large ~/by a ~ of 3749*. **be in the majority**, have the majority. **3** legal age of reaching manhood or womanhood (eg eighteen in Britain): *He will reach his ~ next month*.

majority 'verdict, verdict by the majority (of a jury, etc).

make¹ /meɪk/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp made* /meɪd/) (For uses with *nouns*, ⇨ 24, 25 below; for uses with *adjectives*, ⇨ 26 below; for uses with *adverbial particles and prepositions*, ⇨ 27 below.) **1** construct or produce by combining parts or putting materials together; form or shape from material; bring into existence (esp by ef-

fort): ~ *bread*. She *made* (= prepared) *coffee* for all of us. *Cloth is made of cotton, wool, nylon and other materials. Men made gods.* **2** cause to appear by breaking, tearing, removing material: ~ a *hole in the ground*/a gap in a hedge. **3** enact; establish: *Who made this ridiculous rule?* **4** draft; draw up: *A treaty has been made with our former enemies.* **5** amount to in significance: *Agatha Christie's novels ~ excellent reading, are excellent books.* **6** cause: *I don't want to ~ any trouble for you.* **7** (passive only) be meant or intended: *John and Mary seem to have been made for each other, eg because they get on so well together.* **8** cause to be or become: *The news made her happy. He soon made himself understood.* **make it worth sb's while (to do sth)**, ⇨ while. **9** earn; win; gain; acquire: ~ a profit/loss of £100. He first *made* his name/reputation as a junior Minister. **make or mar/break**, ⇨ mar. **make/earn, etc one's living (as/at/by/from)**, have as one's work or livelihood: *He ~s his living as a teacher*/from teaching/by giving piano lessons. **make/earn a mint/pile/packet**, ⇨ pile¹(3). **10** (in card-games): *Six tricks bid and made, won.* **11** (cricket) score: ~ a century in a test match. **12** (of the tide) begin to flow or ebb: *The tide is making fast.* **13** compel; force; persuade; cause (something) to happen: *Can you ~ this old car start? What ~s the grass grow? His jokes made us all laugh.* **make one's blood boil/one's 'hackles rise**, make one very angry. **make sb's 'hair stand on end**, ⇨ hair(1). **make sth 'do; make 'do with sth**, manage with it although it may not be really adequate or satisfactory: *You'll have to ~ do with cold meat for dinner.* **make sth go round**, make it last or be enough: *I don't know how she ~s the money go round.* **make believe (that); 'make-believe**, ⇨ believe(3). **14** represent as; cause to appear as: *In the play the author ~s the murderer commit suicide, describes him as doing this.* *You've made my nose too big*, eg in a drawing or painting. **15** estimate or reckon (to be); put (a total, etc) at: *What time do you ~ it? What do you ~ the time? I ~ the distance about 70 miles.* **16** come to, equal; add up to; amount to: *A hundred pence ~s one pound. 5 and 7 and 3 is 15, and 4 more ~s 19.* **make (good/much/little) sense**, ⇨ sense(6). **17** be (in a series); count as: *This ~s the fifth time you've failed this examination.* **18** turn into; turn out to be; prove to be: *She will ~ him a good wife, will be one.* **19** (informal) travel over (a distance); reach, maintain (a speed); be in time for, catch; reach (a place); gain the rank of or place of: *We've made 80 miles since noon. The train leaves at 7.13; can we ~ it, reach the station in time? He'll never ~ (= win a place on) the team.* **20** elect; appoint; nominate; raise to

the rank of: ~ him King/an earl/a peer. **21** offer, propose: *M ~ me an offer!* Suggest a price! *The Chairman of British Rail has made a new offer to the men, eg of a rise in wages during a strike. I made her a present of the vase.* **22 make + noun + of (sth/sb); make sth/sb sth**, cause a person or thing to be or become: *His parents want to ~ a doctor of him, want him to be educated for the medical profession. Don't ~ a habit of it!* ~ it a habit, don't let it become a habit. *Don't ~ an ass/fool of yourself, don't behave stupidly.* ⇨ **24** and **25** below for other examples. **23 make as if**, behave as if about (to do something): *He made as if to hit me.* **24** (used with many nouns where *make* and the noun together have the same meaning as a verb related in form to the noun; ⇨ the noun entries): *make allowances (for), make an application (to sb) (for sth); make arrangements for; make a decision; make a success of (sth).* **25** (used with nouns in special senses; the examples below are a selection only; for definitions ⇨ the entry for the noun in the example): ~ an attempt; ~ an appointment; ~ the bed(s); ~ the best of; ~ a bid (for); ~ a break for it; ~ a change; ~ sb's day; ~ demands (of/on); ~ an effort; ~ an excuse; ~ eyes at; ~ a face/faces (at); ~ fun of; ~ a fuss (of); ~ a go of sth; ~ head or tail of; ~ a good/poor job of; ~ love (to sb); ~ a man of; ~ the most of; ~ much of; ~ a name for oneself; ~ a night of it; ~ a pass at; ~ one's peace (with); ~ a point (of); ~ room (for); ~ war (on); ~ way for; ~ one's way in life/the world; ~ heavy weather of. **26** (used with adjectives in special senses; for definitions ⇨ the entry for the adjective in the example): ~ certain; ~ good; ~ light of; ~ sure. **27** (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

make for sb/sth, (a) move in the direction of: *It's late; we'd better ~ for home.* (b) charge at, rush towards: *During the interval came everyone made for the bar, ie to buy drinks.* (c) contribute to, tend towards: *Does early rising ~ for good health?*

make sth/sb into sth, change or convert to: *The huts can be made into temporary houses.*

make sth of, understand, interpret: *What are we to ~ of his behaviour? I can ~ nothing of all this scribble.*

make off, hurry away (esp in order to escape): *The get-away car made off at top speed.* **make off with sth**, steal and hurry away: *The cashier made off with the firm's money.*

make sth out, (a) write out; complete or fill in: ~ out a cheque for £10. (b) manage to see, read: *We made out a woman in the darkness.*

make sb out to be, claim; assert; maintain: *He ~s himself out to be cleverer than he really is.* **make sb/sth out**, understand him/it:

What a queer person he is! I can't ~ him out at all. I can't ~ out what he wants. I couldn't ~ it out, couldn't understand it. **make out (with sb)**, progress, get on: *How are you making out with Lucy? How's your friendship progressing?* **make out a case (for/against)**, ⇨ case¹(3).

make sth/sb over, transfer the possession or ownership of: *He has made over his property to the National Trust.*

make sth up, (a) complete: *We still need £5 to ~ up the sum we asked for. There's a lot of time to ~ up.* (b) invent; compose (esp to deceive): *Stop making things up! It's all a made-up story.* (c) form; compose; constitute: *Animals and vegetables are made up of water and cells. I object to the way the committee is made up/to the make-up of the committee.* (d) prepare, eg medicine, by mixing ingredients: *Ask the chemist to ~ this up for you.* (e) make (material, cloth, etc) into clothes: *This cloth will ~ up into two dresses.* (f) add fuel to, eg a fire: *The fire needs making up.* (g) prepare (a bed): *They made up a bed on the sofa for the unexpected visitor.* **make sb/oneself up**, prepare (an actor/oneself) by applying cosmetics to the face: *It takes him more than an hour to ~ up for the part of Othello.* Hence, **'make-up** *n* [U]. **make up one's mind**, ⇨ mind¹(2).

make up for sth, compensate for: *Hard work can often ~ up for a lack of intelligence.* **make up for lost time**, ⇨ time¹(3).

make it up to sb, give or do something in payment for something, he has lost, missed: *I'm sorry you can't come to the party but I'll ~ it up to you.* **make it up (with sb)**, end a quarrel, dispute or misunderstanding: *Why don't you ~ it up with her?*

'make-believe, ⇨ believe(3).

'make-shift, something used for a time until something better is obtainable: *use an empty crate as a ~ shift for a table/as a ~ shift table.*

'make-up, (a) ⇨ make sb/oneself up in make(27) above. (b) character, temperament: *men of that ~-up.*

'make-weight, (a) small quantity added to get the weight required. (b) (fig) person or thing of small value that fills a gap, supplies a deficiency.

make² /meik/ *n* [C,U] way a thing is made; method or style of manufacture: *cars of all ~s. Is this your own ~, made by you?* **on the make**, (sl) concerned with making a profit, gaining an advantage.

maker /'meikə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** the/our **M**~, the Creator; God. **2** (esp in compounds) person or thing that makes: *a ~ dress*~.

mak-ing /'meikɪŋ/ *n* **be the making of**, cause to develop well: *The two years he served in the Army were the ~ of him.* **have the makings of**, have the necessary qualities for becoming: *He has in him the ~s of a great*

swimmer.

mal- /mæl-/ prefix bad, wrong, not: *mal-adjusted.*

mala-chite /'mæləkait/ *n* [U] kind of green stone used for ornaments, etc.

mal-adjusted /'mælədʒəstɪd/ *adj* (of a person) unable to adapt himself properly to his environment, eg social or occupational.

mal-adjust-ment *n* [U].

mal-ady /'mælədi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (*formal*) (chronic) disease; illness; disorder.

mal-aise /mæ'leɪz/ *n* (*sing with a, an*) (*formal*) feeling of bodily discomfort, but without clear signs of a particular illness.

ma-laria /mæ'leəriə/ *n* [U] kinds of disease with chills, sweating and fever, carried by a particular type of mosquito.

ma-lar-ial /-iəl/ *adj*

male /meɪl/ *adj* of that sex that does not give birth to offspring: *a ~ voice* *choir*, of men and/or boys. □ *n* [C] male person, animal, etc.

mal-for-ma-tion /'mælfo:'meɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] state of being badly formed or shaped. **2** [C] badly formed part: *a ~ of the spine.*

mal-formed /'mæl'fɔ:md/ *adj* badly formed or shaped.

mal-ice /'mælis/ *n* [U] active hatred; desire to harm others. **bear sb malice**, feel hatred for him.

ma-li-cious /mæ'liʃəs/ *adj* feeling, showing, caused by, malice: ~ *gossip.*

ma-li-cious-ly *adv*

mal-ig-nancy /-nənsi/ *n* [U] the state of being malignant.

mal-ig-nant /mæ'liɡnənt/ *adj* **1** (of diseases) harmful to life: ~ *cancer.* **2** (*formal*) (of persons, their actions) filled with, showing, a desire to hurt: ~ *glances.*

mal-ig-nant-ly *adv*

mal-ig-nity /mæ'liɡnəti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] (of diseases) being harmful to life. **2** (*formal*) [U] great hatred; [C] instance of this; hateful act, remark, etc.

ma-lin-ger /mæ'liŋɡə(r)/ *vi* pretend to be ill, etc in order to escape duty or work.

ma-lin-gerer, person who malingers.

mal-lard /'mælə:d/ *n* [C] kind of wild duck.

mal-leable /'mæliəbl/ *adj* **1** (of metals) that can be hammered or pressed into new shapes. **2** (fig) (eg of a person's character) easily trained or adapted.

mal-lea-bil-ity /'mæliəbɪləti/ *n* [U]

mal-let /'mælit/ *n* [C] **1** hammer with a wooden head as used at auctions. **2** hammer with a long handle and wooden head for striking a croquet or polo ball.

mal-nu-tri-tion /'mælnju:'triʃn/ *US*: -nu:-/ *n* [U] condition caused by not getting (enough of) (the right kind(s) of) food.

mal-prac-tice /'mælp'ræktɪs/ *n* (*legal*) **1** [U] doing wrong; neglect of duty. **2** [C] instance of this.

malt /mɔ:lt/ *n* [U] grain (usually barley) allowed to sprout, prepared for brewing or distilling. □ *vt, vi* **1** make (grain) into malt; (of grain) become malt. **2** prepare with malt: ~ed milk.

mal-treat /mæl'tri:t/ *vt* (formal) treat roughly or cruelly.

mal-treat-ment *n* [U]

mama /mə'mɑ: US: 'mɑ:mə/ *n* [C] (dated) = mummy, mother.

mamba /'mæmbə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) black or green poisonous African tree snake.

mam-mal /'mæml/ *n* [C] any of the class of animals of which the females feed their young with milk from the breast: *Cats, rabbits, cows, monkeys, whales are all ~s.*

man-moth /'mæməθ/ *n* [C] large kind of elephant now extinct. □ *adj* (informal) huge: *a ~ task.*

man¹ /mæn/ *n* [C] (*pl* men /men/) **1** adult male human being: *a 'post~/'clergy~.* **man** and **'boy**, from boyhood onwards: *He has worked for the firm, ~ and boy, for thirty years.* **a man of letters**, a writer and scholar. **a man about town**, one who spends much time at parties, theatres, in clubs, etc. **a man of the world**, one with wide experience of business and society. **the man in the street**, person regarded as representing the interests and opinions of ordinary people. **2** human being; person: *All men must die.* □ odd (3). **3** (*sing* only, used without *the, a* or *an*) the human race; all mankind: *M ~ is mortal.* **4** male person under the authority of another: *officers and men*, eg in the army. **5** male person having the qualities (eg strength, confidence) associated with men. **make a man of**, train, show, him how to be strong, confident, etc: *How can we make a ~ of him?* **6** husband: *~ and wife.* **7** piece in chess, etc. **8** (used with *possessive adjectives*): *If you want a good teacher, here's your ~, here's someone suitable.*

'man-eater, cannibal; animal that eats human beings.

'man-handle *vt* (**a**) move by physical strength. (**b**) (*sf*) handle roughly: *I was ~ handled by the police.*

'man-hole, opening through which a man may enter (an underground sewer, boiler, tank, etc).

'man-hood, (**a**) state of being a man: *reach ~hood.* □ majority (3). (**b**) male qualities, eg virility, courage.

'man-hour, work done by one man in one hour.

man-'made, made by humans; produced artificially or from synthetic materials.

'man-power, number of men available for military service, work, etc: *a shortage of ~power in the coalmines.*

'man-servant, male servant.

'man-sized *adj* of a size right for a man: *a*

~sized 'steak.

'man-slaughter, (act of) killing a human being unlawfully but not deliberately.

man-to-'man *adj* frank, not holding back: *a ~-to-~ discussion.*

man² /mæn/ *vt* (-nn-) supply with men for service or defence: *~ a fort/a ship/~ the barricades.*

-man /-mən, -mæn/ *suffix* **1** dweller in: *countryman.* **2** person occupied in a specific activity: *businessman; doorman.*

man-acle /'mænəkl/ *n* [C] (usually *pl*) chains for the hands or feet. □ *vt* **1** put in chains. **2** (*fig*) cause to be held back.

man-age /'mænidʒ/ *vt, vi* **1** control: *managing a business/one's wife; the managing director.* **2** succeed: *I shan't be able to ~ without help.* *We can't ~ with these poor tools.* **3** (informal) (with *can, could, be able to*) make use of; eat: *Can you ~ another slice of cake?*

man-age-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be dealt with; easily controlled.

man-age-abil-ity /'mænidʒə'biləti/ *n* [U]

man-age-ment /'mænidʒmənt/ *n* **1** [U] managing or being managed: *under new ~.* **2** [U] skilful treatment or handling: *It needed a good deal of ~ to persuade them to give me the job.* **3** [C, U] (used collectively) all those concerned in managing an industry, enterprise, etc: *joint consultation between workers and ~.*

man-ager /'mænidʒə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who controls a business, a hotel, etc. **2** (usually with an *adjective*) person who manages a business, household affairs, etc in a certain way: *My wife is an excellent ~.*

man-ager-ess /'mænidʒə'res/ *n* [C] woman manager (1).

mana-ger-ial /'mæni'dʒəriəl/ *adj* of managers or management.

man-date /'mændət/ *n* [C] **1** order from a superior; command given with authority. **2** authority to administer a territory authorized by the League of Nations after the First World War. **3** authority given to representatives by voters, members of a trade union, etc: *the ~ given to us by the electors/workers.* □ *vt* put (a territory) under a mandate (2): *the ~d territories.*

man-da-tory /'mændətəri US: -tɔ:ri/ *adj* of, conveying, a command: *the mandatory power.*

man-dible /'mændəbl/ *n* [C] **1** lower jaw in mammals and fishes. **2** either part of a bird's beak. **3** (in insects) either half of the upper pair of jaws, used for biting, etc.

man-do-lin /'mændəlin/ *n* [C] musical instrument with 6 or 8 metal strings stretched in pairs on a rounded body.

mane /meɪn/ *n* [C] long hair on the neck of a horse, lion, etc.

ma-neu-ver /mə'nu:və(r)/ *n, v* (US) = manoeuvre.

man-ful /'mænfəl/ *adj* brave; determined.

man-fully /-fəli/ *adv*: behave ~ly.

man-ga-nese /'mæŋɡəniz/ *n* [U] hard, brittle, light-grey metal (symbol **Mn**) used in making steel, glass, etc.

mange /meɪndʒ/ *n* [U] contagious skin disease, esp of dogs and cats.

mangy /'meɪndʒi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest)

manger /'meɪndʒə(r)/ *n* [C] long, open box or trough for horses or cattle to feed from.

mangle /'mæŋɡl/ *n* [C] machine with rollers for pressing out water from clothes, etc. □ *vt* put (clothes, etc) through a mangle.

mangle² /'mæŋɡl/ *vt* cut up, tear, damage, badly: *be badly ~d in a car accident.*

mango /'mæŋɡəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es or ~s) (tropical tree with) fruit with a large stone and yellow flesh when ripe.

man-grove /'mæŋɡrəʊv/ *n* [C] tropical tree growing in swamps and sending down new roots from its branches.

mangy /'meɪndʒi/ ⇨ **mange**.

man-handle ⇨ **man**¹.

mania /'meɪniə/ *n* 1 [U] madness shown by great excitement, delusions, violence. 2 extreme enthusiasm, excitement: *a ~ for powerful motorbikes/hard work.*

maniac /'meɪniæk/ *n* [C] 1 raving madman. 2 (*fig*) extreme enthusiast.

ma-ni-acal /mə'niækəl/ *adj* (a) violently mad. (b) (*fig*) extremely enthusiastic.

ma-ni-acally /-kli/ *adv*

manic-depressive /'mænik dɪ'presɪv/ *adj*, *n* [C] (person) suffering from alternating periods of excitement and deep depression.

mani-cure /'mænikʃə(r)/ *n* [U] care of the hands and finger-nails. □ *vt* cut, clean and polish the finger-nails.

'mani-cur-ist /-ɪst/, person who manicures as a profession.

mani-fest /'mæɪnfest/ *adj* clear and obvious: *a ~ truth.* □ *vt* 1 show clearly: *~ the truth of a statement.* 2 give signs of: *She doesn't ~ much desire to marry him.* 3 (reflexive) appear: *No disease ~ed itself during the long voyage.*

mani-fest-ly *adv*

mani-fes-ta-tion /'mæɪnfɪ'steɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

mani-festo /'mæɪnfɪ'stəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or ~es) public declaration of principles, policy, purposes, etc by a ruler, political party, etc or of the character, qualifications, intentions of a person or group.

mani-fold /'mæɪnfəʊld/ *adj* having or providing for many uses, copies, etc. □ *n* [C] pipe or chamber with several openings or connections.

mani-kin /'mænikɪn/ *n* [C] 1 pygmy; dwarf. 2 anatomical model of the human body. 3 figure of the human body used by artists. 4 = mannequin.

ma-nipu-late /mə'nɪpjʊleɪt/ *vt* 1 operate, handle, with skill: *~ machinery.* 2 manage or control skilfully or craftily, esp by using one's

influence or unfair methods: *A clever politician knows how to ~ his supporters/public opinion.*

ma-nipu-la-tion /mə'nɪpjʊ'leɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

man-kind *n* [U] 1 /'mæn'kaɪnd/ the human species. 2 /'mænkaind/ the male sex; all men (contrasted with 'womankind').

man-like /'mænlaɪk/ *adj* having the qualities (good or bad) of a man.

man-ly /'mænli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) 1 having the strong qualities expected of a man. 2 (of a woman) having a man's qualities. 3 (of things, qualities, etc) right for a man.

man-li-ness *n* [U]

manna /'mænə/ *n* [U] 1 (in the Bible) food provided by God for the Israelites during their forty years in the desert. 2 (*fig*) something unexpectedly supplied or that gives spiritual refreshment.

man-ne-quin /'mænikɪn/ *n* [C] 1 = model(5) (the usual word). 2 life-size dummy of a human body, as used in shop-windows for the display of clothes.

man-ner /'mænə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 way in which a thing is done or happens: *Do it in this ~. (as) to the ~, manner 'born*, as if naturally suitable; knowing how to deal with a situation, practice, custom, etc from birth: *She began her teaching career as to the ~ born.* 2 (*sing* only) person's way of behaving towards others: *I don't like his ~.* 3 (*pl*) habits and customs. 4 (*pl*) social behaviour: *good/bad ~s.* 5 style in literature or art: *a painting in the ~ of Raphael.* 6 kind, sort: *What ~ of man is he?* **all man-ner of**, every kind of: *He gave us all ~ of excuses.*

man-nered *adj* (a) (used in compounds): *'ill-'well-'ed*, having bad/good manners(4). (b) showing mannerisms.

man-ner-ism /'mænərɪzəm/ *n* [C] 1 peculiarity of behaviour, speech, etc, esp one that is a habit. 2 too much use of a distinctive manner in art or literature.

man-ner-ly /'mænəli/ *adj* courteous, polite.

man-nish /'mæniʃ/ *adj* 1 (of a woman) like a man. 2 more suitable for a man than for a woman: *a ~ style of dress.*

ma-noeuvre (US = **ma-neu-ver**) /mə'nu:və(r)/ *n* [C] 1 planned movement (of armed forces); (*pl*) series of such movements, eg as training exercises: *army ~s.* 2 movement or plan, made to deceive, or to escape, or to win or do something: *the desperate ~s of some politicians.* □ *vi,vt* (cause to) perform manoeuvres: *manoeuvring a car into a parking space.*

ma-noeuvrer (US = **ma-neu-verer**), person who uses manoeuvres(2).

ma-noeuvr-able (US = **ma-neu-ver-able**) /-vrəbl/ *adj* that can be manoeuvred.

ma-noeuvr-abil-ity (US = **-neu-ver-**) /mə'nu:və'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

manor /'mænə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** unit of land under the feudal system, part of which was used directly by the *lord of the ~* and the rest occupied and farmed by tenants who paid rent in crops and service. **2** (*modern use*) area of land with a principal residence (called the '~house').

ma-nor-ial /mə'nɔ:riəl/ *adj* of a manor.

man-sion /'mænʃn/ *n* [C] **1** large and stately house. **2** (*pl*) (in proper names) block of flats: *Victoria M~s*.

man-tel /'mæntl/ *n* [C] structure of wood, marble, etc above and around a fireplace.

'mantel-piece, shelf above a fireplace.

man-tilla /mæn'tilə/ *n* [C] (*pl ~s*) large veil or scarf worn by Spanish women to cover the hair and shoulders.

man-tis /'mæntis/ *n* [C] (kinds of) long-legged insect.

mantle /'mæntl/ *n* [C] **1** loose, sleeveless cloak. **2** (*fig*) covering: *hills with a ~ of snow*. **3** metal cover like lace fixed round the flame of a light from gas.

man-ual /'mænjuəl/ *adj* of, done with, the hands: *~ labour*. □ *n* [C] **1** handbook or textbook: *a technical ~*. **2** keyboard of an organ, played with the hands.

man-ually /-juəl/ *adv*

manu-fac-ture /,mænju'fæktʃə(r)/ *vt* **1** make, produce, (goods, etc) on a large scale by machinery: *manufacturing industries*; *~d goods*. **2** invent (a story, an excuse, etc). □ *n* **1** [U] the making or production of goods and materials: *the ~ of toys/plastic*. **2** (*pl*) manufactured goods and articles.

manu-fac-turer, person who, firm which, manufactures things.

ma-nure /mə'njuə(r)/ *n* [U] waste from the bodies of animals, eg from stables; other material, natural or artificial, spread over or mixed with the soil to make it fertile. □ *vt* put manure in or on (land/soil).

manu-script /'mænʃskript/ *n* [C] (abbr to **MS**, *pl MSS*) book, etc as first written out or typed: *poems still in ~*.

many /'meni/ *adj*, *n* (contrasted with *few*; ⇨ *more*, *most*) **1** (used with *pl nouns*) a large number (*of*), plenty (*of*): *I have some, but not ~. How ~ do you want? Do you need so ~?* *M ~ people think so. M ~ of us agree. A good ~ people agree with you.* ⇨ *good¹* (14). **as many again**, the same number, quantity, again. **one too many**, one more than the correct or needed number. **2** (used with a *sing noun*): *M ~ a man (= Many men) would welcome the opportunity.*

'many-sided *adj* (a) having many sides. (b) (*fig*) having many aspects, capabilities, etc: *a ~-sided problem*.

map /mæp/ *n* [C] representation on paper, etc of the earth's surface or a part of it, showing physical details, countries, vegetation, eco-

nomie resources, etc; representation of the sky showing the stars, etc. (*put sth*) *on the map*, (*fig*) (cause it to be) considered important: *John's success in athletics put his college on the ~. off the map*, (*informal*) unimportant. □ *vt* (-pp-) **1** make a map of; show on a map. **2** *map out*, plan, arrange: *~ out one's time*.

'map-reader, person able to get information from maps: *He's a good/poor ~-reader*.

maple /'meɪpl/ *n* **1** [C] (sorts of) tree of the northern hemisphere, grown for timber and ornament. **2** [U] wood of this tree.

'maple-leaf, emblem of Canada.

'maple-sugar/-syrup, sugar/syrup that is obtained from the sap of one kind of maple.

mar /mɑ:(r)/ *vt* (-rr-) injure; spoil; damage: *Nothing ~ed their happiness. make or mar/break*, make a great success of or ruin completely.

mar-a-thon /'mærəθən *US*: -θɒn/ *n* [C] **1** the *M~*, long-distance race on foot (about 26 miles (or 41.8 kilometres) at modern sports meetings). **2** (*fig*) test of endurance.

ma-raud /mə'raʊd/ *vi* go about in search of loot or prey.

ma-rauder, person, animal, that marauds.

marble /'mɑ:bl/ *n* **1** [U] (sorts of) hard limestone with patterns, used, when cut and polished, for building and sculpture: (as an *adjective*) *a ~ statue/tomb*. **2** (*pl*) works of art in marble. **3** [C] small ball of coloured glass used in games played by children.

March /mɑ:tʃ/ *n* the third month of the year, with 31 days.

march¹ /mɑ:tʃ/ *n* **1** [U] act of marching (by soldiers, etc). **2** [C] instance of marching; distance travelled: *a ~ of ten miles. steal a march on sb*, win an advantage by doing something earlier than expected by him. **3** progress: *the ~ of events/time*. **4** [C] piece of music for marching to: *military ~es*. **5** [C] large public demonstration (2) by people walking: *a ~ in support of human rights*.

dead march, one in slow time for a funeral.

forced march, one made more quickly than usual, or for a greater distance, in an emergency.

marcher, (a) person who marches. (b) person who walks in a march (5).

march² /mɑ:tʃ/ *vi*, *vt* **1** (cause to) walk as soldiers do, with regular steps: *The troops ~ed by/past/in/out/off/away. He was ~ed off to prison*, taken off to prison. **2** take part in a march (5).

'marching orders, (a) orders for troops to leave for war, etc. (b) (*fig*) notification of dismissal.

mar-chion-ess /,mɑ:ʃə'nes/ *n* [C] **1** wife or widow of a marquis. **2** woman who holds a position equal to that of a marquis.

mare /mɛə(r)/ *n* [C] female horse or donkey.

mare's nest, a discovery thought valuable that turns out to be false or worthless.

mar-gar-ine /ˈmɑːdʒərɪn/ *US*: ˈmɑːrdʒərɪn/ *n* [U] food substance, used like butter, made from animal or vegetable fats.

marge /mɑːdʒ/ *n* [U] (*informal abbr for*) margarine.

mar-gin /ˈmɑːdʒɪn/ *n* [C] **1** blank space round writing or printing on a page. **2** edge or border: *the ~ of a lake*. **3** amount (of time, money, etc) above what is estimated as necessary. **4** condition near the limit or borderline, below or beyond which something is impossible: *He escaped defeat by a narrow ~*.

mar-ginal /-nəl/ *adj* (a) of or in a margin(1): *~al notes*. (b) of a margin(4): *a ~al seat/constituency*, one where the MP has been elected by a small majority.

mar-gin-ally /-nəli/ *adv*

mari-juana, mari-huana /ˈmæriˈwɑːnə/ *n* [U] (also called *hashish, cannabis, pot*) dried leaves and flowers of Indian hemp smoked in cigarettes (called *reefers* or *joints*) to cause euphoria.

ma-rina /ˈmæriːnə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) harbour designed for pleasure boats (small yachts, cabin cruisers, etc) often with hotels, etc.

mari-nade /ˈmæriːneɪd/ *n* [C,U] (kinds of) pickle of wine, vinegar and spice; fish or meat pickled in this. □ *vt* (also **mari-nate** /ˈmæriːneɪt/) soak in (a) marinade.

mar-ine /ˈmæriːn/ *adj* **1** of, by, found in, produced by, the sea: *~ fishing*. **2** of ships, sea-trade, the navy, etc: *~ insurance*, of ships and cargo. □ **n** **1** [U] shipping in general. **2** [C] soldier serving on a warship.

mari-ner /ˈmæriːnə(r)/ *n* [C] sailor, esp one who helps to navigate a ship.

master mariner, captain of a merchant ship.

mari-on-ette /ˈmæriːnət/ *n* [C] jointed doll or puppet moved by strings.

mari-tal /ˈmæriːtl/ *adj* **1** of a husband. **2** of marriage.

mari-time /ˈmæriːtaɪm/ *adj* **1** connected with the sea or navigation: *~ law*. **2** situated or found near the sea: *~ countries*.

mark ¹ /mɑːk/ *n* [C] **1** line, scratch, cut, stain, etc that spoils the appearance of something: *Who made these dirty ~s on my new book?* **2** noticeable spot on the body by which a person or animal may be recognized: *a 'birth' ~*. **3** visible trace; sign or indication (of a quality, etc): *~s of old age/suffering*. **4** figure, design, line, etc made as a sign or indication: *punctuation ~s*; *'trade' ~s*. **5** numerical or alphabetical symbol, eg A +, to indicate a level or standard in an examination, or for conduct: *He got the best ~s of his year*. **6** target: *His shot was off the ~*. **be/fall wide of the mark**, be very inaccurate: *Your guess/calculation is wide of the ~*. **beside the**

mark, ⇨ *beside* (2). **7** [U] distinction; fame.

make one's mark, become distinguished. **8** (*sing only*) standard. **up to/below the mark**, equal to/below the required or normal standard. **not be/feel (quite) up to the mark**, not in one's usual health. **9** (*athletics*) line showing the starting-point of a race: *On your ~s, get set, go!* (words used by the starter). **10** (with numbers) model or type: *Meteor M ~ III*, eg of an aircraft.

mark ² /mɑːk/ *vt* **1** put or have a mark on something by writing, stamping, etc: *All our stock has been ~ed down/up*, reduced/increased in price. Hence, **'mark-up** *n* [C] amount by which a price is increased. **2** (*passive*) have natural marks or visible signs: *A zebra is ~ed with stripes*. **3** give marks(5) to: *~ examination papers*. **4** indicate something by putting a mark, eg a tick or a cross, on or against: *~ an answer wrong*. **5** pay attention (to): *M ~ carefully how it is done*. (**You**) **mark my words**, Note what I say (and you will find, later that I am right). **6** be a distinguishing feature of: *What are the qualities that ~ a great leader?* **7** signal; be a sign of: *His death ~ed the end of an era*. *Ceremonies ~ing an anniversary*. **mark time**, (a) stamp the feet as when marching but without moving forward. (b) (fig) wait until further progress becomes possible.

8 (uses with *adverbial particles*):

mark sth off, put marks on (to show boundary lines, measurements, etc).

mark sth out, put lines on (to show limits, etc): *~ out a tennis-court*.

marked *adj* clear; obvious: *a ~ed difference/improvement*.

a marked man, one whose conduct is watched with suspicion or hatred.

mark-ed-ly /ˈmɑːkɪdli/ *adv*

mark-ing, (esp) pattern of different colours of feathers, skin, etc: *a tiger's ~ings*.

marker /ˈmɑːkə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person or tool that marks, esp a person who marks the score at games. **2** thing that marks or indicates, eg a flag or post on a playing field, a post showing distances. **3** person who marks examination papers.

mar-ket ¹ /ˈmɑːkɪt/ *n* [C] **1** public place (an open space or a building) where people meet to buy and sell goods: *She went to (the) ~ to buy food for the family*. **2** occasion during which such a meeting takes place: *The next ~ is on Monday*. **3** trade in a class of goods: *the 'coffee ~*. **4** state of trade as shown by prices: *The ~ rose/fell/was steady*. Prices rose/fell/did not change much. **play the market**, buy and sell to make the most profit. **5** demand: *There's no/not much/only a poor ~ for these goods*. **6** (*sing only*) buying and selling. **be in the market for sth**, have the desire to buy something. **be on/come on (to)/put on**

the market, be offered/offer for sale: *This house will probably come on the ~ next month.*
7 area, country, in which goods may be sold: *We must find new ~s for our manufacturers.*

Common 'Market, ⇨ *common*¹.

'market-day, day on which a market is regularly held.

'market-garden, place where vegetables are grown for selling. Hence, **'market-gardening** *n* [U]

'market-place, open place in a town where a market is held.

market price, price for which something is usually sold in the open market.

'market re'search, study of the reasons why people buy, or do not buy, certain goods, the effect of advertising, etc.

'market town, one where a market (esp one for cattle and sheep) is held.

mar-ket² /'mɑ:kɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** buy or sell in a market. **2** take or send to market; prepare and offer for sale.

mar-ket-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be, fit to be, sold.

mar-ket-ing, theory and practice of (large-scale) selling.

marks-man /'mɑ:ksmən/ *n* [C] (*pl* -men /-mən/) person skilled in aiming at a target, esp with a rifle.

mar-ma-lade /'mɑ:məleɪd/ *n* [U] (bitter) jam made from citrus fruit (usually oranges).

mar-mo-set /'mɑ:məzət/ *n* [C] small, tropical American monkey with soft, thick hair and a bushy tail.

mar-mot /'mɑ:mət/ *n* [C] small animal of the squirrel family.

ma-roon¹ /'mɑ:ru:n/ *adj, n* [U] brownish-red (colour).

ma-roon² /'mɑ:ru:n/ *vt* put (a person) on a desert island, uninhabited coast, etc and leave him there.

mar-quee /'mɑ:'ki:/ *n* [C] large tent (as used for flower shows, a circus, etc).

mar-quis, mar-quess /'mɑ:kwɪs/ *n* **1** (GB) nobleman next in rank above an earl and below a duke. **2** (in other countries) nobleman next in rank above a count. ⇨ *marchioness*.

mar-riage /'mæɪrɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [C, U] (instance of a) legal union of a man and woman as husband and wife; state of being married: *A ~ has been arranged between... and....* **2** = wedding (the usual word).

mar-riage-able /-əbl/ *adj* old enough, fit for, marriage: *a girl of ~able age*.

mar-ried /'mæɪrɪd/ *adj* united in marriage; of marriage: *~ couples; ~ life*.

mar-row /'mæɪrəʊ/ *n* **1** [U] soft, fatty substance that fills the hollow parts of bones. **chill/chilled to the marrow**, (of a person) (make) extremely cold. **2** [U] (*fig*) essence; essential part. **3** [C] (GB) (also 'vegetable ~) vegetable like a large fat cucumber (US =

squash); [U] this as food.

marry /'mæɪri/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** take as a husband or wife; have a husband or wife. **2** (of a priest, a civil official) join as husband or wife: *Which priest is going to ~ them?* **3** give in marriage: *He married both his daughters to rich directors.* **4** obtain by marrying: *~ money/wealth*.

Mars /mɑ:z/ *n* **1** (in Roman myth) the god of war. **2** (*astron*) planet fourth in order from the sun.

marsh /mɑ:ʃ/ *n* [C, U] (area of) low-lying, wet land.

marshy *adj* (-ier, -iest) of or like a marsh.

mar-shal¹ /'mɑ:ʃl/ *n* [C] **1** officer of highest rank: *Field-'M~*, Army; *Air-'M~*, Air Force. **2** official responsible for important public events or ceremonies, eg one who accompanies a High Court judge; an officer of the royal household. **3** (US) official with the duties of a sheriff; head of a fire or police department.

mar-shal² /'mɑ:ʃl/ *vt* (-ll-, US -l-) **1** arrange in proper order: *~ facts/military forces.* **2** guide or lead (a person) with ceremony: *~ persons into the presence of the Queen.*

'marshalling-yard, railway yard in which goods wagons, etc are made up into trains.

mar-su-pial /'mɑ:'su:pɪəl/ *adj, n* [C] (animal) of the class of mammals the females of which have a pouch to carry their young.

mar-tial /'mɑ:ʃl/ *adj* **1** of, associated with, war: *~ music.* **2** brave; fond of fighting: *~ spirit.*

'martial 'law, military government, by which ordinary law is suspended, eg during a rebellion.

mar-'tial-ly /-ʃli/ *adv*

mar-tin /'mɑ:tɪn/ *US: -tən* *n* [C] (also 'house-~), bird of the swallow family that builds a mud nest on walls, etc.

mar-ti-net /'mɑ:tɪnet/ *n* [C] person who asks for and enforces strict discipline.

mar-tyr /'mɑ:tə(r)/ *n* [C] person who is put to death or caused to suffer greatly for his religious beliefs or for the sake of a great cause or principle: *the early Christian ~s in Rome.* **be a martyr to sth**, suffer greatly from: *He's a ~ to rheumatism.* **make a martyr of oneself**, sacrifice one's own wishes or advantage (or pretend to do so) in order to get credit or reputation. □ *vt* put to death, cause to suffer, as a martyr.

mar-tyr-dom /-dəm/ *n* [U] martyr's suffering or death: *His wife's never-ending complaints made his life one long ~dom.*

mar-vel /'mɑ:vəl/ *n* [C] **1** something causing great surprise, wonder, astonishment: *the ~s of modern science.* **work marvels**, produce a highly successful result. **2** wonderful example: *She's a ~ of patience.* □ *vi* (-ll-, US -l-) **1** be greatly surprised (at): *~ at her patience.* **2**

wonder: *I ~ that she should agree to marry him.*

mar-vel-lous, (US = **mar-vel-ous**) /'mɑ:vələs/ *adj* astonishing; wonderful.

mar-vel-lous-ly (US = **mar-vel-ous-ly**) *adv*

Marx-ism /'mɑ:ksɪzəm/ *n* [U] teaching on the main laws of development of nature and society, on the revolution of the exploited masses, on the victory of socialism and the building of communism; ideology of the Working Class and its Communist Party.

Marx-ist /'mɑ:ksɪst/ *n* follower of Karl Marx /mɑ:ks/ (1818-1883), the founder of scientific communism.

mar-zi-pan /'mɑ:zɪpən/ *n* [U] thick paste of ground almonds, sugar, etc.

mas-cara /mæ'skɑ:rə/ *n* [U] cosmetic preparation for darkening the eyelashes.

mas-cot /'mæskət/ *n* [C] person, animal or object thought to bring good fortune.

mas-cu-line /'mæskjʊlɪn/ *adj* **1** of, like, men: *a ~ style.* **2** of female gender: '*He*' and '*him*' are ~ pronouns. ⇨ feminine.

mas-cu-lin-ity /'mæskjʊlɪnəti/ *n* [U] quality of being masculine.

mash /mæʃ/ *n* [U] **1** grain, bran, etc cooked in water as food for poultry, cattle or pigs. **2** any substance softened and crushed, eg boiled potatoes beaten and crushed: *sausage and ~.* **3** mixture of malt and hot water used in brewing. □ *vt* beat or crush into a mash: ~ed potato.

mask /'mɑ:sk US: mæsk/ *n* [C] **1** covering for the face, or part of it, eg a piece of silk or velvet. **2** replica of the face carved in wood, ivory, etc; disguise. **3** pad of sterile gauze worn over the mouth and nose by doctors and nurses. **4** likeness of a face made by taking a mould in wax, etc.

'**death mask**, one made by taking a mould of the face of a dead person.

'**gas-mask**, breathing apparatus, in some cases for the whole of the head, worn as a protection against poisonous gas, etc.

mask² /'mɑ:sk US: mæsk/ *vi* **1** cover (the face) with a mask: *a ~ed ball*, one at which masks are worn. **2** conceal: ~ one's hatred under an appearance of friendliness.

maso-chism /'mæskɪzəm/ *n* [U] mental disorder of getting satisfaction (esp sexual) from (self-inflicted) pain or humiliation.

maso-chist /-kɪst/, person suffering from masochism.

maso-chis-tic /'mæskɪstɪk/ *adj*

ma-son /'meɪsn/ *n* [C] **1** worker who builds or works with stone. **2** = freemason.

ma-sonic /'mæsnɪk/ *adj* of freemasons.

ma-sonry /'meɪsənri/ (a) stonework; that part of a building made of stone and mortar. (b) = freemasonry.

mas-quer-ade /'mɑ:skəreɪd US: 'mæsk-/ *n* [C] **1** masked ball. ⇨ mask²(1). **2** (fig) false

show or pretence. □ *vi* appear, be, in disguise: *a prince masquerading as a peasant.*

mass /mæs/ *n* **1** [C] lump, quantity of matter, without regular shape; large number, quantity or heap: ~es of dark clouds in the sky; *a ~ of colour in the garden.* **2** the ~es, ordinary people; (manual) workers. **3** [U] (science) quantity of material in a body measured by its resistance to change of motion. ⇨ size¹(1). □ *vt, vi* form or collect into a mass: *Troops are ~ing/are being ~ed on the frontier.*

mass com-muni-cations /'media, means (esp newspapers, radio, TV) of supplying information to, influencing the ideas of, enormous numbers of people.

mass pro-duction, manufacture of large numbers of identical articles by standardized processes. Hence, **mass-pro-duce** *vt*

Mass /mæs/ *n* [C] celebration (esp RC) of the Eucharist.

mass-acre /'mæsəkə(r)/ *n* [C] cruel killing of large numbers of (esp defenceless) people (occasionally used of animals). □ *vt* make a massacre of.

mass-age /'mæsəʒ/ *n* [C,U] (instance of) pressing and rubbing the body with the hands in order to lessen pain, stiffness, etc. □ *vt* apply a massage to.

mass-eur /mæ'sɜ:(r)/ *n* [C] man who practises massage.

mass-euse /mæ'sɜ:z/ *n* [C] woman who practises massage.

mass-ive /'mæsɪv/ *adj* **1** large, heavy and solid: *a ~ monument.* **2** (of the features) heavy-looking: *a ~ forehead.* **3** (fig) substantial; impressive: *a ~ victory.*

mass-ive-ly *adv*

mast /mɑ:st US: mæst/ *n* [C] **1** upright support (of wood or metal) for a ship's sails. **2** tall pole (for a flag). **3** tall steel structure for aerials of a radio or television transmitter.

'**mast head**, highest part of a mast, used as a look-out post.

mas-ter¹ /'ma:stə(r) US: 'mæs-/ *n* [C] **1** man who has others working for him or under him.

be one's own master, be free and independent. **2** male head of a household: *the ~ of the house.* **3** captain of a merchant ship: *a ~ mariner.* **4** male owner of a dog, horse, etc. **5** male teacher (esp in a private school): *the mathe'matics ~.* **6** **master of**, person who has control: *He is ~ of the situation*, has it under control. **7** (with a boy's name) young Mr: *M ~ Charles Smith*, sometimes used when speaking of or to a boy up to about the age of 14. **8** title of the head of a college: *the ~ of Balliol.* **9** great artist. ⇨ old master. **10** original (taped recording, etc) from which copies are made. □ *adj* **1** having, showing, professional skill: *a ~ builder/carpenter.* **2** superior: *a ~ hand at diplomacy.* **3** original: *a ~ tape.*

Master of Arts/Science, (abbr **MA**,

MSc holder of the second university degree.

Master of Ceremonies, (abbr **MC**) person who controls the procedure of various social occasions, eg a public banquet.

master-key, one that will open many different locks.

master-mind, person with superior intelligence (esp one who plans work to be carried out by others). Hence, **master-mind** *vt* plan, direct, a scheme.

master-piece, something made or done with very great skill; the best example.

master-stroke, highly skilful act (of policy, etc).

mas-ter² /'mɑːstə(r) *US*: 'mæs-/ *vt* become the master(6) of: ~ one's feelings; ~ a foreign language.

mas-ter-ful /'mɑːstəfəl *US*: 'mæs-/ *adj* 1 fond of controlling others: *speak in a ~ manner*. 2 = masterly.

mas-ter-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

mas-ter-ly /'mɑːstəli *US*: 'mæs-/ *adj* 1 worthy of a great master. 2 very skilful: *with a few ~ strokes of the brush*.

mas-tery /'mɑːstəri *US*: 'mæs-/ *n* [U] 1 complete control or knowledge: *his ~ of the violin*. 2 supremacy: *Which side will get the ~ (over us)?*

mas-ti-cate /'mæstikeɪt/ *vt* (formal) chew; soften, grind up (food) with the teeth.

mas-ti-ca-tion /'mæstri'keɪʃn/ *n* [U]

mas-tiff /'mæstɪf/ *n* [C] large, strong dog much used as a watchdog.

mas-toid /'mæstɔɪd/ *n* [C] bone at the back of the ear.

mas-tur-bate /'mæstəbeɪt/ *vi* produce, obtain, sexual excitement by manual or other stimulation of the genital organs.

mas-tur-ba-tion /'mæstə'beɪʃn/ *n* [U]

mat¹ /mæt/ *n* [C] 1 piece of material used for a floor covering, for sleeping on, or (a 'door~) for wiping dirty shoes on. 2 small piece of material placed under vases, ornaments, etc or (a 'table~) under hot dishes on a table. 3 anything thickly tangled or twisted together: *a ~ of weeds*. □ *vt,vi* (-tt-) 1 cover or supply with mats. 2 (cause to) be or become tangled or knotted: ~ted hair.

mat², **matt** (*US* = **matte**) /mæt/ *adj* (of surfaces) dull; not shiny or glossy: *paint that dries with a ~ finish*. ⇨ gloss paint.

ma-ta-dor /'mætədɔː(r)/ *n* [C] man whose task is to kill the bull in a bull-fight.

match¹ /mætʃ/ *n* [C] short piece of wood, waxed paper, etc with a top made of material that bursts into flame when rubbed on a rough or specially prepared surface.

match-box, box for holding matches.

match² /mætʃ/ *n* [C] 1 contest; game: *a 'football/tennis ~*. 2 person with the same strength, skill, etc as another: *You are no ~ for him*. 3 marriage: *They decided to make a ~ of*

it, (of two persons) *They decided to marry*. 4 person considered from the point of view of marriage: *He's a good ~*, is considered satisfactory or desirable as a possible husband. 5 person or thing exactly like, or corresponding to, or combining well with, another: *colours/materials that are a good ~*.

match-maker, (esp) person who is fond of arranging matches(3) for others.

match point, final point needed to win a match(1).

match³ /mætʃ/ *vt,vi* 1 put in competition: *I'm ready to ~ my strength with/against yours*. 2 be equal to; be, obtain, a match(2) for: *a well-~ed pair*, eg boxers about equal in skill. 3 be equal to, correspond (with), (in quality, colour, design, etc): *The carpets should ~ the curtains*. ⇨ clash(4). 4 find a material, etc that matches(3) with (another): *Can you ~ this silk?* 5 join (one person with another) in marriage.

match-less *adj* unequalled: ~less beauty.

match-et /'mætʃɪt/ *n* [C] = machete.

mate¹ /meɪt/ *n* 1 (informal) companion; fellow-workman: *Where are you going, ~?* ⇨ class-mate, playmate. 2 ship's officer (not an engineer) below the rank of captain. 3 helper: (in titles) *a plumber's ~*. 4 one of a pair of birds or animals: *the lioness and her ~*.

mate² /meɪt/ *vt,vi* (of birds or animals) (cause to) unite for the purpose of producing young.

the mating season, spring, when birds make their nests and mate.

mate³ /meɪt/ *n, v* = checkmate.

ma-ter-i-al¹ /mə'tɪəriəl/ *adj* 1 (contrasted with spiritual) made of, connected with, matter or substance: *the ~ world*. 2 of the body; of physical needs: ~ needs, eg food and warmth. 3 (legal) important; essential: ~ evidence/ testimony.

ma'terial noun, (gram) naming a material, eg stone, wood, wool.

ma-ter-i-ally /-iəli/ *adv* essentially.

ma-ter-i-al² /mə'tɪəriəl/ *n* 1 [C,U] that of which something is or can be made or with which something is done: *raw ~s*, not yet used in manufacture; *'dress ~s*, cloth; *'writing ~s*, pen, ink, paper, etc. 2 [U] (fig) facts, happenings, elements: *the ~ from which history is made*.

ma-ter-i-a-l-ism /mə'tɪəriəlizəm/ *n* [U] 1 scientific, philosophical theory, asserting that the world is material, that it exists irrespective of man's consciousness, and that the cognition of it is possible. 2 valuation of material things (wealth, etc) too much.

ma-ter-i-a-list /-ɪst/ *n* [C] (a) believer in materialism(1). (b) person who only aims to get things for himself.

ma-ter-i-a-l-is-tic /mə'tɪəriə'listɪk/ *adj*

ma-ter-i-a-l-is-ti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

ma-ter-i-a-l-ize (also **-ise**) /mə'tɪəriəlaɪz/ *vi*

take material form; (cause to) become fact: *Our plans did not ~, came to nothing, were not carried out.*

ma-ter-nal /mə'tɜːnl/ *adj* **1** of or like a mother: ~ *care/instincts*. **2** related through the mother: *my ~ grandfather.*

ma-ter-nally /-nəli/ *adv*

ma-tern-ity /mə'tɜːnəti/ *n* [U] being a mother: (used as an *adjective*) *a ~ ward/ hospital, for women who (are about to) become mothers.*

matey /'meɪtɪ/ *adj* (*informal*).

math-emat-ics /ˌmæθə'mætɪks/ *n* [U] (used with a *sing* or *pl verb*) science of size and numbers (of which arithmetic, algebra, trigonometry and geometry are branches).

math-emat-ical /ˌmæθə'mætɪkl/ *adj*

math-emat-ically /-kli/ *adv*

math-ema-ti-cian /ˌmæθə'mætɪʃn/ *n* [C] expert in mathematics.

maths (US = **math**) /mæθs/ *US: mæθ/ n* (abbr of) mathematics.

ma-ti-née /'mæti-neɪ/ *US: ˌmætə'nei/ n* [C] afternoon performance at a cinema or theatre.

mat-ins /'mætiŋz/ *US: -tənz/ n pl* **1** service for Morning Prayer in the Church of England. **2** prayers recited at daybreak in the RC Church.

ma-tri-arch /'mætri:ɑ:k/ *n* [C] woman head of a family or tribe.

ma-tri-ar-chal /ˌmeɪtri:ɑ:kəl/ *adj*

ma-tri-archy /-ɑ:kɪ/ *n* [C] social organization in which mothers are the heads of families.

ma-trices /'mætrɪsɪz/ *pl* of matrix.

mat-ri-cide /'mætrɪsaɪd/ *n* [U] killing of one's own mother; [C] instance of this; [C] person guilty of this.

mat-ri-mony /'mætrɪməni/ *US: -məʊni/ n* [U] state of being married.

mat-ri-mo-nial /ˌmætri'məʊniəl/ *adj*

ma-trix /'meɪtrɪks/ *n* (*pl* matrices /'meɪtrɪsɪz/ or ~es) **1** shaped mould into which hot metal, or other material in a soft or liquid condition, is poured to be shaped. **2** substance in which a mineral, etc is found in the ground.

ma-tron /'meɪtrən/ *n* [C] **1** woman housekeeper in a school or other institution. **2** woman who manages the domestic affairs and nursing staff of a hospital.

ma-tronly *adj*

mat /mæt/ *adj* variant spelling of **mat**².

mat-ter¹ /'mætə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] substance(s) of which a physical thing is made (contrasted with *mind, spirit, etc*): *organic/inorganic ~*. **2** material for thought or expression; substance of a book, speech, etc contrasted with the form or style. **3** [U] something printed or written: *'reading ~, books, periodicals, etc*. **4** [C] something to which attention is given; piece of business; affair: *'money ~s*. **a matter of 'course**, expected in the natural course of events. **as a matter of fact**, ⇨ **fact**(3). **no laughing matter**, serious. **a matter of**

opinion, something about which opinions may differ. **for 'that matter**, so far as that is concerned. **5** [U] importance. (**make/be**) **no matter**, (be) of no importance: *It's no ~ / makes no ~ whether you arrive early or late. no matter 'who/'what/'where, etc*, whoever (it is), whatever (happens, etc). **6** [U] **the ~**, wrong (with): *What's the ~ with it?* **7** [U] **pus**. **8 a matter of**, about: *a ~ of 20 weeks/10 miles/£50; within a ~ of hours.*

'matter-of-'course *adj* to be expected.

'matter-of-'fact *adj* (of a person, his manner) unimaginative; keeping to the facts.

mat-ter² /'mætə(r)/ *vi* be of importance: *It doesn't ~ much, does it?*

mat-ting /'mætiŋ/ *n* [U] rough woven material used for floor covering and for packing goods: *'cocomat-'*.

mat-tins /'mætiŋz/ *US: -tənz/ n pl* = matins.

mat-tock /'mætək/ *n* [C] tool used for breaking up hard ground, etc with an iron bar at a right angle to the handle.

mat-tress /'mætrɪs/ *n* [C] thick, flat, oblong pad of wool, hair, feathers, foam rubber, etc on which to sleep.

spring mattress, one with coiled wires fitted inside a padded cover.

matu-rate /'mætʃəreɪt/ *vi* (*formal*) become mature.

matu-ration /ˌmætʃʊ'reɪʃn/ *n* [U]

ma-ture /mætʃʊə(r)/ *US: -tʃʊə(r)/ vt, vi* **1** come or bring to full development or to a state ready for use: *His character ~d during these years*. **2** (of bills) become due. **a adj** **1** fully grown or developed; ripe with fully developed powers: *persons of ~ years*. **2** careful; perfected: *~ plans*. **3** (of bills) due for payment.

ma-ture-ly *adv*

ma-tur-ity /mætʃʊəriti/ *n* [U] the state of being mature.

maud-lin /'mɔ:dlɪn/ *adj* self-pitying; tearful.

maul /mɔ:l/ *vt* hurt or injure by rough or brutal handling: *~ed by a tiger.*

Maundy Thurs-day /ˌmɔ:ndɪ 'θɜ:zdeɪ/ *n* Thursday before Easter, commemorating Jesus' Last Supper.

mau-so-leum /ˌmɔ:sə'li:əm/ *n* [C] magnificent and monumental tomb.

mauve /mɔ:v/ *adj, n* [U] bright but delicate pale purple (colour).

maxi /'mæksɪ/ *n* [C] (*informal*) woman's ankle-length skirt, coat, etc. ⇨ **mini**.

maxim /'mæksɪm/ *n* [C] widely accepted rule of conduct or general truth briefly expressed, eg *'Look before you leap'*.

maxi-mal /'mæksɪml/ *adj* greatest in amount or degree.

maxi-mize (also **-ise**) /'mæksɪmaɪz/ *vt* increase to a maximum: *maximizing educational opportunities.*

maxi-mum /'mæksɪməm/ *n* (*pl* ~s) (opp of *minimum*) greatest possible or recorded de-

gree, quantity, etc: *the ~ temperature recorded in London. The ~ load is one ton.*

may /meɪ/ auxiliary verb (pt **might** /maɪt/) (negative **may not**, shortened to **mayn't** /meɪnt/ and **might not**, shortened to **mighn't** /'maɪnt/) **1** (used of possibility or probability): *That ~ or ~ not be true. He ~ have (= Perhaps he has) missed his train. This might have cured your cough, if you had taken it.* **2** (used of permission or request for permission): *M ~ I come in? Might I make a suggestion?* **3** (used of uncertainty, and asking for information, or expressing wonder): *Well, who ~ you be?* **4 may as well**, (used to suggest 'There is good reason'): *We ~ as well stay where we are.* **5** (used to express wishes and hopes): *M ~ you both be happy!* **6** (used to express requests): *I think you might at least offer to help.* **7** (in clauses) (used to express purpose, and after *wish, fear, be afraid*, etc): *He died so that others might live. I'm afraid the news ~ be true.*

May /meɪ/ *n* the fifth month of the year, with 31 days.

May Day, 1st of May, celebrated as a spring festival; day of international solidarity of the working people.

may-be /'meɪb/ *adv* perhaps; possibly.

may-on-naise /,meɪ'neɪz *US*: 'meɪneɪz/ *n* [U] thick dressing of eggs, cream, oil, vinegar, etc used on cold foods, esp salads.

mayor /meɔ(r) *US*: 'meɔ(r)/ *n* [C] head of a local authority of a city or borough.

mayor-ess /'meɔrɪs/ *n* [C] **1** woman mayor. **2** wife of a mayor.

maze /meɪz/ *n* [C] **1** network of lines, paths, etc; labyrinth: *a ~ of narrow roads.* **2** state of confusion or bewilderment (when faced by a confused mass of facts, etc).

ma-zurka /mə'zɜ:kə/ *n* [C] (piece of music for a) lively Polish dance.

me /mi:/ *personal pron* (used as the object form of *I*): *He saw ~. Give ~ one. It's ~, (now usual for) It is I.*

mead /mɪd/ *n* [U] alcoholic drink made from fermented honey and water.

mead² /mɪd/ *n* [C] (poetic) meadow.

meadow /'medəʊ/ *n* [C,U] (area, field, of) grassland, esp kept for hay.

meagre (*US* = **mea-ger**) /'mi:ɡə(r)/ *adj* **1** thin; having no flesh: *a ~ face.* **2** insufficient; poor; scanty: *a ~ meal/attendance.*

meagre-ly (*US* = **mea-ger-ly**) *adv*

meagre-ness (*US* = **mea-ger-**) *n* [U]

meal¹ /mi:l/ *n* [C] **1** occasion of eating: *three ~s a day.* **make a meal of sth**, (fig) do it as if it is much more difficult than it is. **2** food that is eaten: *have a good ~. I hope you enjoy your ~.*

'meal-ticket, (fig) (informal) person or thing providing money, food or other resources.

'meal-time, usual time for taking a meal.

meal² /mi:l/ *n* [U] grain coarsely ground: 'oat~.

mealy /'mi:lɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) of, like, containing, covered with, meal².

'mealy-bug, insect that infests vines, etc.

'mealy-mouthed *adj* tending to avoid straightforward, frank, language because of shyness, hypocrisy, etc.

mean¹ /mi:n/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** poor in appearance; shabby: *a ~ house in a ~ street.* **2** (of behaviour) unworthy: *That was a ~ trick! It was ~ of you to take all the oranges.* **3** (of persons, their character, etc) cruel, malicious: *Don't be so ~ to your little brother.* Don't tease him, treat him unkindly, etc. **4** of low rank or humble birth: *We offer justice even to the ~est citizens.* **5** (of the understanding, the natural powers) inferior; poor: *This should be clear even to the ~est intelligence.* **6** ungenerous; selfish: *Her husband is so ~ about money.* **7** (informal) ashamed: *feel rather ~ for not helping more.* **8** (*US*) nasty; vicious: *He's ~—he likes to see people suffer.*

mean-ly *adv*

mean-ness *n* [U]

mean² /mi:n/ *adj* occupying the middle position between two extremes: *the ~ annual temperature in Malta.*

Greenwich Mean Time, ⇨ Greenwich.

mean³ /mi:n/ *n* **1** [C] condition, quality, course of action, etc that is halfway between two extremes. **2** (maths) term between the first and the last of a series: *The ~ of 3, 5 and 7 is 5* (because $3 + 5 + 7 = 15$ and $15 \div 3 = 5$).

mean⁴ /mi:n/ *vi* (pt, pp **meant** /ment/) **1** (of words, sentences, etc) have as an explanation: *A dictionary tries to tell you what words ~.* **2** be a sign of; be likely to result in: *These new orders will ~ working overtime.* **3** have as a purpose; intend; refer to: *What do you ~ by saying that? Do you ~ (= refer to) Miss Ann Smith or Miss Angela Smith? Is this figure ~t to be a 1 or a 7? I'm sorry if I hurt your feelings—I didn't ~ to.* **mean 'business**, ⇨ **business(3). **4** intend; be determined: *a building ~t for offices.* *He ~s you no harm*, does not intend to hurt you. *He ~s to succeed.* **5** be of importance or value to: *Your friendship ~s a great deal to me. £20 ~s a lot to her.* ⇨ also nothing. **6 'mean well**, have good intentions (though perhaps not the will or ability to carry them out): *His plans never work but he ~s well.***

mean-ing *n* [C,U] what is meant or intended: *a word with many distinct ~ings.* *What's the ~ing of this?* (for example, asked by a person who thinks he has been badly treated, etc). □ *adj* full of meaning: *well-~ing*, having good intentions.

mean-ing-ful /-fl/ *adj* significant.

mean-ing-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

mean-ing-less *adj* without meaning or motive.

me-ander /mɪˈændə(r)/ *vi* **1** (of a stream) follow a winding course, flowing slowly and gently. **2** wander here and there. **3** (fig) speak in an aimless way.

me-ander-ings /mɪˈændərɪŋz/ *n pl* winding path, etc.

means¹ /mi:nz/ *n pl* (often used as a *sing.* as in the examples) method, process, by which a result may be obtained: *There is/are no ~ of learning what is happening. Does the end always justify the ~.* If the aim or purpose is good, may any methods, even if bad, be used? *by means of*, through; with the help of: *Thoughts are expressed by ~ of words.* **by 'all means**, certainly. **by 'no means**, not at all. **ways and 'means**, methods, esp of providing money by taxation for government needs: *a ways and ~ committee.*

means² /mi:nz/ *n pl* money; wealth; resources: *a man of ~, a rich man; have private ~, an income from property, investments, etc (not earned as salary, etc).* **live beyond/within one's means**, spend more/less than one's income.

'means test, inquiry into the financial resources of a person who is seeking help from the State, eg for a student's grant.

meant /ment/ *pt, pp of mean⁴.*

mean-time /'mi:ntaim/ *adv, n (sing)* (in the interval between).

mean-while /'min'waɪl/ *US: -'hwaɪl/ adv* in or during the time between.

measles /'mi:zlz/ *n [U]* (used with a *sing verb*) infectious disease, marked by fever and small red spots that cover the whole body.

measly /'mi:zli/ *adj (-ier, iest)* (informal) of little value; of poor quality; of small size or amount: *What a ~ helping of ice-cream!*

measure¹ /'meʒə(r)/ *n 1 [U]* size, quantity, degree, weight, etc as found by a standard or unit. **made to measure**, (of articles of clothing) specially made for a person after taking measurements. **get the measure of sb.** (fig) form an estimate of his character, abilities, etc. **2 [C]** unit, standard or system used in stating size, quantity or degree: *liquid/dry ~.* **for good measure**, in addition to the necessary amount. **3 [C]** something with which to test size, quantity, etc: *a pint ~.* **4 extent**, (esp in) **beyond measure**, very greatly: *Her joy was beyond ~.* **in some/large, etc measure**, to a large extent: *Their success was in some ~/in great ~ the result of thorough preparation.* **5 [C]** (proposed) law: *~s to halt inflation.* **6 [C]** proceeding; step: *They took strong ~s against dangerous drivers.*

greatest, common 'measure, (abbr **GCM**) largest number that will divide each of several given numbers exactly.

'tape-measure, ⇨ *tape*.

measure² /'meʒə(r)/ *vt, vi 1* find the size, extent, volume, degree, etc of: *~ an 'area of*

ground/the strength of an electric current/the speed of a car/the length of my arm. **2** be (a certain length, etc): *This room ~s 10 metres across.* **3** give or mark a measured quantity: *~ out a dose of medicine.*

measured *adj (a)* (of language) carefully chosen or considered: *~d words.* **(b)** in slow and regular rhythm: *with a ~d tread.*

measur-able /'meɪzəbəl/ *adj*

measure-less *adj* limitless.

measure-ment *n (a)* [U] measuring: *the metric system of ~ment.* **(b)** (pl) figures about length, breadth, depth, etc: *the ~ments of a room.*

meat /mi:t/ *n 1 [U]* flesh of animals used as food, excluding fish and birds. **2** (fig) substance: *There's not much ~ in his argument.*

'meat-ball, small ball of minced meat.

meaty *adj (-ier, -iest)* (fig) full of substance, interest: *a ~ story.*

mechan-ic /mɪ'kænik/ *n [C]* skilled workman, esp one who repairs or adjusts machinery and tools: *a 'motor-~.*

mech-an-ical /mɪ'kænikəl/ *adj 1* of, connected with, produced by, machines: *~ engineering.* **2** (of persons, their actions) like machines; automatic; as if done without thought: *~ movements.*

mech-an-ically /-kl/ *adv* in a mechanical way (esp 2): *answering ~ly, (as if) thoughtlessly.*

mech-an-ics /mɪ'kæniks/ *n 1* (usually used with a *sing verb*) science of motion and force; science of machinery: *M ~ is taught by Mr Hill.* **2** (pl) (method of) construction: *the ~ of producing plays.*

mech-an-ism /'mekənɪzəm/ *n [C]* **1** working parts of a machine collectively. **2** structure or arrangement of parts that work together as the parts of a machine do: *the ~ of government.* **3** way in which something works or is constructed.

mech-an-ize (also **-ise**) /'mekənəɪz/ *vt* use machines in or for; give a mechanical character to.

mech-an-iz-ation (also **-isation**) /'mekənəɪzəʃn/ *US: -nɪ'z-/ n [U]*

medal /'medl/ *n [C]* flat piece of metal, usually shaped like a coin, with words and a design stamped on it, given as an award for bravery, to commemorate something or for distinction in scholarship.

med-al-list (US = **med-alist**) /'medəlɪst/ *n* person who has been awarded a medal, eg for distinction in sport, literature, art.

me-dal-lion /mɪ'dæliən/ *n [C]* large medal; large, flat circular ornamental design.

meddle /'medl/ *vi* become involved without being asked to do so; interfere: *Don't ~ in my affairs. Who's been meddling with my papers?*

med-dler, person who meddles.

'meddle-some /-səm/ *adj* fond of, in the habit of, meddling.

me-dia /'mi:diə/ *n* ⇨ mass(2), medium.

the media, (usually used with a *sing verb*) mass communications, eg television, radio, the press.

medi-aeval /,medɪ'ævl *US*: /'mi:d-/ = medieval.

me-dial /'mi:diəl/ *adj* (formal) **1** situated, placed, in the middle. **2** of average size.

me-di-ally /-ɪli/ *adv*

me-di-ate /'mi:diət/ *vi, vt* **1** act as go-between or peacemaker: *~ between employers and their workers.* **2** bring about by doing this: *~ a settlement/a peace.*

me-dia-tion /,mi:di'eɪʃn/ *n* [U]

me-dia-tor /-tə(r)/ person who mediates.

medic /'medɪk/ *n* (informal abbr for) medical student.

medi-cal /'medɪkl/ *adj* **1** of the art of medicine (the treatment of disease): *a ~ practitioner*, a qualified doctor; *a ~ school.* **2** of the art of medicine (contrasted with *surgery*): *The hospital has a ~ ward and a surgical ward.* □ *n* [C] medical examination.

medi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

medi-cate /'medɪkeɪt/ *vt* treat medically; fill with a medicinal substance: *~d soap.*

medi-ca-tion /,medɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

medi-ci-nal /mɪ'dɪsɪnl/ *adj* able to heal or cure: *~ preparations; for ~ use.*

medi-cine /'medsɪn *US*: 'medɪsən/ *n* **1** [U] the art and science of the prevention and cure of disease: *study ~ and surgery.* **2** [C, U] (kind of) substance, esp one taken through the mouth, used to treat disease: *He's always taking ~s.* **3** [U] (fig) deserved punishment. **4** [U] (among primitive peoples) spell; charm; fetish; magic.

'medicine-man /-mæn/, = witch-doctor.

medi-eval (also **medi-aeval**) /,medɪ'ævl *US*: /'mi:d-/ *adj* of the Middle Ages (about AD 1100–1500).

me-di-ocre /,mɪ:di'əʊkə(r)/ *adj* not very good; neither very good nor very bad; second-rate.

me-di-oc-ri-ty /,mɪ:di'əʊkrɪti/ *n* [C, U] (*pl* -ies) quality of being mediocre.

medi-tate /'medɪteɪt/ *vi, vt* **1** think about; consider: *~ revenge/mischief.* **2** give oneself up to serious thought: *He sat there meditating on his misfortunes.* **3** think deeply about a moral, religious or philosophical topic: *~ on world peace.*

medi-ta-tion /,medɪ'teɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] meditating: *deep in ~.* **2** [C] instance of this.

Medi-ter-ra-nean /,medɪtə'reɪniən/ *adj* of, characteristic of, the Mediterranean Sea or the countries, etc bordering it: *a ~ climate.*

me-dium /'mi:diəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or *media* /'mi:diə/) **1** that by which something is expressed: *Commercial television is a ~ for advertising.* **2** middle quality or degree. **3** (*pl* often *media*) substance, surroundings, in which

something exists or moves: *Air is the ~ of sound.* **4** person who acts as a go-between, esp in spiritualism; person who claims to be able to receive messages from the spirits of the dead. □ *adj* coming halfway between; not extreme: *a man of ~ height; a ~ sized firm.*

the happy medium, satisfaction by avoiding extremes, eg by being neither very lax nor very severe in maintaining discipline.

'medium wave, (radio telegraphy) wave between long and short (200 to 1000 metres).

med-ley /'medli/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) mixture of things or persons of different sorts: *the ~ of races in Hawaii; a musical ~*, of excerpts from longer works; *the 400 metres ~*, a relay swimming race where each swimmer uses a different style.

meek /mi:k/ *adj* (-er, -est) mild and patient: *She's as ~ as a lamb*, very meek.

meek-ly *adv*

meek-ness *n* [U]

meet¹ /mi:t/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* met /met/) **1** come face to face with from the opposite or a different direction; come together from different points or directions: *We met (each other) quite by chance.* *The Debating Society ~s every Friday at 8pm.* **meet with**, (a) experience: *~ with misfortune/an accident.* (b) come into contact by chance: *~ with obstacles; ~ with an old friend at a party.* **2** make the acquaintance of; be introduced to: *I know Mrs Hill by sight, but have never met her/we've never met.* *Pleased to ~ you*, (used as a formal introduction). **3** go to a place and await the arrival of: *I'll ~ you at the station/~ your train.* **4** satisfy (a demand, etc): *~ his wishes*, do what he wants; *~ all the expenses*, pay them. **meet sb halfway**, (fig) give way to some extent in order to satisfy him or reach agreement. **5** come into contact; touch: *Their hands met.* *The roads should ~ about a mile away.* **make (both) ends meet**, ⇨ end¹(1). **6 meet the eye/ear, our eyes/ears**, be visible/audible: *There's more to that man than ~s the eye*, (fig) he has qualities, characteristics, etc that are not obvious.

meet² /mi:t/ *n* [C] **1** (GB) gathering of riders and hounds at a fixed place (for foxhunting). **2** coming together of a number of people for a purpose: *an ath'letics ~.*

meet-ing /'mi:tɪŋ/ *n* [C] **1** coming together of a number of persons at a certain time and place, esp for discussion: *political ~s.* **2** any coming together: *a 'race-~; a 'sports-~.*

'meeting-house, building for meetings, esp those held by Quakers.

'meeting-place, place fixed for a meeting.

mega- /mega-/ *prefix* **1** large: *megalith.* **2** one million: *megacycle.*

mega-cycle /'megəsaɪkl/ *n* [C] million cycles (of changes of radio current, esp per second).

mega-lith /'megəliθ/ *n* [C] large stone, esp an ancient one used as a monument.

mega-lithic /'megə'liθik/ *adj* made of, marked by, the use of megaliths.

mega-lo-ma-nia /'megələ'meɪniə/ *n* [U] mental illness in which a person has exaggerated ideas of his importance of power, wealth, etc: *The dictator was obviously suffering from ~.*

mega-lo-ma-niac /-niæk/, person suffering from megalomania.

mega-phone /'megəfəʊn/ *n* [C] device for magnifying sound, for carrying the voice to a distance.

mega-ton /'megətən/ *n* [C] explosive force equal to one million tons of TNT.

mel-an-cholic /'melənk'kɒlɪk/ *adj* (with a tendency to) melancholy.

mel-an-choly /'melənkəli/ *US*: -kəli/ *n* [U] sadness, esp often or for long periods. □ *adj* sad; depressed; causing sadness or depression: *a ~ occasion*, eg a funeral.

mel-an-cholia /'melənkəʊliə/ *n* [U] mental illness marked by melancholy.

meli-or-ate /'mi:liə'reɪt/ *vt, vi* (formal) make or become better.

meli-or-ation /'mi:liə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U]

mel-low /'meləʊ/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** soft and sweet in taste. **2** soft, pure and rich in colour or sound. **3** made wise and sympathetic by age or experience: ~ judgement. **4** (informal) kindly; sympathetic. □ *vt, vi* make or become mellow.

mel-low-ness *n* [U]

mel-odic /'mi:lədɪk/ *adj* of melody; melodious.

mel-odious /'mi:ləʊdiəs/ *adj* of, producing, melody; sounding tuneful.

mel-odi-ous-ly *adv*

melo-drama /'melədra:mə/ *n* **1** [C] exciting and emotional (often sensational, exaggerated) drama, usually with a happy ending. **2** [C] event or series of events, behaviour or writing, which suggests a stage melodrama. **3** [U] language, behaviour, suggestive of plays of this kind.

melo-dram-atic /'melədra'mætɪk/ *adj*

melo-dram-ati-cally /-kli/ *adv*

mel-ody /'melədi/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] pleasant music; tunefulness; musical arrangement of words. **2** [C] song or tune: *old Irish melodies*. **3** [C] principal part or theme in harmonized music: *The ~ is next taken up by the flutes*.

melon /'melən/ *n* [C] (kinds of) large, juicy round fruit growing on a plant that trails along the ground.

melt /melt/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp ~ed; pp used as an *adj*, of metal molten /'məʊltən/) **1** (cause to) become liquid through heating: *Snow ~s when the sun ... shines*. **melt away**, become less, disappear, (as) by melting: *The snow soon ~ed away when the sun came out*. *Her money seemed to melt away in Paris* **melt sth down**, melt metals

(eg articles of gold and silver) in order to use the metal as raw material. **2** (of soft food) dissolve, be softened, easily: *This cake|pear ~s in the mouth*. **3** (of a solid in a liquid) dissolve (the usual word). **4** (of a person, heart, feelings) soften, be softened: *Her heart ~ed with pity*. **5** fade; go (slowly) away: *One colour ~ed into another*, eg in the sky at sunset.

melt-ing *adj* (fig) tender; sentimental: *in a ~ing voice|mood*.

'melt-ing-point, temperature at which a solid melts.

'melting-pot, (a) pot in which metals, etc are melted. (b) any situation in which there is a mixture of ideas, differences, etc.

mem-ber /'membə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person belonging to a group, society, etc: *Every ~ of her family came to her wedding*. **2** (old use) part of a human or animal body.

Member of Parliament, (abbr MP) elected representative in the House of Commons.

'mem-ber-ship, (a) [U] the state of being a member (of a society, etc). (b) [C] number of members: *a ~ship of 80*.

mem-brane /'membrein/ *n* [C] (soft, thin layer of) animal, vegetable or synthetic tissue. □ mucous.

mem-bra-nous /'membrənəs/ *adj*

mem-ento /'mi'mentəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s or ~es) something that serves to remind one of a person or event.

memo /'meməʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) (abbr for) memorandum.

mem-oir /'memwa:(r)/ *n* [C] **1** short life-history, esp by someone with first-hand knowledge. **2** essay on an academic subject specially studied by the writer. **3** (pl) person's written account of his own life or experiences: *war ~s*.

mem-or-able /'memrəbl/ *adj* deserving to be remembered; remarkable.

mem-or-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

mem-or-an-dum /'memə'rændəm/ *n* [C] (pl -da /-də/ or ~s) **1** note or record for future use. **2** informal business communication, usually without a personal signature. **3** report of an agreement that has been reached but not yet formally drawn up and signed: ~s and articles of association, legal document for this.

mem-orial /'mi'mɔ:riəl/ *n* [C] **1** something made or done to remind people of an event, person, etc: *a 'war ~*. **2** (used as an adjective) serving to commemorate: *a ~ service*. **3** (usually pl) historical records or chronicles.

mem-or-ize (also -ise) /'meməraɪz/ *vt* commit to memory: ~ a speech.

mem-ory /'meməri/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] power of keeping facts in the conscious mind and of being able to recall them at will; preservation of past experience for future use. **commit to memory**, □ commit(2). **to the best of my 'memory**, as far as I can remember. **2** [C]

this power in an individual (also used, by extension, of the unit of a computer which stores data for future use): *He has a bad ~ for dates.*

3 [U] period over which the memory can go back. **within living memory**, within the years that people now alive can remember. **4** [C] something remembered or stored in the memory: *memories of childhood.* **5** [U] reputation after death: *the late Pope, of blessed ~.*

'memory bank, part of a computer in which data and instructions are stored.

men /men/ *n pl of man* ¹ (1).

men-ace /'menəs/ *n* [C,U] danger; threat: *a ~ to world peace. That woman is a ~, is a nuisance.* □ *vt* threaten: *countries ~d by/with war.*

men-ac-ing *adj*

men-ac-ing-ly *adv*

men-ag-erie /mɪ'nædʒəri/ *n* [C] collection of wild animals in captivity, esp for a circus.

mend /mend/ *vt, vi* **1** remake, repair (something broken, worn out or torn); restore to good condition or working order: *~ shoes/a broken window.* **2** (= *amend*) free from faults or errors: *That won't ~ (= improve) matters.* **mend one's ways**, ⇨ *way*(9). **3** regain health; heal. □ *n* [C] damaged or torn part that has been mended: *The ~s were almost invisible.* **on the mend**, improving in health or condition.

'mend-ing, (esp) work of repairing (clothes, etc).

men-da-cious /men'deɪʃəs/ *adj* (formal) false; untruthful: *~ newspaper reports.*

men-dac-ity /,men'dəsəti/ *n* (pl -ties) (formal) **1** [U] untruthfulness. **2** [C] untrue statement.

men-di-cant /'mendikənt/ *n*, [C] *adj* (personal) getting a living as a beggar: *~ friars.*

men-folk /'menfəʊk/ *n pl* (informal) men, esp the men of a family: *The ~ have all gone out fishing.*

me-nial /'mi:nɪəl/ *adj* suitable for, to be done by, a household servant: *~ tasks such as washing pots and pans.*

me-ni-ally /-ɪəli/ *adv*

men-in-gi-tis /,menɪn'dʒaɪtɪs/ *n* [U] (serious illness caused by) inflammation of any or all of the membranes enclosing the brain and spinal cord.

meno-pause /'menəpəʊz/ *n* [C] final stopping of the menses (informally called 'the change of life').

men-ses /'mensɪz/ *n pl* monthly bleeding from the uterus.

men-strual /'menstruəl/ *adj* of the menses.

men-stru-ate /'menstruət/ *vi* produce the menses.

men-stru-ation /,menstru'eɪʃn/ *n* [U]

-ment /-ment/ *suffix* (verb + ~ = *noun*) result or means of an action: *development.*

-men-tal /'mentl/ *adj*

-men-tally /-mentəli/ *adv*

men-tal /'mentl/ *adj* **1** of or in the mind. **2** mentally ill. **3** (informal) mad.

'mental a'rithmetic, done in the mind without using written figures or a calculator.

'mental de'ficiency, subnormal development of intellectual powers.

'mental 'health, general condition of the mind.

'mental home/hospital, one for mental patients.

'mental 'illness, illness of the mind.

men-tally /'mentəli/ *adv*: *~ly deficient*, suffering from mental illness.

men-tal-ity /men'tæləti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] general intellectual character; degree of intellectual power: *persons of average ~.* **2** [C] characteristic attitude of mind: *a bourgeois ~.*

men-thol /'menθɒl/ *n* [U] solid white substance obtained from oil of peppermint, used medically and as a flavouring.

men-tho-lated /'menθəleɪtɪd/ *adj*

men-tion /'menʃn/ *vt* speak or write something about; say the name of; refer to: *I'll ~ it to him. Did I hear my name ~ed?* Was somebody talking about me? **Don't mention it**, phrase used to show that thanks, an apology, etc are welcome but unnecessary. □ *n* **1** [U] mentioning or naming: *He made no ~ of your request.* **2** [C] brief notice or reference: *several honourable ~s in dispatches.*

-men-tioned *suffix* (used with an *adverb*). *above/below-mentioned*, referred to above/below.

men-tor /'mentɔ:(r)/ *n* [C] wise and trusted adviser and helper.

menu /'menju:/ *n* [C] list of courses or dishes that are available in a restaurant.

mer-can-tile /'mɑ:kəntaɪl/ *adj* of trade, commerce and merchants.

'mercantile ma'rine, country's merchant ships and seamen.

mer-cen-ary /'mɜ:sənəri/ *US*: -nəri/ *adj* working only for money or other reward; inspired by love of money: *~ politicians; act from ~ motives.* □ *n* [C] (pl -ies) soldier hired for pay to serve in a foreign army.

mer-chan-dise /'mɜ:tʃəndaɪz/ *n* [U] goods bought and sold. □ *vt, vi* buy and sell (goods).

mer-chant /'mɜ:tʃənt/ *n* [C] **1** (usually wholesale) trader, esp one doing business with foreign countries. **2** (chiefly as an *adjective*) of overseas trade and the carriage of goods by sea: *~ ships.* **3** (used with a *prefix*) person trading inside a country in the goods mentioned: *a'coal-~/'wine-~.*

mer-ci-ful /'mɜ:sɪfl/ *adj* having, showing, feeling, mercy (to).

mer-ci-fully /-flɪ/ *adv*

mer-ci-less /'mɜ:sɪls/ *adj* showing no mercy.

mer-ci-less-ly *adv*

mer-cur-ial /mɜ:'kjʊəriəl/ *adj* **1** of, like,

caused by, containing, mercury: ~ poisoning.
2 (fig) lively; quickwitted. **3** (of persons) changeable; inconstant.

mer-cury /'mɜ:kjʊrɪ/ *n* [U] (also called *quick-silver*) heavy, silver-coloured metal (symbol **Hg**) usually liquid, as used in thermometers and barometers.

Mer-cury /'mɜ:kjʊrɪ/ *n* planet nearest the sun.

mercy /'mɜ:si/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] (capacity for) holding oneself back from punishment, or from causing suffering to, a person whom one has the right or power to punish: *We were given no ~. He threw himself on my ~, begged me not to punish him, etc.* **at the mercy of**, in the power of; without defence against: *The ship was at the ~ of the waves.* **2** [C] piece of good fortune; something to be thankful for; relief: *We must be thankful for small mercies.*

'mercy killing, (informal) euthanasia.

mere¹ /mɪə(r)/ *adj* (-r, -st) not more than: *She's a ~ child. It's a ~/the ~st trifle*, nothing at all important, nothing of any value, etc.

merely *adv* only; simply: *I ~ly asked his name. I said it ~ly as a joke.*

mere² /mɪə(r)/ *n* [C] pond; small lake.

mer-etri-cious /,merɪ'trɪʃəs/ *adj* (formal) attractive on the surface but of little value: ~ jewellery.

merge /mɜ:dʒ/ *vt, vi* **1** (of business companies) (cause to) become one: *The small banks ~d/ were ~d into one large organization.* **2** **merge into**, fade or change gradually into: *Twilight was merging into darkness.*

merger, *n* [U] merging(1); [C] instance of this.

mer-id-ian /mə'riðiən/ *n* [C] **1** (either half of a) circle round the globe, passing through a given place and the north and south poles: *the ~ of Greenwich* (of longitude 0° on British maps). **2** highest point reached by the sun or other star as viewed from a point on the earth's surface; 12 noon.

me-ringue /mə'reɪŋ/ *n* [U] whites of egg baked with sugar, used to cover tarts, etc; [C] small cake made of this mixture.

merit /'merɪt/ *n* **1** [U] quality or fact of deserving approval; worth; excellence: *a certificate of ~. Do men of ~ always win recognition?* **2** [C] quality, fact, action, etc that deserves reward (or, less often, punishment): *We must decide the case on its ~s*, according to the rights and wrongs of the case, without being influenced by personal feelings. □ *vt* deserve; be worthy of: ~ reward.

meri-toc-racy /,merɪ'tokrəsi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (system of government or control by) persons of practical or intellectual ability.

meri-tori-ous /,merɪ'tɔ:riəs/ *adj* (formal) praiseworthy; deserving reward: *a prize for ~ conduct.*

meri-tori-ous-ly *adv*

mer-maid /'mɜ:meid/ *n* [C] (in stories, etc) woman with a fish's tail in place of legs.

merry /'merɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** happy; cheerful; bright and gay: *a ~ laugh. I wish you a ~ Christmas.* **2** (old use) pleasant: *M ~ England.* **'merry-go-round**, revolving machine with horses, cars, etc on which children ride at fun-fairs.

mer-rily /'merəlɪ/ *adv*

mer-ri-ment /'mɜ:ri:mənt/ *n* [U]

mesh /meʃ/ *n* [C] **1** one of the spaces in material such as a net or wire screen: *a net with centimetre ~es*. □ micromesh. **2** (pl) network: *the ~es of a spider's web.* **3** (fig) complex system: *the ~es of political intrigue*. □ *vi, vi* **1** catch (eg fish) in a net. **2** (of toothed wheels) be engaged (with others). **3** (fig) harmonize: *Our ways of looking at these problems don't ~.*

mess¹ /mes/ *n* (used with *a*, *an*, but rarely *pl*) state of confusion, dirt or disorder: *The workmen cleaned up the ~ before they left. He has got into a ~, is in trouble.* □ *vt, vi* **1** put into disorder or confusion: *The late arrival of the train ~ed up all our plans.* Hence, **'mess-up** *n* (informal). **2** **mess about**, (a) do things without a definite plan; behave foolishly. (b) make a mess or muddle; treat roughly or inconsiderately: *Stop ~ing me about!*

messy *adj* (-ier, -iest) dirty; in a state of disorder: *a ~y job; look ~y.*

mess² /mes/ *n* [C] **1** company of persons taking meals together (esp in the Armed Forces); these meals. **2** the room, etc in which the meals are eaten.

mess-age /'mesɪdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** piece of news, or a request, sent to a person: *Will you take this ~ to my brother?* **2** something announced by a prophet and said to be inspired social or moral teaching.

mess-en-ger /'mesɪndʒə(r)/, person carrying a message.

Mess-iah /mə'saɪə/ *n* **1** person expected by the Jews to come and set them free. **2** the Saviour, Jesus Christ.

met /met/ *pt, pp* of meet¹.

me-tab-olism /mɪ'tæbəlaɪzəm/ *n* [U] process by which food is built up into living matter or by which living matter is broken down into simple substances.

meta-bolic /,metə'bɒlɪk/ *adj*

meta-car-pal /,metə'kɑ:pl/ *adj, n* [C] (of a) bone in the hand.

metal /'metl/ *n* **1** [C] any of a class of mineral substances such as tin, iron, gold and copper. **2** [U] one of these (as a material noun): *Is it made of wood or ~?*

me-tal-lic /mɪ'tællɪk/ *adj* of or like metal: ~ sounds, eg as made by brass objects struck together.

meta-mor-pho-sis /,metə'mɔ:fəsis/ *n* [C] (pl -ses /-siz/) change of form or character, eg

by natural growth or development: *the ~ in the life of an insect*, from the egg, etc.

meta-phor /'metəfɔ:(r)/ *n* [C,U] (example of) the use of words to indicate something different from the literal meaning, as in 'I'll make him *eat* his words'.

meta-phori-cal /'metəfɔ:ɪkl/ *US*: -'fɔ:r-/ *adj* of, like, containing or using, a metaphor.

meta-phori-cally /-kli/ *adv*

meta-tar-sal /'metə'tɑ:sl/ *adj*, *n* [C] (of a) bone in the foot.

mete /mi:t/ *vt* **mete out**, portion or measure: *Justice was ~ed out to them*.

me-teor /'mi:tɪə(r)/ *n* [C] small body rushing from outer space into the earth's atmosphere and becoming bright (as a 'shooting star' or 'falling star') as it is burnt up.

me-teoric /'mi:tɪ'ɒrɪk/ *US*: -'ɔ:r-/ *adj* 1 of the atmosphere or of atmospheric conditions; of meteors. 2 (fig) swift and dazzling; brilliant: *a ~ career*; *a ~ rise to fame*.

me-teor-ite /'mi:tɪəraɪt/ *n* [C] fallen meteor.

me-teoro-logi-cal /'mi:tɪə'rɒlədʒɪkl/ *US*: -'mi:tɪə:r-/ *adj* of meteorology.

me-teor-ol-ogist /'mi:tɪə'rɒlədʒɪst/ *n* [C] expert in meteorology.

me-teor-ol-ogy /'mi:tɪə'rɒlədʒɪ/ *n* [U] science of the weather; study of the earth's atmosphere and its changes.

me-ter¹ /'mi:tə(r)/ *n* [C] apparatus which measures, esp one that records the amount of whatever passes through it, or the distance travelled, fare payable, etc: *a 'parking-~*, one that measures the time during which a car is parked in a public place.

me-ter² /'mi:tə(r)/ *n* (US) = metre.

-meter /-mɪtə(r)/ *suffix* means of measuring: *thermometer*.

method /'meθəd/ *n* 1 [U] system, order: *He's a man of ~*. 2 [C] way of doing something: *modern ~s of teaching arithmetic*.

meth-odi-cal /'mɪθədɪkl/ *adj* (a) done, carried out, with order or method: *~ical work*. (b) having orderly habits: *a ~ical worker*.

meth-odi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

Meth-od-ism /'meθədɪzəm/ *n* teaching, organization and manner of worship in the Christian denomination started by John Wesley.

Meth-od-ist /-ɪst/ *n*, *adj* (member) of this denomination.

meth-od-ol-ogy /'meθə'dɒlədʒɪ/ *n* [U] science or study of methods(2), esp in academic subjects.

meth-yl-ated spirit /'meθɪleɪtɪd 'spɪrɪt/ *n* [U] form of alcohol used for lighting and heating.

me-ticu-lous /'mɪ'tɪkjələs/ *adj* giving, showing, great attention to detail; careful and exact.

me-ticu-lous-ly *adv*

mé-tier /'meɪtiə/ *US*: 'mɛɪ'tjɛr/ *n* [C] one's

trade or profession.

metre¹ (US = **me-ter**) /'mi:tə(r)/ *n* [C] unit of length in the metric system.

metre² (US = **me-ter**) /'mi:tə(r)/ *n* [U] rhythm in verse; [C] particular form of this.

-metre (US **-meter**) /-mɪtə(r)/ *suffix* part of a metre: *centimetre*.

met-ric /'metrɪk/ *adj* of metre¹.

metric mile, (athletics) 1500 metres race.

'metric system, the decimal measuring system based on the metre as the unit of length, the kilogram as the unit of mass and the litre as the unit of capacity.

met-ri-cal /'metrɪkəl/ *adj* 1 of, composed in, metre² (contrasted with ordinary prose): *a ~ translation of the Iliad*. 2 connected with measurement: *~ geometry*.

met-ri-cally /-kli/ *adv*

metri-ca-tion /'metrɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U] conversion to the metric system.

met-ro-nome /'metrənəm/ *n* [C] (music) graduated inverted pendulum for sounding an adjustable number of beats per minute.

me-trop-olis /'mæ'trɒpəlɪs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) 1 chief city of a country; capital. 2 archbishop's see.

metro-poli-tan /'metrə'pɒlɪtən/ *adj* 1 of or in a capital city: *the ~ police*. 2 of an ecclesiastical province: *a ~ bishop*, one having authority over the bishops in his province. □ *n* [C] 1 person who lives in a metropolis. 2 **M**~, metropolitan bishop.

mettle /'metl/ *n* [U] quality, eg in persons, horses, of endurance and courage: *a man of ~*. **be/put sb on his mettle**, (a) encourage him to do his best. (b) put him in a position that tests him.

mew /mju:/ *n*, *vi* = miaow.

mews /mju:z/ *n pl* (used with a *sing verb*) (formerly a) square or street of stables behind a residential street; such stables rebuilt as garages or flats, etc: *a South Kensington ~*.

mezza-nine /'metzəni:n/ *US*: 'meza-/ *n* [C], *adj* (floor) between the ground floor and first floor.

mi-aow /mi:'au/ *n* [C] sound made by a cat. □ *vi* make this sound.

mice /maɪs/ *n pl* of mouse.

mickey /'mɪki/ *n* **take the mickey (out of sb)**, (sl) mock or tease him.

micro- /maɪkrəʊ/ *prefix* 1 relatively small: *microwave*. 2 of examining or reproducing small quantities: *microscope*; *microphone*.

mi-crobe /'maɪkrəʊb/ *n* [C] tiny living creature that can be seen only with the help of a microscope, esp kinds of bacteria causing diseases and fermentation.

micro-cosm /'maɪkrəʊkɒzəm/ *n* [C] 1 something considered as representing (on a small scale) mankind or the universe. 2 miniature representation (of a system, etc). ⇨ *macrocosm*.

micro-dot /'maɪkrəʊdɒt/ *n* [C] photograph

reduced to the size of a very small dot.

micro-electronics /ˌmaɪkrəʊˌlɛkˈtrɒnɪks/ *n* (used with a *sing verb*) electronic equipment of a very small size.

micro-fiche /ˈmaɪkrəʊfɪʃ/ *n* [C] piece of microfilm.

micro-film /ˈmaɪkrəʊfɪlm/ *n* [C,U] (roll, section, of) photographic film with the photographs greatly reduced. □ *vt* photograph in this way.

micro-mesh /ˈmaɪkrəʊmeʃ/ *adj* having very small mesh: ~ *tights*.

micro-meter /maɪˈkrɒmɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] device for measuring very small objects.

micro- /ˈmaɪkrən/ *n* [C] unit of length (symbol μ) equal to one millionth of a metre.

micro-organism /ˌmaɪkrəʊˈɔːɡənɪzəm/ *n* [C] organism that can only be seen under a microscope.

microphone /ˈmaɪkrəfəʊn/ *n* [C] instrument for changing sound waves into electrical waves, used to increase the volume of sound, as in telephones, radio, etc.

microscope /ˈmaɪkrəskəʊp/ *n* [C] instrument with lenses for making very small objects appear larger.

microscopic /ˌmaɪkrəˈskɒpɪk/

microscopically /-kli/ *adj*

micro-wave /ˈmaɪkrəʊweɪv/ *n* [C] very short wave (as used in radio and radar): ~ *oven*, for cooking or heating food very quickly.

mid¹ /mɪd/ *adj* **1** in the middle of; middle: *from ~ June to ~ August*; *in ~ winter*. **2** (used in compounds): *a ~ morning coffee*.

mid-off, **mid-on**, (*cricket*) fielder near the bowler on the off, on, side.

mid-term *adj* in the middle of a period of government, office, etc.: ~ *term elections*.

the Mid-west, (also known as **the Middle West**) that part of the US which is the Mississippi basin as far south as Kansas, Missouri and the Ohio River.

mid² /mɪd/ *prep* (*poetry*) among.

mid-day /ˌmɪdˈdeɪ/ *n* noon: (used as an *adjective*) *the ~ (say /middeɪ/) meal*.

middle /ˈmɪdl/ *n* **1** **the ~**, point, position or part, which is at an equal distance from two or more points, etc or between the beginning and the end: *the ~ of a room*. *They were in the ~ of dinner* (= were having dinner) *when I called*. **2** [C] (*informal*) waist. □ *adj* in the middle: *the ~ house in the row*.

middle age, the period between youth and old age. Hence, **middle-aged** *adj*: *He's ~ aged*; *a ~ aged man*.

the Middle Ages, the period (in European history) from about AD 1100 to 1400 (or, in a wider sense, AD 600—1500).

middle class, class of society between the lower and upper classes (eg business men, professional workers). Hence, **middle-**

class *adj*: ~-*class voters*.

middle course, compromise between two extreme courses (of action).

the Middle East, countries from Egypt to Iran.

middle-man, any trader who buys goods from a producer and sells them.

middle name, second of two given names, eg *Bernard* in *George Bernard Shaw*.

middle school, (GB) type of school between primary school and high school.

the middle watch, (on ships) period of duty between midnight and 4am.

middle-weight, (esp) boxer weighing between 147 and 160 lbs (66.6 and 72.5 kg).

the Middle West, = the Midwest.

mid-ling /ˈmɪdlɪŋ/ *adj* of middle or medium size, quality, grade, etc: *a town of ~ size*. **fair to middling**, (*informal*) in fairly good but not very good health.

midge /mɪdʒ/ *n* [C] small winged insect like a gnat.

midget /ˈmɪdʒɪt/ *n* [C] extremely short person. □ *adj* very small: *a ~ submarine*.

mid-land /ˈmɪdlənd/ *adj*, *n* (of the) middle part of a country.

the Midlands, the middle counties of England.

mid-night /ˈmɪdnait/ *n* [C] 12 o'clock at night: *at/before/after ~*. □ *adj* during the middle of the night; at midnight.

mid-riff /ˈmɪdrɪf/ *n* [C] **1** diaphragm. **2** abdomen, belly.

mid-ship-man /ˈmɪdʃɪpmən/ *n* [C] (*pl* -men) **1** non-commissioned officer ranking below a sublieutenant in the Royal Navy. **2** student training to be commissioned as an officer in the US Navy.

mid-ships /ˈmɪdʃɪps/ *adv* = amidships.

midst /mɪdst/ *n*, *adv* (*literary* or *archaic*) (in the) middle part.

mid-summer /ˈmɪdsʌmə(r)/ *n* [U] the middle of summer (about June 21).

midsummer day, June 24.

mid-way /ˌmɪdˈweɪ/ *adj*, *adv* **midway between**, halfway.

mid-wife /ˈmɪdwaɪf/ *n* [C] (*pl* midwives /-waɪvz/) woman trained to help women in childbirth.

mid-wifery /ˈmɪdwaɪfəri/ *n* [U] profession and work of a midwife.

mid-win-ter /ˈmɪdwɪntə(r)/ *n* [U] the middle of the winter (about Dec 22).

might¹ /maɪt/ *pt* of may.

might² /maɪt/ *n* [U] great power; strength: *work with all one's ~*. ⇨ also *main*² (3).

mighty /ˈmaɪti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** powerful: *a ~ nation*. **2** great; massive: *the ~ ocean*. **3** (*informal*) great. **high and mighty**, very proud. □ *adv* (*informal*) very: *think oneself ~ clever*.

might-ily /-əli/ *adv*

mi-graine /'mi:grein/ *n* [C] very strong, frequent headache.

mi-grant /'maɪgrənt/ *n* [C] person who, bird which, migrates.

mi-grate /'maɪgreɪt/ *US: 'maɪgreɪt/ vi* 1 move from one place to another (to live there). 2 (of birds and fishes) come and go to a region with the season.

mi-gra-tion /'maɪgreɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

mi-gra-tory /'maɪgrətri/ *US: -tɔ:ri/ adj* having the habit of migrating: *migratory birds*.

mike /maɪk/ *n* [C] (*informal abbr* for) microphone.

mi-lage /'maɪlɪdʒ/ *n* = mileage.

mild /maɪld/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 soft; gentle; not severe: *weather*; *a ~ answer/temper*. 2 (of food, drink, tobacco) not sharp or strong in taste or flavour: *~ cheese/cigars*.

mild-ly *adv* in a mild manner. **to put it mildly**, to speak without exaggeration.

mild-ness *n* [U]

mil-dew /'mɪldju: *US: -du:/ n* [U] (usually destructive) growth of tiny fungi forming on plants, leather, food, etc in warm and damp conditions: *roses ruined by ~*. □ *vt, vi* affect, become affected, with mildew.

mile /maɪl/ *n* [C] 1 unit of distance (*statute ~*, (of land) 1760 yards; *metric mile*, (athletics) 1500 metres; *nautical ~*, (of sea) about 6076 feet): *He ran the ~ in under 4 minutes. My car can do 40 ~s to the gallon*. 2 (*pl*) (*informal*) any long distance: *walk for ~s (and ~s)*. *There's no one within ~s of him as a tennis player, no one who can rival him*. ⇨ *stand out*. 3 (*pl*) (*informal*) a great deal: *She's feeling ~s better today*.

mile-om-eter /maɪ'lɒmɪtə(r)/ device (in a motor-vehicle) recording the number of miles travelled.

'mile-stone, (a) stone at the side of a road showing places and distances. (b) (*fig*) (important) stage or event in history, research, etc.

mile-age /'maɪlɪdʒ/ *n* [C] 1 distance travelled, measured in miles: *a used car with a small ~*. 2 allowance for travelling expenses at a fixed rate a mile. 3 = miles per gallon.

mili-tancy /'mɪlɪtənsɪ/ *n* [U] state of being militant.

mili-tant /'mɪlɪtənt/ *adj* ready for fighting; actively engaged in or supporting the use of force: *~ workers*. □ *n* [C] militant person.

mili-tary /'mɪlɪtri/ *US: -teri/ adj* of or for soldiers, an army, war on land: *~ training*. □ *n* **the ~**, soldiers; the army.

mili-tate /'mɪlɪteɪt/ *vi* (of evidence, facts) have force, operate: *Several factors combined to ~ against the success of our plan*.

mil-itia /mɪ'lɪʃə/ *n* [C] (usually **the ~**) force of civilians trained as soldiers but not part of the regular army.

milk¹ /mɪlk/ *n* [U] 1 white liquid produced by

female mammals as food for their young, esp that of cows, drunk by human beings and made into butter and cheese. **the milk of human kindness**, the kindness that should be natural to human beings. **It's no use crying over spilt milk**, over a loss or error for which there is no remedy. 2 juice like milk of some plants and trees, eg of a coconut. 3 preparation like milk made from herbs, drugs, etc: *~ of magnesia*.

'milk 'chocolate, (light brown colour of the) kind made with milk.

'milk loaf, sweet-tasting white bread.

'milk-maid, woman who milks cows and works in a dairy.

'milk-man, man who delivers milk to homes.

'milk 'pudding, hot or cold dish of rice, etc boiled or baked in milk.

'milk round, milkman's route from house to house, street to street.

'milk-shake, milk drink with ice-cream or flavouring mixed into it and beaten up.

'milk-tooth, one of the first (temporary) teeth in young mammals.

milk² /mɪlk/ *vt, vi* 1 draw milk from a cow, ewe, goat, etc. 2 (*fig*) extract money, information, etc (by deceit or dishonesty) from a person or institution. 3 yield milk: *The cows are ~ing well*.

milky /'mɪlki/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) 1 of or like milk; mixed with milk. 2 (of a liquid) cloudy, not clear.

the Milky Way, = the Galaxy.

mill¹ /mɪl/ *n* 1 (building (eg a 'flour-~) with) machinery or apparatus for grinding grain into flour. **go/put sb through the mill**, (cause to) undergo hard training or experience. ⇨ *run-of-the-mill*. 2 building, factory, workshop, for industry: a 'cotton/ 'paper-~. 3 small machine for grinding: a 'coffee-'pepper-~.

'mill-stone, (a) one of a pair of circular stones between which grain is ground. (b) (*fig*) heavy burden: *That mortgage has been like a ~ stone round my neck*.

mill² /mɪl/ *vt, vi* 1 put through a machine for grinding; produce by doing this: *~ grain/ flour*. 2 produce regular markings on the edge of (coin): *silver coins with a ~ed edge*. 3 **mill about/around**, (of cattle, crowds of people) move in a disorganised group.

mil-len-nium /mɪ'lɛnɪəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* -nia /-niə/ or ~s) 1 period of 1000 years. 2 (*fig*) future time of great happiness and prosperity for everyone.

mil-le-pe-de /'mɪlɪpɪd/ *n* [C] = millipede.

mil-ler /'mɪlə(r)/ *n* [C] owner or tenant of a mill, esp the old-fashioned flour-mill worked by wind or water.

mil-let /'mɪlɪt/ *n* [U] cereal plant growing 3 to 4 feet high and producing a large crop of small seeds; the seeds (as food).

milli- /mɪli-/ prefix one-thousandth part of: *'millimetre*.

mil-li-bar /'mɪlɪbɑ(r)/ *n* [C] unit of atmospheric pressure.

mil-liner /'mɪlɪnə(r)/ *n* [C] person who makes and sells women's hats, and sells lace, trimmings, etc for hats.

mil-lin-ery /-nəri/ *U.S.*: -neri/ *n* [U] (business of making or selling) women's hats.

mil-lion /'mɪljən/ *adj.* *n* [C] **1** (of) one thousand thousand (1000000). (Note: the *pl* is rarely used after a number: *six ~ people*.) *make a million*, earn, gain, a million pounds, dollars, etc. **2** (informal) great number: *~s of people were at the demonstration*.

mil-lion-aire /'mɪljən'eɪə(r)/, person who has a million dollars, pounds, etc; extremely rich man.

mil-lionth /-ljənθ/ *adj.* *n* [C] (of) the next after 999999 or one part of a million.

mil-li-pede /'mɪlɪpiːd/ *n* [C] small creature like a worm with many legs, usually in double pairs.

mime /maɪm/ *n* [C] **1** (in ancient Greece and Rome) kind of drama in which real persons and events were made fun of and in which imitating and dancing were important. **2** (in the theatre, etc) use of only facial expressions and gestures to tell a story; actor in such drama. □ *vi, vt act (as) in a mime*.

mimic /'mɪmɪk/ *adj* imitated or pretended: *~ warfare*, as in peacetime manoeuvres. □ *n* [C] person who is clever at imitating others, esp in order to make fun of their habits, appearance, etc. □ *vt (pt, pp ~ked)* **1** make fun of by imitating: *He was ~king his uncle's voice*. **2** (of things) resemble closely: *wood painted to ~ marble*.

'mim-icry *n* [U]

min-aret /'mɪnə'ret/ *n* [C] tall, slender spire, connected with a mosque, from the balconies of which people are called to prayer.

mince /mɪns/ *vt, vi* **1** cut or chop (meat, etc) into small pieces (with a knife, or a machine with revolving blades, called a *'mincing machine* or *mincer*). **2** (dated) say (words) with affected delicacy; try to appear elegant when speaking or walking. □ *n* [U] minced meat.

'mince-meat, mixture of currants, raisins, sugar, candied peel, apples, suet, etc. **make mincemeat of**, (informal) defeat a person, an argument, etc.

mincer, device for mincing food.

mind /maɪnd/ *n* **1** [U] memory; remembrance. *bear/keep sth in mind; bring/call sth to mind*, remember it. **2** [U] (but with *a, an* or *pl* in some phrases, as shown below) what a person thinks or feels; way of thinking; conscious thoughts; feeling, opinion; intention: *Nothing was further from his ~*. *be in two minds about sth*, feel doubtful, hesitate, about something. **blow one's**

mind, (informal) (of drugs, extraordinary or sensational sights, sounds, etc) cause mental excitement, state of ecstasy, etc. Hence, **'mind-blowing** *adj.* *change one's mind*, ⇨ *change*¹(3). *give sb a piece of one's mind*, ⇨ *piece*¹(2). *have a good mind to 'do sth*, be strongly determined or ready to do it: *I've a good ~ to report you to the police*.

have half a mind to 'do sth, be almost decided to do it. *have sth/sb on one's mind*, be troubled about a thing or person which, one feels, one ought to deal with. *have/keep an open mind*, be willing to have more evidence before deciding. *keep one's mind on sth*, continue to pay attention to: *Keep your ~ on what you're doing*. *know one's own mind*, know what one wants, have no doubts. *make up one's mind*, come to a decision: *I've made up my ~ to be a doctor*. *My ~'s made up*, I've decided. *not in one's right mind*, mentally ill; very disturbed. *set sb's mind at rest*, remove his anxieties, doubt, etc. *slip one's mind*, be forgotten. *speak one's mind*, ⇨ *speak*¹(5). *take one's/sb's mind off sth*, turn one's/a person's attention away from something (disagreeable). *take/be a load off sb's/one's mind*, make him/be less worried about sth. *in the mind's 'eye*, ⇨ *eye*¹(1). *to one's mind*, according to one's way of thinking: *To my ~, this is all nonsense*. ⇨ also absence; presence. **3** [C,U] (person with) mental ability; intellect: *He has a very good ~*. *No two ~s think alike*.

'mind-reading, knowing by intuition what a person is thinking. Hence, **'mind-reader** *n*.

mind² /maɪnd/ *vt, vi* **1** take care of; attend to: *Who's ~ing the baby?* *M~ the dog*, Beware of it. *M~ (out), there's a bus coming!* **mind one's P's and Q's**, *mind your 'own 'business*, ⇨ *business*¹(3). **2** be troubled by; feel objection to: *He doesn't ~ the cold weather at all*. *Do you ~ if I smoke?* *Would you ~ opening the window*, Will you please do this? *I wouldn't ~ a glass of cold beer*, I would like one. **Never mind**, (a) It is not important: *Never ~ how long it takes - just do it*. (b) Do not worry, feel sorry: *I've lost your pen*. *'Never ~*.

minder, person whose duty it is to look after something or somebody: *a ma'chine-~er*; *a 'baby-~er*.

-minded /-maɪndɪd/ *suffix* (used with an *adj* or *adv*) having the kind of mind mentioned: *'strong-~*; *'high-~ 'leaders*.

mind-ful /'maɪndfʊl/ *adj* **mindful of**, giving thought and attention to: *~ of one's duties/the nation's welfare*.

mind-less /'maɪndlɪs/ *adj* **1** **mindless of**, paying no attention to; forgetful of: *~ of danger*. **2** not having or not requiring intelligence: *~ layouts*.

mind-less-ly *adv.*

mine¹ /maɪn/ *possessive pron* of or belonging to me: *Is this book yours or ~? He's a 'friend of ~, one of my friends.*

mine² /maɪn/ *n* [C] **1** excavation made in the earth from which coal, mineral ores, etc are taken: *a 'coal~. 2* (*fig*) rich or abundant source: *A good dictionary/My grandmother is a ~ of information. 3* (tunnel for a) charge of high explosive exploded by electricity or contact with a vehicle, or a time fuse, etc: *The lorry was destroyed by a 'land~.*

'mine-detector, electro-magnetic device for finding mines(3).

'mine-field, (a) area of land or sea where mines(3) have been laid. (b) area of land where there are many mines(1).

'mine-sweeper, naval vessel for clearing the sea of mines(3).

mine³ /maɪn/ *vt, vi* **1** dig (for coal, ores, etc) from the ground; obtain (coal, etc) from mines: *mining gold. 2* lay mines(3) in; destroy by means of these: *~ a bridge.*

miner /'maɪnə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** man who works in a mine underground: *'coal~s. 2* soldier trained to dig tunnels and lay mines under enemy trenches, etc.

min-eral /'mɪnərəl/ *n* [C] natural substance (not vegetable or animal) got from the earth by mining. □ *adj* of, containing, mixed with, minerals: *~ ores.*

the 'mineral kingdom, all natural inorganic substances. ⇨ *kingdom*(3).

'mineral water, (a) water that naturally contains a mineral substance, esp one said to have medicinal value. (b) (*GB*) non-alcoholic flavoured drink containing soda-water.

min-er-al-ogy /'mɪnərələdʒi/ *n* [U] the study and science of minerals.

min-er-al-ogist /'mɪnərələdʒɪst/ *n* [C] expert in, student of, mineralogy.

mingle /'mɪŋɡl/ *vt, vi* mix: *~ with* (= go about among) *the crowds.*

mingy /'mɪndʒɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (*GB informal*) mean, ungenerous: *a ~ sister.*

mini /'mɪni/ *prefix* of small size, length, etc: *a 'bus; a 'skirt.*

minia-ture /'mɪnɪtʃə(r) *US*: -tʃʊə(r)/ *n* **1** [C] very small painting of a person; [U] this branch of painting. **in miniature**, on a small scale. **2** [C] small-scale copy or model of any object. **3** (as an *adjective*) on a small scale: *a ~ railway.*

minia-tur-ize (also **-ise**) /'mɪnɪtʃəraɪz/ *vt* make on a very small scale.

minim /'mɪnɪm/ *n* [C] (*music*) note with half the value of a semibreve.

mini-mal /'mɪnɪml/ *adj* smallest in amount or degree: *On these cliffs vegetation is ~.*

mini-mize (also **-ise**) /'mɪnɪmaɪz/ *vt* reduce to, estimate at, the smallest possible amount or degree: *~ an error, try to reduce its impor-*

tance, say that it is not serious.

mini-mum /'mɪnɪmə(r) *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) (opposite of *maximum*) **1** least possible or recorded amount, degree, etc: *reduce something to a ~. 2* (used as an *adjective*): *the ~ temperature; a ~ wage, lowest wage that regulations allow.*

min-ing /'maɪnɪŋ/ *n* [U] the process of getting minerals, etc from mines.

min-ion /'mɪnɪən/ *n* [C] (usually contemptuous for an) employee who, in order to win favour, obeys orders too readily.

min-is-ter¹ /'mɪnɪstə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person at the head of a Department of State (and often a member of the Cabinet): *the Prime M~. 2* person of lower rank than an ambassador, representing his Government in a foreign country. **3** Christian priest or clergyman, esp one in the Presbyterian and Nonconformist Churches.

min-is-ter² /'mɪnɪstə(r)/ *vi* give help or service: *~ to the needs of a sick man.*

min-is-ter-ial /'mɪnɪstəriəl/ *adj* **1** of a Minister of State, his position, duties, etc: *~ functions/duties. 2* of or for the Ministry (or Cabinet): *the ~ benches.*

min-is-ter-ially /-iəlɪ/ *adv*

min-is-tra-tion /'mɪnɪstreɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] ministering or serving, eg in performing a religious service. **2** [C] act of this kind.

min-is-try /'mɪnɪstri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** Department of State under a Minister: *the M~ of Defence. 2* office, duties, term of service, of a minister. **3** *the ~*, the ministers of religion as a body. **enter the ministry**, become a minister of religion.

mink /mɪŋk/ *n* [C, U] (valuable brown fur skin of a) small animal like a stoat: (used as an *adjective*) *a ~ coat.*

min-now /'mɪnəʊ/ *n* [C] (sorts of) very small fresh-water fish.

mi-nor /'maɪnə(r)/ *adj* ⇨ *major. 1* smaller, less important: *~ repairs/alterations. 2* comparatively unimportant: *the ~ poets; play only a ~ part in the play. 3* second or younger of two boys (esp in the same school): *Smith ~. 4* (*music*): *a ~ third*, an interval of three semitones; *a ~ key*, in which the scale has a minor third. ⇨ also *key*¹ (8). □ *n* (*legal*) person not yet legally of age.

mi-nor-ity /maɪ'nɒrəti *US*: -nɔːr-/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] (*legal*) the state of being under age (in GB under 18). **2** the smaller number or part, esp of a total of votes. **be in the minority**, be in the smaller of two groups. **3** [C] small racial, religious, etc group in a community, nation, etc.

a minority government, one which has a minority of the total number of seats in a legislative assembly.

Mino-taur /'maɪnəʊtə(r)/ *n* [C] (in Greek myth) monster, half man and half bull, kept in the labyrinth in Crete.

min-ster /'mɪnstə(r)/ *n* [C] large or important church, esp one that once belonged to a monastery: *York ~*.

min-strel /'mɪnstrel/ *n* [C] **1** (in the Middle Ages) travelling composer, player and singer. **2** one of a group of entertainers at fairs, holiday resorts, etc.

mint¹ /mɪnt/ *n* [U] (sorts of) plant whose leaves are used for flavouring: ~ *sauce*, chopped mint leaves, in vinegar and sugar, as eaten with lamb.

mint² /mɪnt/ *n* [C] **1** place where coins are made. **make/earn a mint (of money)**, ⇨ *make*¹(9). **2** (used as an adjective) of medals, stamps, prints, books, etc. **in mint condition**, as if new; unsoiled; perfect. □ *vt* **1** make (a coin) by stamping metal: ~ *coins of 50p*. **2** (*fig*) invent a word, phrase, etc.

min-uet /'mɪnjuːt/ *n* [C] (piece of music for a) slow, graceful 17th century dance.

minus /'maɪnəs/ *adj* **1** the ~ *sign*, the sign — **2** negative: *a ~ quantity*, a quantity less than zero (eg —2x). □ *prep* **1** less; with the deduction of: *7 ~ 3 is 4*. **2** (*informal*) without: *He came back from the war ~ a leg*. □ *n* [C] minus sign or quantity.

min-us-cule /'mɪnəskjuːl/ *adj* tiny; small.

min-ute¹ /'mɪnuːt/ *n* [C] **1** the sixtieth part of one hour: *seven ~s to six*; *arrive ten ~s early*. **in a minute**, soon: *I'll come in a ~*. **the minute (that)**, as soon as: *I'll give him your message the ~ (that) he arrives*. **2** the sixtieth part of a degree (in an angle): *37° 30'*, 37 degrees 30 minutes. **3** official record giving authority, advice or making comments. **4** (*pl*) summary, records, of what is said and decided at a meeting, esp of a society or committee. □ *vt* **1** record in the minutes(4). **2** make a record of something.

'minute-hand, long hand on a watch or clock pointing to the minute.

up-to-the-minute *adj* ⇨ this entry at *up*.

mi-nute² /maɪ'njuːt/ *US*: -'nuːt/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** very small: ~ *particles of dust*. **2** giving small details; careful and exact: *the ~st details*.

mi-nute-ly *adv*

mir-acle /'mɪrəl/ *n* [C] act or event (good or welcome) which does not follow the known laws of nature; remarkable and surprising event: *work/accomplish ~s*. **a miracle of**, exceptional example or specimen: *It's a ~ of technology*.

mir-acu-lous /mɪ'rækjʊləs/ *adj*

mir-acu-lous-ly *adv*

mi-rage /'mɪrɑːʒ/ *US*: mɪ'rɑːʒ/ *n* [C] **1** effect, produced by air conditions, causing something (not existing) to become visible (or upside down), esp the appearance of water in the desert. **2** (*fig*) any illusion or hope that cannot be realized.

mire /'maɪə(r)/ *n* [U] **1** swampy ground; soft, deep mud. **2** *be in the mire*, (*fig*) be in diffi-

culties. □ *vt*, *vi* **1** cover with mud; cause to be, sink, in mud.

mir-ror /'mɪrə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** polished surface (usually of glass) that reflects images. **2** (*fig*) something that reflects or gives a likeness: *Pepys's 'Diary' is a ~ of the times he lived in*. □ *vt* reflect as in a mirror: *The still water of the lake ~ed the hillside*.

'mirror 'image, reflection or copy with the right and left sides reversed.

mirth /mɜːθ/ *n* [U] (*formal*) being merry, happy and bright; laughter.

mis- /mɪs-/ *prefix* bad, wrong, not: *misbehave*.

mis-ad-ven-ture /'mɪsəd'ventʃə(r)/ *n* [C,U] (event caused by) bad luck; misfortune.

death by misadventure, by accident.

mis-al-li-ance /'mɪsəl'aɪəns/ *n* [C] unsuitable alliance, esp marriage.

mis-an-thrope /'mɪzənθrəʊp/ *n* [C] person who hates mankind; person who avoids society.

mis-an-thropic /'mɪzənθrɒpɪk/ *adj*

mis-an-thropy /'mɪs'ænθrəpi/ *n* [U] hatred of mankind.

mis-apply /'mɪsə'plai/ *vt* (*pt,pp* -ied) apply wrongly; use for a wrong purpose, eg public funds.

mis-ap-pli-ca-tion /'mɪsəplɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

mis-ap-pre-hend /'mɪsə'pri'hend/ *vt* (*formal*) misunderstand.

mis-ap-pre-hen-sion /'mɪsə'pri'hensjən/ *n* [C,U] misunderstanding.

mis-ap-pro-pri-ate /'mɪsə'prəʊpriət/ *vt* take and use wrongly; apply (a person's money) to a wrong (esp one's own) use: *The treasurer ~d the society's funds*.

mis-be-got-ten /'mɪsbɪ'gɒtn/ *adj* (*informal*) worthless: ~ *plans*.

mis-be-have /'mɪsbɪ'herv/ *vt,vi* behave improperly.

mis-be-hav-iour (*US* = -ior) /'mɪsbɪ'hervɪə(r)/ *n* [U]

mis-cal-cu-late /'mɪs'kælkjuleɪt/ *vt,vi* calculate (amounts, etc) wrongly.

mis-cal-cu-la-tion /'mɪs'kælkjuleɪʃn/ *n*

mis-car-riage /'mɪskærɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [U] **a miscarriage of justice**, failure of a court to administer justice properly; mistake in judgement or in punishment; [C] instance of this. **2** [U] failure to deliver to, or arrive at, the destination: ~ *of goods*; [C] instance of this. **3** [U] premature expulsion of a foetus from the womb; [C] instance of this: *have a ~*.

mis-carry /'mɪs'kæri/ *vi* (*pt,pp* -ied) **1** (of plans, etc) fail; have a result different from what was hoped for. **2** (of letters, etc) fail to reach the right destination. **3** (of a woman) have a miscarriage(3).

mis-cast /'mɪs'kæst/ *US*: -'kæst/ *vt* (*pt,pp* ~) (usually *passive*) (of an actor, a play) be cast unsuitably: *She was badly ~ as Juliet*.

mis-cel-laneous /'mɪsəl'eɪniəs/ *adj* of

mixed sorts; having various qualities and characteristics: *a ~ collection of goods.*

mis-cel-lany /mɪ'seləni/ *US*: 'mɪsələni/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) collection, eg of writings on various subjects by various authors.

mis-chance /mɪs'tʃæns *US*: -'tʃæns/ *n* [C,U] (piece of) bad luck: *by ~.*

mis-chief /mɪ'stʃɪf/ *n* 1 [U] injury or damage done by a person or other agent, esp on purpose. *do sb a mischief*, hurt him. 2 [U] moral harm or injury: *Such wild speeches may work great ~.* **make mischief (between...)**, cause discord or ill feeling. Hence, **'mischief-maker/-making**. 3 [U] foolish or thoughtless behaviour likely to cause trouble: *Boys are fond of ~, of playing tricks, etc. Tell the children to keep out of ~.* 4 light-hearted, innocent desire to tease: *Her eyes were full of ~.* 5 [C] person who is fond of mischief (4).

mis-chiev-ous /mɪ'stʃɪvəs/ *adj* 1 causing mischief; harmful: *a ~ letter/rumour*. 2 filled with, liking, engaged in, mischief: *~ looks/tricks/children.*

mis-con-ceive /mɪskən'si:v/ *vt, vi* understand wrongly.

mis-con-cep-tion /mɪskən'sepʃn/ *n* [C,U]

mis-con-duct /mɪs'kɒndʌkt/ *n* [U] 1 improper behaviour, eg adultery. 2 bad management. □ *vt* /mɪskən'dʌkt/ 1 behave badly; (which is more usual). 2 manage badly: *~ one's business affairs.*

mis-con-struc-tion /mɪskən'strʌkʃn/ *n* [U] false or inaccurate interpretation or understanding: *Her friendliness is open to ~; [C] instance of this.*

mis-con-strue /mɪskən'stru:/ *vt* get a wrong idea of: *You have ~d my words/meaning.*

mis-count /mɪs'kaʊnt/ *vt, vi* count wrongly. □ *n* [C] /mɪskaʊnt/ wrong count, esp of votes at an election.

mis-cre-ant /'mɪskrɪənt/ *n* [C] (*dated*) scoundrel; wicked person.

mis-date /mɪs'deɪt/ *vt* 1 give a wrong date to an event, etc. 2 put a wrong date on a letter, cheque, etc.

mis-deal /mɪs'di:l/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* ~t /-delt/) deal (playing-cards) wrongly. □ *n* [C] error in dealing cards.

mis-deed /mɪs'di:d/ *n* [C] wicked act; crime: *be punished for one's ~s.*

mis-de-mean-our (*US* = -*meanor*) /mɪsdrɪ'mi:nə(r)/ *n* [C] (*legal*) offence which is less serious than a felony.

mis-di-rect /mɪsdrɪ'rekt/ *vt* direct wrongly: *~ a letter*, by failing to put the full or correct address on it; *~ one's energies or abilities*, eg by using them for a bad purpose.

mis-di-rec-tion /mɪsdrɪ'rekʃn/ *n* [C,U]

mis-doings /mɪs'du:ɪnz/ *npI* misdeeds.

miser /'maɪzə(r)/ *n* [C] person who loves

wealth for its own sake and spends as little as possible.

mi-ser-ly *adj*

mis-er-able /'mɪzərəbl/ *adj* 1 very unhappy; poor and sad: *feeling ~; the ~ lives of refugees*. 2 causing unhappiness: *~ weather*. 3 poor in quality: *a ~ attempt/meal.*

mis-er-ably /-əblɪ/ *adv*

mis-ery /'mɪzəri/ *n* (*pl* -ies) 1 [U] state of being miserable; great suffering (of mind or body): *be in a ~/suffer ~ from toothache*. 2 (*pl*) painful happenings; great misfortunes: *the miseries of war*. 3 [C] (*informal*) person who is always miserable and complaining.

mis-fire /mɪs'faɪə(r)/ *vi* 1 (of a gun) fail to go off. 2 (*informal*) (of a joke, etc) fail to have the intended effect: *His joke ~d badly on him.* □ *n* /mɪs'faɪə(r)/ [C] such a failure.

mis-fit /'mɪsɪt/ *n* [C] 1 article of clothing which does not fit well. 2 (*fig*) person not fitting in with his position or his associates.

mis-for-tune /mɪs'fɔ:tʃu:n *US*: -tʃən/ *n* 1 [U] bad luck: *suffer ~.* 2 [C] instance of bad luck: *He bore his ~s bravely.*

mis-giv-ing /mɪs'gɪvɪŋ/ *n* [C,U] (feeling of) doubt, suspicion, distrust: *a heart full of ~s.*

mis-gov-ern /mɪs'gʌvən/ *vt* govern (the State, etc) badly.

mis-gov-ern-ment *n* [U]

mis-guided /mɪs'gaɪdɪd/ *adj* (of behaviour) foolish and wrong (because of bad or wrong guidance or influence).

mis-handle /mɪs'hændl/ *vt* deal with roughly, rudely or inefficiently.

mis-hap /'mɪshæp/ *n* 1 [C] unlucky accident: *meet with a slight ~.* 2 [U] bad luck; accident: *arrive without ~.*

mis-in-form /mɪsɪn'fɔ:m/ *vt* give wrong information to.

mis-in-ter-pret /mɪsɪn'tɜ:prɪt/ *vt* give a wrong interpretation to: *He ~ed her silence as giving consent.*

mis-judge /mɪs'dʒʌdʒ/ *vt, vi* judge or estimate wrongly; form a wrong opinion of: *He ~d the distance and fell into the stream.*

mis-lay /mɪs'leɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* mislaid /-leɪd/) put something where it cannot easily be found: *I've mislaid my passport.*

mis-lead /mɪs'li:d/ *vt* (*pt, pp* misled /-led/) lead wrongly; cause to be or do wrong: *This information is rather ~ing*, gives a wrong impression.

mis-man-age /mɪs'mænɪdʒ/ *vt* manage badly or wrongly.

mis-man-age-ment *n* [U]

mis-nomer /mɪs'nəʊmə(r)/ *n* [C] wrong use of a name or word: *It's a ~ to call this place a first-class hotel.*

mis-ogyn-ist /mɪ'sɒdʒɪnɪst/ *n* [C] hater of women.

mis-place /mɪs'pleɪs/ *vt* 1 put in a wrong place. 2 (usually *passive*) give wrongly or un-

wisely: ~d confidence. **3** lose; mislay.

mis-pro-nounce /ˌmɪsprəˈnaʊns/ vt pronounce wrongly.

mis-pro-nun-ci-ation /ˌmɪsprəˈnʌnsɪˈeɪʃn/ n [C,U]

mis-quote /ˌmɪsˈkwəʊt/ vt quote wrongly.

mis-quo-ta-tion /ˌmɪskwəʊˈteɪʃn/ n [C,U]

mis-read /ˌmɪsˈriːd/ vt (pt,pp ~/-red/) read or interpret wrongly: ~ one's instructions.

mis-rep-re-sent /ˌmɪsˈreprɪˈzent/ vt represent wrongly; give a false account of.

mis-rep-re-sen-ta-tion /ˌmɪsˈreprɪzənˈteɪʃn/ n [C,U]

mis-rule /ˌmɪsˈruːl/ n [U] **1** bad government. **2** lawlessness; confusion.

miss¹ /mɪs/ n [C] **1** M~, (used in front of the name of an unmarried woman or girl who has no other title): M~ Smith. **2** (eg by schoolchildren to a woman teacher, also to shopkeepers, etc): Good morning, ~! Two cups of coffee, ~.

miss² /mɪs/ n [C] failure to hit, catch, reach, etc: ten hits and one ~. **give sth a miss**, (informal) decide not to do it, take it, eat it, etc. **a near miss**. ⇨ near¹ (2).

miss³ /mɪs/ vt,vi **1** fail to hit, hold, catch, reach, see, etc: ~ the target. He ~ed the 9.30 train (= was too late and did not catch it), and therefore ~ed (= escaped) the accident. The house is at the next corner; you can't ~ it, you'll certainly see it. He ~ed (= failed to understand) the point of my joke. **miss the boat/bus**, (fig) (be too late and) lose an opportunity. **2** realize, learn, feel regret at, the absence of: He's so rich that he wouldn't ~ £100. She'd ~ her husband if he died. When did you ~ your purse, realize you didn't have it? **3** **miss out (on sth)**, lose an opportunity to benefit, enjoy oneself: If you don't come, you'll be ~ing out on the fun. **miss sth out**, omit; fail to put in or say: The printers have ~ed out a word/line.

miss-ing adj not to be found; not in the place where it ought to be: a book with two pages ~ing; ~ing persons.

mis-sal /ˈmɪsl/ n [C] **1** book containing the order of service for Mass in the RC Church. **2** book of prayers and devotions.

mis-shap-en /ˌmɪsˈʃeɪpən/ adj (esp of the body or a limb) deformed.

mis-sile /ˈmɪsaɪl/ n [C] object or weapon that is thrown (eg a stone), shot (eg an arrow) or projected (eg a rocket).

guided **'missile**, eg from ground to air, for destroying aircraft, directed by electronic devices.

mis-sion /ˈmɪʃn/ n [C] **1** (the sending out of a) number of persons to perform a special task, usually abroad: a 'trade ~ to S America. **2** (esp) the sending out of missionaries to convert people by preaching, teaching, etc. **3** place where the work of missionaries is carried on; settlement where charitable or medical

work is carried on, esp among poor people. **4** **one's 'mission in life**, that work which a person feels called on to do by God: She thinks her ~ in life is to reform juvenile delinquents. **5** special task, assigned to an individual or a unit of the armed forces: The group has flown twenty ~s.

mis-sion-ary /ˈmɪʃənəri/ n [C] (pl -ies) person sent to preach his religion, esp among people who are ignorant of it. □ adj of missions (2) or missionaries.

mis-sive /ˈmɪsɪv/ n [C] (used humorously for) (esp) a long, serious-looking letter.

mis-spell /ˌmɪs ˈspel/ vt (pt,pp ~ed or mis-spelt /ˈspelt/) spell wrongly.

mis-spell-ing n [C,U]

mis-spent /ˌmɪs ˈspɛnt/ adj used wrongly or foolishly: a ~ youth.

mist /mɪst/ n **1** [C,U] (occasion when there is, an area with) water vapour in the air, at or near the earth's surface, less thick than fog: hills hidden/covered in ~. **2** [C] filmy appearance before the eyes (caused by tears, etc). **3** (fig) something which dims, obscures, etc: the ~s of time. □ vi,vt cover, be covered, with mist: The scene ~ed over.

misty adj (-ier, iest) (a) with mist: a ~y evening; ~y weather. (b) not clear: have only a ~y idea.

mis-take¹ /mɪˈsteɪk/ n [C] wrong opinion, idea or act: 'spelling ~s. We all make ~s occasionally. **by mistake**, as the result of carelessness, forgetfulness, an error, etc: I took your umbrella by ~.

mis-take² /mɪˈsteɪk/ vt,vi (pt mistook /mɪˈstʊk/, pp ~n /mɪˈsteɪkən/) **1** be wrong, have a wrong idea, about: We've ~n the house, come to the wrong house. **2** **mistake sb/sth for**, identify wrongly: She is often ~n for her twin sister.

mis-taken adj (a) in error; wrong in opinion: a case of ~n identity; have ~n ideas. **be mistaken (about sth)**, be wrong: If I'm not ~n, there's the man we met on the train. (b) ill-judged: ~n kindness/zeal.

mis-tak-en-ly adv

mis-ter /ˈmɪstə(r)/ n [C] **1** (always written Mr) (used in front of the name of a man who has no other title): Mr Green. **2** (sf) (used by children): Please, ~, can I have my ball back?

mis-timed /ˌmɪsˈtaɪmd/ adj said or done at an unsuitable time: a ~d intervention.

mistle-toe /ˈmɪsltəʊ/ n [U] evergreen plant (growing on fruit and other trees) with small white sticky berries, used as a Christmas decoration.

mis-took /mɪˈstʊk/ pt of mistake.

mis-tress /ˈmɪstrɪs/ n [C] **1** (formal) woman at the head of a household or family: Is your ~ at home? ⇨ master (2). **2** woman school teacher: the 'games ~. **3** woman with a good knowledge or control of something: She is ~

of the situation. **4** (before the 18th century) title equivalent to the modern *Mrs* or *Miss*. **5** (poetic) woman loved and courted by a man: 'O ~ mine'. **6** woman having regular sexual intercourse with a man to whom she is not married.

mis-trial /ˌmɪs'traɪl/ *n* [C] (legal) trial which is made invalid because of some error in the proceedings.

mis-trust /ˌmɪs'trʌst/ *vt* feel no confidence in: ~ one's own powers. □ *n* [U] (or with the) absence of confidence or trust: a strong ~ of anything new.

mis-trust-ful /-fl/ *adj*

misty /ˈmɪsti/ ⇨ *mist*.

mis-under-stand /ˌmɪsʌndə'stænd/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp -stood /-stʊd/) take a wrong meaning from (instructions, messages, etc); form a wrong opinion of: She had always felt *mis-understood*.

mis-un-der-stand-ing *n* [C, U] failure to understand correctly, esp when this causes or caused ill-feelings: ~ings between nations that may lead to war.

mis-use /ˌmɪs'juːz/ *vt* 1 use wrongly; use for a wrong purpose. **2** treat badly. □ *n* /ˌmɪs'juːs/ [U] using wrongly; [C] instance of this: the ~ of power.

mite¹ /maɪt/ *n* [C] **1** very small or modest contribution or offering: offer a ~ of comfort. **2** tiny object, esp a small child: Poor little ~!

mite² /maɪt/ *n* [C] small parasitic creature that may be found in food and carry disease.

mi-ter /ˈmaɪtə(r)/ *n* (US) = mitre.

miti-gate /ˈmɪtɪgeɪt/ *vt* make less severe, violent or painful.

mitigating circumstance, one that may make a mistake, crime, seem less serious.

miti-ga-tion /ˌmɪtɪ'geɪʃn/ *n* [U]

mitre (US = **mi-ter**) /ˈmaɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] tall headdress worn by bishops.

mitt /mɪt/ *n* [C] **1** mitten. **2** baseball glove. **3** (sl) hand; fist.

mit-ten /ˈmɪtn/ *n* [C] **1** kind of glove covering four fingers together and the thumb separately. **2** covering for the back and palm of the hand only, leaving the thumb and fingers bare.

mix¹ /mɪks/ *vt, vi* **1** (of different substances, people, etc) put, bring or come together so that the substances, etc are no longer distinct; make or prepare by doing this: ~ flour and water. We can sometimes ~ business with pleasure. Many races are ~ed in Hawaii. **2** (of persons) come or be together in society: He doesn't ~ well, doesn't get on well with people. **3** be/get mixed up (in sth), be involved or confused: Don't get ~ed up in politics. He feels very ~ed up (= confused) about life. Hence, **'mix-up** *n* [C]

mix² /mɪks/ *n* [C] (used chiefly in trade) ingredients, mixed or to be mixed, for a purpose,

eg for plaster, mortar, concrete or kinds of food: a 'cake ~.

mixed /mɪkst/ *adj* of different sorts: a ~ school, for boys and girls. **have mixed feelings (about sth)**, be undecided.

mixed 'blessing, result, etc having both advantages and disadvantages.

mixed 'doubles, (in tennis, etc) with two players, one man and one woman, on each side.

mixed 'farming, eg dairy farming and cereals.

mixer /ˈmɪksə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person or thing that mixes: a ce'ment/'food ~. **2** (in TV, films) person who combines shots onto one length of film or video-tape. **3** (informal) one who is at ease with others on social occasions: a good ~. ⇨ mix¹ (2).

mix-ture /ˈmɪkstʃə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] mixing or being mixed. **2** [C] something made by mixing: a 'cough ~. Air is a ~ of gases.

moan /məʊn/ *n* [C] low sound (as) of pain, suffering or regret: the ~s of the wounded; the ~ of the wind on a winter evening. □ *vi, vt* make moans: What's she ~ing (= complaining) about now?

moat /məʊt/ *n* [C] deep, wide ditch filled with water, round a castle, etc as a defence.

mob /mɒb/ *n* [C] **1** disorderly crowd, esp one that has gathered to make trouble or attack: **2** gang of criminals. □ *vt* (-bb-) (of people) crowd round in great numbers, either to attack or to admire: The pop singer was ~bed by teenagers.

mo-bile /ˈməʊbaɪl/ *US*: -bl/ *adj* **1** moving, able to be moved, easily and quickly from place to place: ~ troops/artillery. **2** easily and often changing. □ *n* [C] ornamental structure with hanging parts that move in air.

mo-bil-ity /məʊ'bɪləti/ *n* [U] being mobile.

mo-bi-lize (also -ise) /ˈməʊbɪlaɪz/ *vt, vi* collect together for service or use, esp in war.

mo-bi-liz-ation (also -isation) /ˌməʊbɪlaɪzətʃn/ *US*: -lɪ'z-/ *n* [U]

mo-c-a-sin /ˈmɒkəsɪn/ *n* **1** [U] soft leather made from deerskin. **2** (pl) (also a pair of ~s) style of shoes made from this.

mock /mɒk/ *vt, vi* make fun (of) (esp by copying in a funny or disrespectful way): The naughty boys ~ed the blind man. □ *adj* not real or genuine: a ~ battle.

mock-ing-ly *adv*

mock-ery /ˈmɒkəri/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] contempt; ridicule: using ~ to hide the weakness of your argument. **2** [C] person or thing that is mocked; mocking occasion. **3** [C] very bad example: His trial was a ~ of justice. **make a mockery of**, cause to appear foolish.

mock-ing bird /ˈmɒkɪŋ bɜːd/ *n* [C] American bird of the thrush family that mimics other birds.

mo-dal /ˈməʊdl/ *adj* **1** relating to mode, man-

ner or form (contrasted with substance). **2** (*gram*) related to the mood of a verb: ~ *auxiliaries*, eg *can*, *may*.

mode /məʊd/ *n* [C] **1** way in which something is done; way of speaking or behaving. **2** (*music*) one of the two chief scale systems in modern music (the major and the minor modes).

model¹ /'mɒdl/ *n* [C] **1** small-scale reproduction or representation; design to be copied: *a ~ of an ocean liner*; (as an adjective) ~ *aircraft/trains*. **2** person or thing to be copied: *He's a ~ of kindness*. **3** (*informal*) person or thing exactly like another: *She's the ~/a perfect ~ of her mother*. **4** person who poses for sculptors, painters or photographers. **5** person employed to wear clothes, hats, etc so that prospective buyers may see them. **6** article of clothing, hat, etc shown by models(5): *the latest Paris ~s*. **7** design or structure of which many copies or reproductions are (to be) made: *the latest ~s of Ford cars*. **8** (as an adjective) perfect; deserving to be used as a good example: ~ *behaviour*; *a ~ wife*.

model² /'mɒdl/ *vt, vi* (-ll-, *US* -l-) **1** shape (in some soft substance): ~ *her head in clay*. **2** work as a model(4,5): *She earns a living by ~ling clothes/hats*. **3** *model oneself on/upon sb*, take as a good copy or example: ~ *oneself on one's father*.

mod-el-ler (*US* = -eler), person who models(1).

mod-el-ling (*US* = -eling), (a) art, method, of making models(1). (b) working as a model(5).

mod-er-ate¹ /'mɒdəreɪt/ *adj* **1** not extreme; limited; having reasonable limits: *a ~ appetite*. **2** midway; keeping or kept within reasonable limits: *a ~ political party*; *be ~ in one's demands*. □ *n* [C] person who holds moderate opinions, eg in politics.

mod-er-ate-ly *adv*

mod-er-ate² /'mɒdəreɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** make or become less violent or extreme: ~ *one's enthusiasm/demands*. **2** act as a moderator.

mod-er-ation /'mɒdəreɪʃn/ *n* [U] quality of being moderate. *in moderation*, in a moderate manner or degree: *Will alcoholic drinks be harmful if taken in ~?*

mod-er-a-tor /'mɒdəreɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** Presbyterian minister presiding over a church court. **2** presiding examiner at some university examinations. **3** material in which neutrons are slowed down in an atomic pile.

mod-ern /'mɒdən/ *adj* **1** of the present or recent times: ~ *technical achievements*. **2** new and up-to-date: ~ *methods and ideas*; *a house with all ~ conveniences*. □ *n* [C] person living in modern times.

modern English, since 1475.

modern history, ⇨ *history*.

modern language, near the form now

spoken and written.

mod-ern-ity /mɒ'dɜːnəti/ *n* [U] being modern.

mod-ern-ize (also -ise) /'mɒdənaɪz/ *vt* make suitable for present-day needs; bring up to date: *a ~d kitchen in an old cottage*.

mod-est /'mɒdɪst/ *adj* **1** having, showing, a not too high opinion of one's merits, abilities, etc: *be ~ about one's achievements*. **2** moderate; not large in size or amount: *a ~ house*. *My needs are quite ~*. **3** taking, showing, care not to do or say anything indecent or improper: ~ *in speech, dress and behaviour*.

mod-est-ly *adv*

mod-esty /'mɒdɪsti/ *n* [U] state of being modest (all senses).

mod-i-cum /'mɒdɪkəm/ *n* (*sing only*) small or moderate amount: *a ~ of effort*.

mod-i-fier /'mɒdɪfaɪə(r)/ *n* [C] (*gram*) word that modifies, eg an *adj* or *adv*.

mod-i-fy /'mɒdɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** make changes in; make different: *The industrial revolution modified the whole structure of English society*. **2** make less severe, violent, etc: *You'd better ~ your tone*, eg be less rude. **3** (*gram*) make the sense of (a word) less general; limit the meaning of: *In 'red shoes' 'red' modifies 'shoes'*.

mod-i-fi-ca-tion /'mɒdɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

mod-ish /'mɒdɪʃ/ *adj* fashionable (the usual word).

modu-late /'mɒdʒuleɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** regulate; adjust; adapt. **2** (*music*) make a change in the pitch, intensity or key of. **3** (*music*) change or pass from one key to another. **4** vary the frequency, amplitude or other characteristics of sound waves.

modu-la-tion /'mɒdʒʊ'leɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] process of modulating; state of being modulated; [C] change resulting from this. **2** [U] (*music*) changing of key; [C] particular change of key. **3** variation in the amplitude, frequency or phase of a sound wave so that it is suitable for the radio or telephone.

mod-ule /'mɒdʒjuːl/ *n* [C] **1** standard or unit of measurement as used in building. **2** standard uniform component used in the structure of a building; unit of electronic components as used in the assembly of a computer. **3** independent and self-contained unit of a spacecraft.

com'mand module, for the astronaut in command.

'lunar module, to be separated for a moon landing.

modu-lar /'mɒdʒulə(r)/ *US*: -dʒu-/ *adj*

mo-hair /'məʊheə(r)/ *n* [U] (thread, cloth, made from the) fine, silky hair of the Angora goat.

Mo-ham-medan /mə'hɒmɪdən *US*: məʊ'hæmɪdən/ *n* ⇨ Muhammad.

moist /moɪst/ *adj* (esp of surfaces) slightly

wet: eyes ~ with tears.
moisten /'moɪsn/ *vt, vi* make or become moist: ~ *en* the lips.
moisture /'moɪstʃə(r)/ *n* [U] condensed vapour on a surface; liquid in the form of vapour.
molar /'məʊlə(r)/ *n* [C], *adj* (one) of the back teeth used for grinding food.
molas-ses /mə'leɪsɪz/ *n pl* (used with a *sing verb*) thick, dark syrup drained from raw sugar during the refining process.
mold, molder, mold-ing, moldy, ⇨ mould, etc.
mole¹ /məʊl/ *n* [C] permanent, small dark spot on the human skin.
mole² /məʊl/ *n* [C] small, dark-grey fur-covered animal living in tunnels (or burrows).
'mole-hill, pile of earth thrown up by a mole while burrowing. **make a mountain out of a mole-hill**, treat an unimportant matter as important.
mole³ /məʊl/ *n* [C] stone wall built in the sea as a breakwater or causeway.
mol-ecule /'mɒlɪkjʊ:l/ *n* [C] smallest unit (usually of a group of atoms) into which a substance could be divided without a change in its chemical nature.
mol-ecu-lar /mə'lekjʊlə(r)/ *adj*
mo-lest /mə'lest/ *vt* trouble or annoy intentionally.
mol-lify /'mɒlɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) make (a person, his feelings) calmer or quieter: ~ *ing* remarks: ~ *his anger*.
mol-lusc (US also **mol-lusk**) /'mɒləsk/ *n* [C] one of a class of animals with soft bodies (and often hard shells), eg oysters, mussels, cuttlefish, snails, slugs.
molt /mɒlt/ ⇨ moult.
mol-ten /'məʊltən/ *adj* (*pp* of melt) **1** (of metals) melted: ~ steel. **2** made of metal that has been melted and cast.
mo-ment /'məʊmənt/ *n* [C] point or very brief period of time: It was all over in a few ~s. Just a ~, please. □ *conj* as soon as; at the time when: The ~ I saw you I knew you were angry with me.
mo-men-tary /'məʊməntəri/ US: -teri/ *adj* lasting for, done in, a moment: a ~ pause in order to think before replying.
mo-men-tar-ily /'məʊməntərəli/ *adv*
mo-men-tous /mə'mentəs/ *adj* important; serious.
mo-men-tum /mə'mentəm/ *n* [U] **1** (science) quantity of motion of a moving body (the product of its mass and velocity): Do falling objects gain ~? **2** (fig) (of events) force (as) gained by movement; impetus: lose/gain ~.
mon-arch /'mɒnək/ *n* [C] supreme ruler (a king, queen, emperor or empress).
mon-ar-chie /mə'nɑ:kɪk/ *adj*
mon-ar-chism /'mɒnəkɪzəm/ *n* [U] system of government by a monarch.
mon-ar-chist /'mɒnəkɪst/ *n* [C] supporter of

monarchism.

mon-archy /'mɒnəkɪ/ *n* (a) [U] government by a monarch. (b) [C] (*pl* -ies) state ruled by a monarch.

mon-as-tery /'mɒnəstri/ US: -steri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) building in which monks live as a community under religious vows.

mon-as-tic /'mɒnəstɪk/ *adj* of monks or monasteries: ~ vows, ie of poverty, chastity and obedience.

mon-as-ti-cism /mə'nəstɪsɪzəm/ *n* [U] monastic system and way of life.

mon-aural /'mɒn'ɔ:rəl/ *adj* **1** for one ear. **2** (abbr **mono**) (of sound-reproducing equipment and recordings) not stereophonic.

Mon-day /'mʌndɪ/ *n* second day of the week.

mon-et-ary /'mʌnɪtri/ US: -teri/ *adj* of money or coins: The ~ unit in the US is the dollar.

money /'mʌni/ *n* [U] coins stamped from metal or printed on paper and accepted when buying and selling, etc: Are there easy ways of making ~? ⇨ run¹(1).

'money-box, closed box into which coins are dropped through a slit, used for savings or for collecting.

'money-lender, person whose business is to lend money at interest.

'money-maker, (a) person who is successful in making a profit. (b) profitable item.

the 'money-market, bankers, financiers, etc whose operations decide the rates of interest on borrowed capital.

'money-order, order for money bought from a post office for payment at another post office to a named person.

'money-spinner, (*informal*) book, play, etc that makes a lot of money.

moneyed /'mʌnɪd/ *adj* having much money: the ~ed classes.

-mon-ger /-mʌŋgə(r)/ *suffix* person who deals in: 'ironmonger.

mon-gol /'mɒŋɡl/ *n* [C], *adj* (person) suffering from mongolism.

mon-gol-ism /'mɒŋɡəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] congenital condition in which a child is born with mental deficiency and a flattened broad skull and slanting eyes.

mon-goose /'mɒŋɡu:s/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) small Indian animal clever at destroying venomous snakes.

mon-grel /'mʌŋɡrəl/ *n* [C] **1** dog of mixed breed. **2** any plant or animal of mixed origin. □ *adj* of mixed breed, race or origin: a ~ dog.

moni-tor /'mɒnɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** pupil given authority over other pupils. **2** person employed to listen to and report on foreign broadcasts. **3** apparatus for testing transmissions by radio, for detecting radio-activity, etc. □ *vt, vi* act as a monitor(2).

monk /mʌŋk/ *n* [C] member of a community of men living together under religious vows in

a monastery.

monk-ish /-ɪʃ/ *adj.*

mon-key /'mʌŋki/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** animal of the group of animals most closely resembling man. **2** person, esp a child, who is fond of mischief: *You little ~!* *vi* **monkey about** (*with*), play mischievously: *Stop ~ing about with those tools!*

monkey-nut, groundnut.

'monkey wrench, wrench (spanner) with a jaw that can be adjusted to various lengths.

mono /'mɒnəʊ/ (abbr of) monaural.

mono- /'mɒnə-/ *prefix* one, a single: *monosyllable*.

mono-chrome /'mɒnəkrəʊm/ *n* [C] painting in (different tints of) one colour. *□ adj* having only one colour.

mon-ocle /'mɒnəkl/ *n* [C] framed lens for one eye, kept in position by the muscles round the eye.

mon-og-amist /mən'ɒgəməst/ *n* [C] person who practises monogamy.

mon-og-amous /mən'ɒgəməs/ *adj* practising monogamy.

mon-og-amy /mən'ɒgəmi/ *n* [U] practice of being married to only one person at a time. *⇒* polygamy.

mono-gram /'mɒnəgrəm/ *n* [C] two or more letters (esp a person's initials) combined in one design (on notepaper, etc).

mono-graph /'mɒnəgrɑ:f/ *US*: -græf/ *n* [C] detailed (scientific) account, esp a published report on one particular subject.

mono-lin-gual /'mɒnəʊ'liŋgwəl/ *adj* using, concerning, one language: *a ~ dictionary*.

mono-lith /'mɒnəlɪθ/ *n* [C] single upright block of stone (as a pillar or monument).

mono-lithic /'mɒnəlɪθɪk/ *adj*

mono-logue /'mɒnələg/ *US*: -lə:g/ *n* [C] **1** scene in a play or a complete play in which only one person speaks. **2** any long talk by one person in a conversation.

mono-mania /'mɒnəʊ'meɪniə/ *n* [U] state of mind, sometimes amounting to madness, caused by the attention being occupied exclusively by one idea or subject; [C] instance of this.

mono-maniac /'mɒnəʊ'meɪniæk/ *n* [C] person suffering from monomania.

mono-plane /'mɒnəpleɪn/ *n* [C] aircraft with one wing on each side of the fuselage.

mon-op-ol-ize (also **-ise**) /mən'ɒpələɪz/ *vi* get or keep control of the whole of, so that others cannot share: *Don't let me ~ the conversation*.

mon-op-oly /mən'ɒpəli/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** powerful amalgamation of capitalists in the form of concerns, trusts, etc. **2** complete control of trade, talk, etc: *a government ~*. **3** anything over which one person or group has control and which is not or cannot be shared by others.

mon-op-ol-ist /-lɪst/, person who has a monopoly.

mon-op-ol-ist-ic /mən'ɒpəlɪstɪk/ *adj*

mono-rail /'mɒnəreɪl/ *n* [C] single rail serving as a track for vehicles; railway system for vehicles using such a rail.

mono-syl-lable /'mɒnəsɪləbl/ *n* [C] word of one syllable.

mono-syl-labic /'mɒnəsɪ'læbɪk/ *adj* having only one syllable.

mon-ot-on-ous /mən'ɒtənəs/ *adj* (uninteresting because) unchanging, without variety: *a ~ voice*; *~ work*.

mon-ot-on-ous-ly *adv*

mon-ot-on-y /mən'ɒtəni/ *n* [U] the state of being monotonous.

Mon-si-gnor /mɒn'si:njə(r)/ *n* (title given to) certain officials in the RC Church.

mon-soon /mɒn'su:n/ *n* [C] seasonal wind blowing in the Indian Ocean from SW from April to October (*wet ~*) and from NE during the other months (*dry ~*); the rainy season that comes with the wet monsoon.

mon-ster /'mɒnstə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** abnormally shaped animal or plant. **2** person or thing of extraordinary size, shape or qualities. **3** (in stories) imaginary creature (eg half animal, half bird): *dragons are ~s*. **4** person who is remarkable for some bad or evil quality: *a ~ of cruelty*. **5** (used as an adjective) huge: *a ~ ship*.

mon-stros-ity /mɒn'strɒsəti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] state of being monstrous. **2** [C] monster; hideous object, building, etc.

mon-strous /'mɒnstɹəs/ *adj* **1** of or like a monster; of great size. **2** causing horror and disgust: *~ crimes*. **3** (*informal*) absurd; incredible; scandalous: *It's perfectly ~ that men should be paid more than women for the same job*.

mon-strous-ly *adv*

mon-tage /'mɒnta:ʒ/ *n* [C,U] (*Fr*) **1** selection, cutting and arrangement of photographic film, etc to make a consecutive whole. **2** process of using many pictures, designs, sometimes superimposed, to make a composite picture.

month /mʌnθ/ *n* [C] approximately a twelfth of a year: *a baby of three ~s*; *a three-~ old baby*. *⇒* Sunday.

calendar month, any of the twelve parts into which the year is divided; period of time from a day in one month to the corresponding day in the next (eg 2 Jan to 2 Feb).

lunar month, period in which the moon makes a complete revolution; period of 28 days.

month-ly *adj, adv* done, happening, etc once a month; valid for one month: *a ~ly season ticket*, for railway travel. *□ n* [C] (*pl* -ies) periodical issued once a month.

monu-ment /'mɒnjumənt/ *n* [C] **1** building, column, statue, etc in memory of a person or

event: *a ~ in the church to the late rector.* **2** piece of scholarship or research that deserves to be remembered; work of literature or science of lasting value: *a ~ of learning.*

monu-men-tal /ˌmɒnjə'mentl/ *adj* **1** of, serving for, a monument: *a ~ inscription.* **2** (of books, studies, etc) of lasting value: *a ~ production*, eg the Oxford English Dictionary. **3** (of qualities, buildings, tasks) very great: *~ ignorance.*

moo /mu:/ *n* [C] sound made by a cow or ox. □ *vi* make the sound moo.

'**moo-cow**, (child's word for a) cow.

mood¹ /mu:d/ *n* [C] state of mind or spirits: *not in the ~ for serious music.*

moody *adj* (-ier, -iest) having moods that often change, esp being bad-tempered.

mood-ily /-əli/ *adv*

mood² /mu:d/ *n* [C] (*gram*) one of the groups of forms that a verb may take to show whether things are regarded as certain, possible, doubtful, etc: *the indicative/imperative ~.*

moon¹ /mu:n/ *n* [C] **1** the ~, the body which moves round the earth once in a month and shines at night by light reflected from the sun. **2** (with *a*, *an*) this body regarded as an object distinct from that visible in other months: *Is it a new ~ or a full ~?* **promise sb the moon**, make extravagant promises. **3** satellite of other planets: *How many ~s has the planet Jupiter?* **4** (poetry) month. **once in a blue moon**, ⇨ blue¹.

'**moon-beam**, ray of moonlight.

'**moon-light**, light of the moon: (often used as an adjective) *a ~light night*. ⇨ *flit*.

'**moon-shine**, (a) light of the moon. (b) foolish or idle talk, ideas, etc.

'**moon-stone**, kind of semi-precious stone.

'**moon-struck** *adj* wild and mad (supposedly as the result of the moon's influence).

moon-less *adj* without a visible moon: *a dark, ~less night.*

moon² /mu:n/ *vi, vt* **moon about/around**, move or look slowly and without energy or interest.

moor¹ /muə(r)/ *n* [C, U] (area of) open, uncultivated land, esp if covered with heather.

'**moor-land** /-lənd/, land consisting of open moor and covered with heather.

moor² /muə(r)/ *vt, vi* make (a boat, ship, etc) secure (to land or buoys) by means of cables, etc.

moor-ings /'muəriŋz/ *n pl* (a) cables, anchors and chains, etc by which a ship or boat is moored. (b) place where a ship is moored.

Moor /muə(r)/ *n* **1** member of the Muslim peoples of mixed Arab and Berber blood who now live in NW Africa. **2** one of the Muslim Arabs who invaded Spain in the 8th century.

moose /mu:s/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~ or ~s /-siz/) large sort of deer with coarse fleece and large, flat antlers, found in the forests of N America, and

in northern Europe (where it is called an *elk*).

moot /mu:t/ *adj* (only in) **a moot point/question**, one about which there is uncertainty. □ *vt* raise or bring forward for discussion: *This question has been ~ed before.*

mop /mɒp/ *n* [C] **1** bundle of coarse strings, cloth, etc fastened to a long handle for cleaning floors, etc; similar material on a short handle for cleaning dishes, etc. **2** mass of thick, untidy hair. □ *vt* (-pp-) **1** clean with a mop: *~ the floor.* **2** wipe with, or as with, a mop: *~ one's brow*; *~ up a mess.*

mope /mɒp/ *vi* pity oneself, feel sad or in low spirits: *moping (about) in the house all day.* □ *n pl* the ~s, low spirits.

moped /'mɒpəd/ *n* [C] (GB) pedal bicycle fitted with a small petrol engine (under 50 cc).

mo-raine /mɒ'reɪn/ *US*: mɔ:-/ *n* [U] heap or mass of earth, gravel, rock, etc carried down and deposited by a glacier.

moral¹ /'mɒrəl/ *US*: 'mɔ:rəl/ *adj* **1** concerning principles of right and wrong: *~ standards/law.* **2** good and virtuous: *a ~ life/man.* **3** able to understand the difference between right and wrong: *At what age do we become ~ beings?* **4** teaching or illustrating good behaviour: *a ~ talk.* **5** (contrasted with *physical* or *practical*) connected with the sense of what is right and just: *a ~ victory*, outcome of a struggle in which the weaker side is comforted because it has established the righteousness of its cause. **give sb moral support**, help by saying that he has justice and right on his side.

'**moral phi'losophy**, the study of right and wrong in human behaviour; ethics.

mor-ally /-rəli/ *adv* (a) in a moral manner: *M ~ly he is all that can be desired.* (b) according to what is most probable: *~ly bound to fail.*

moral² /'mɒrəl/ *US*: 'mɔ:rəl/ *n* [C] **1** that which a story, event or experience teaches; lesson: *And the ~ is that a young girl should not speak to strange men.* **2** (*pl*) moral habits; standards of behaviour; principles of right and wrong: *a man without ~s.*

mo-rale /mɒ'ræl/ *US*: 'ræl/ *n* [U] state of discipline and spirit (in a person, an army, a nation, etc); attitude, state of mind, as expressed in action: *The army recovered its ~ and fighting power.*

moral-ist /'mɒrəlɪst/ *US*: 'mɔ:r-/ *n* [C] person who points out morals(1) or who practises or teaches morality.

moral-is-tic /,mɒrəlɪstɪk/ *US*: 'mɔ:r-/ *adj* concerned with morals(2).

moral-ity /mɒ'ræləti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] (standards, principles, of) good behaviour: *standards of commercial ~.* **2** [C] particular system of morals: *socialist ~.*

moral-ize (also -ise) /'mɒrəlaɪz/ *US*: 'mɔ:r-/ *vt, vi* talk or write on questions of duty, right and wrong, etc: *~ about/on the failings of the*

young generation.

mo-rass /mɒ'ræs/ *n* [C] **1** stretch of low, soft, wet land; marsh. **2** (fig) difficult, complicated situation: *a ~ of problems*.

mora-tor-ium /ˌmɒrə'tɔːrɪəm *US*: /mɔː-/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or -ria /-rɪə/) [C] **1** (period of) legal authorization to delay payment of debts. **2** temporary deferment or delay, esp when agreed.

mor-bid /'mɔːbɪd/ *adj* **1** diseased: ~ *anatomy*, the study of diseased organs in the body. **2** (of the mind or ideas) unhealthy: *a ~ imagination*, one that concentrates on horrible or nasty things.

mor-bid-ly *adv*

more /mɔː(r)/ (contrasted with *less* and *fewer*):
 ⇨ many, most¹, much¹) *adj* greater in number, quantity, quality, degree, size, etc; additional: *We need ~ men/help*. □ *n* [U] a greater amount, number, etc; an additional amount: *What ~ do you want? There are still a few ~*. □ *adv* **1** (forming the comparative degree of most adjectives and adverbs): ~ *beautiful/ useful/interesting* (than...). **2** to a greater extent; in a greater degree: *You need to sleep ~*, ie more than you sleep now. **3** again: *I'm not going any ~*, ever again. **once more**, one more time. **4 more and more**, increasingly: *Life is becoming ~ and ~ expensive*. **more or less**, about: *It's an hour's journey, ~ or less*. **5** (with a *noun*, = an adjective): *The ~ fool you to believe him*, You are foolish to believe him. ⇨ *pity* (2).

more-over /mɔːr'əʊvə(r)/ *adv* further; besides; in addition (to this).

morgue /mɔːg/ *n* [C] building in which bodies of persons found dead are kept until they are identified and claimed by members of their families. ⇨ *mortuary*.

mori-bund /'mɒrɪbʌnd *US*: /mɔːr-/ *adj* at the point of death; about to come to an end: ~ *civilizations*.

morn /mɔːn/ *n* [C] (poetic) morning.

morn-ing /'mɔːnɪŋ/ *n* [C] **1** early part of the day between dawn and noon (or, more generally, before the midday meal): *in/during the ~*; *this ~*; *yesterday/tomorrow ~*; *every ~*; *on Sunday/Monday ~*; *a few ~s ago*. **good morning**, ⇨ *good*¹ (13). **2** (as an adjective): *a ~ walk*; *an early ~ swim*.

'morning coat, black formal coat with tails.

'morning dress, as worn on formal occasions such as weddings.

'Morning Prayer, service used in the Church of England at morning service.

'morning-room, room for the morning, esp for breakfast.

'morning sickness, (feeling of) nausea early in the morning, often during the first few months of pregnancy.

the morning 'star, Venus, or other bright star seen at dawn.

mo-rocco /mɒ'rɒkəʊ/ *n* [U] soft leather made from goatskins.

mo-ron /'mɔːrɒn/ *n* [C] **1** person with low intelligence (not so low as imbeciles or idiots). **2** (informal) stupid person.

mo-ronic /mɒ'rɒnɪk/ *adj*

mo-rose /mɒ'rəʊs/ *adj* gloomy; bad-tempered.

mo-rose-ly *adv*

mor-pHEME /'mɔːfɪm/ *n* [C] smallest meaningful part into which a word can be divided: *'Run-s' contains two ~s and 'un-man-ly' contains three*.

mor-phia /'mɔːfiə/, **mor-phine** /'mɔːfɪn/ *n* [U] drug made from opium and used for relieving pain.

mor-phol-ogy /mɔː'fɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] **1** branch of biology dealing with the form and structure of animals and plants. **2** (gram) study of the morphemes of a language and of how they are combined to make words.

mor-ris dance /'mɒrɪs dɑːns *US*: /mɔːrɪs dæns/ *n* [C] old English folk-dance for men.

mor-row /'mɒrəʊ *US*: /mɔːr-/ *n* **1** (literary) the next day after the present or after any given day. **2** (archaic) morning: *Good ~!*

Morse /mɔːs/ *n* (also the ~ *code*) system of dots and dashes or short and long sounds, flashes of light, representing letters of the alphabet and numbers.

mor-sel /'mɔːsl/ *n* [C] tiny piece (esp of food); mouthful: *not a ~ of food anywhere*.

mor-tal /'mɔːtl/ *adj* **1** (contrasted with *im-mortal*) which must die; which cannot live for ever: *Man is ~*. **2** causing death: *a ~ wound*. **3** lasting until death: ~ *hatred*. **4** accompanying death: *in ~ agony*. **5** (informal) extreme; very great or long: *in ~ fear*. □ *n* [C] (literary) human being.

mor-tally /-təli/ *adv* (a) so as to cause death: ~ *wounded*. (b) extremely: ~ *offended*.

'mortal combat, only ended by the death of one of the fighters.

'mortal enemy, whose hatred will not end until death.

'mortal sin, one causing spiritual death.

mor-tal-ity /mɔː'tæləti/ *n* [U] **1** state of being mortal. **2** number of deaths caused (eg by a disaster or disease): *an epidemic with a heavy ~*. **3** death-rate: *infant ~*.

mor-tar¹ /'mɔːtə(r)/ *n* [U] mixture of lime, sand and water used to hold bricks, stones, etc together in building. □ *vt* join (bricks, etc) with mortar.

'mortar-board, (a) small board with a short handle underneath, used for holding mortar. (b) square cap sometimes worn as part of academic costume.

mor-tar² /'mɔːtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** bowl of hard material in which substances are crushed with a pestle. **2** cannon for firing shells at high angles.

mort-gage /'mɔ:ɡɪdʒ/ *vt* give a person a claim on one's house, etc as a security for payment of a loan to buy it. □ *n* [C] act of mortgaging; legal agreement about this: *a ~ of £10000*.

mort-ga-gee /'mɔ:ɡə'dʒi:/, person to whom property is mortgaged.

mort-ga-gor /'mɔ:ɡə'dʒɔ:(r) *US*: 'mɔ:ɡɪdʒər/, person who mortgages his property.

mort-ice /'mɔ:tʌs/ *n* ⇨ mortise.

mort-ify /'mɔ:tɪfaɪ/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** cause to be ashamed, humiliated, or hurt: *a ~ing defeat*. **2** *mortify the flesh*, discipline bodily passions, overcome bodily desires. **3** (of flesh, eg round a wound) decay, be affected with gangrene.

mort-ise, mort-ice /'mɔ:tʌs/ *n* [C] hole cut in a piece of wood, etc to receive the end of another piece (the *tenon*). □ *vi* join or fasten in this way: *two beams together*.

mort-u-ary /'mɔ:tʃʊəri *US*: -tʃuəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) room or building (eg part of a hospital) to which dead bodies are taken to be kept until burial.

mo-saic /mɔ:zu:k/ *n* [C], *adj* (form or work of art) in which designs, pictures, etc are made by fitting together differently coloured bits of stone, etc.

Mos-lem /'mɔ:zləm/ *n, adj* (variant of) Muslim.

mosque /mɔ:sk/ *n* [C] building in which Muslims worship Allah.

mos-quito /mɔ:skɪtəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) small, flying, blood-sucking insect, esp the sort that spreads malaria.

moss /mɔ:s *US*: mɔ:s/ *n* [U] sorts of small green or yellow plant growing in thick masses on wet surfaces. **A rolling stone gathers no moss.** (*proverb*) A person who often changes his occupation or who never settles in one place will not succeed in life.

mossy *adj* (-ier, -iest) covered with, like, moss: *~y green*.

most¹ /mɔ:st/ (contrasted with *least* and *fewest*; ⇨ many, more, much¹) *adj, n* **1** (with *the*) (the) greatest possible number, quantity, degree: *Which of you has made (the) ~ mistakes?* **at the (very) most**, not more than: *I can pay only £10 at the ~. make the most of*, use to the best advantage: *We have only a few hours so we must make the ~ of it. for the 'most part*, usually; on the whole: *Japanese cameras are, for the ~ part, of excellent quality. 2* (without *the*) the majority of; the greater part of: *M ~ people think so. He was ill ~ of the summer.*

most² /mɔ:st/ *adv* **1** (forming the superlative degree of nearly all adjectives and adverbs): *the ~ beautiful/interesting/useful. 2* to the greatest extent; in the greatest degree: *What is troubling you ~? 3* very; extremely: *This is a ~ useful*

book. He was ~ polite to me.

-most /-mɔ:st/ *suffix* (used to form a superlative): *innermost*.

most-ly /'mɔ:stli/ *adv* chiefly; almost all; generally: *The medicine was ~ (made of) sugar and water. We are ~ out on Sundays.*

mote /mɔ:t/ *n* [C] particle (of dust, etc).

mo-tel /mɔ:tel/ *n* [C] motorists' hotel (with rooms, a parking area, service station, etc).

moth /mɔθ *US*: mɔ:θ/ *n* [C] sorts of winged insect flying chiefly at night, attracted by lights.

'moth-ball, small ball (of camphor, etc) used to discourage moths.

'moth-eaten, *adj* (a) eaten or destroyed by moths. (b) (fig) torn and dirty.

mother /'mʌðə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** female parent; woman who has adopted a child. **2** woman (often 'house~) who is in charge of children in a boarding-school or home² (2). **3** quality or condition that causes something (as in the proverb, *Necessity is the mother of invention*). **4** head of a female religious community. □ *vi* take care of (as a mother does).

the 'mother country, (a) one's native land. (b) country in relation to dominions (eg Great Britain for Canada).

mother-in-law /'mʌðər ɪn lɔ:/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s-in-law) mother of one's wife or one's husband.

'mother-of-pearl, hard, shiny rainbow-coloured lining of some shells, esp the pearl-oyster, used for ornaments, etc.

'mother ship, one from which other ships (eg submarines) get supplies.

'mother tongue, one's native language.

'mother-hood /-hʊd/, state of being a mother.

mother-less *adj* having no (living) mother.

mother-ly *adj* having, showing, the tender, kind qualities of a mother.

mo-tif /mɔ:ti:f/ *n* [C] **1** theme in music for treatment and development, often one which recurs. **2** main feature in a work of art.

mo-tion /'mɔ:ʃn/ *n* **1** [U] (manner of) moving. **put/set sth in motion**, cause it to start moving or working. **time and 'motion study**, analysis of the movements of workers (in industry, etc) undertaken by experts, who aim at improving efficiency. **2** [C] gesture; particular movement: *All her ~s were graceful. go through the motions*, (informal) do something in a disinterested or insincere manner. **3** [C] proposal to be discussed and voted on at a meeting: *The ~ was adopted/carried/rejected/lost by a majority of six. 4 [C] = movement (6). □ *vt, vi* **1** direct by a motion or gesture: *He ~ed (to) me to enter.**

'motion picture, film shown in a cinema.

mo-tion-less *adj* not moving; still.

mo-ti-vate /'mɔ:trɪveɪt/ *vt* be the motive of; give a motive or encouragement to; encour-

age.

mo-tiv-a-tion /məʊtɪ'veɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]**mo-tive** /'məʊtɪv/ *adj* causing motion: ~ power/force, eg steam, electricity. □ *n* [C] that which causes action: *do it from ~s of kindness*.**mot-ley** /'mɒtlɪ/ *adj* **1** of various colours. **2** of varied character or various sorts: *a ~ crowd*, eg people of many different occupations, social classes, etc.**mo-tor** /'məʊtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** device which produces or uses power (esp electric power) to produce motion, but not used of a steam engine: *electric ~s*. **2** (often as an adjective) self-powered (by an internal combustion engine) vehicle: ~-vehicles. **3** (dated) (car is more usual) (abbr for) motor-car: *the 'M ~ Show*. □ *vi, vt* (dated) travel by motor-car: ~ from London to Brighton.**'motor-bike/cycle**, motor-vehicle like a bike, for 1 or 2 people.**'motor-boat**, boat with a motor.**'motor-cade**, (US) procession of motor-vehicles.**'motor-car**, (car is more usual) enclosed motor-vehicle with space for passengers.**'motor nerve**, nerve that excites movements of a muscle or muscles.**'motor-scooter**, ⇨ scooter.**'motor-vehicle**, car, bus, motorbike, etc.**'motor-way**, wide road designed for fast traffic, with separate carriageways and going over or under other roads.**'mo-tor-ist** /-ɪst/, person who drives a car.**'motor-ize** (also -ise) /-aɪz/ *vt* equip with a motor-vehicle.**mottled** /'mɒtld/ *adj* marked with spots or areas of different colours without a pattern.**motto** /'mɒtəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es or ~s) **1** short sentence or phrase used as a guide or rule of behaviour (eg 'Every man for himself'). **2** short sentence or phrase written or inscribed (eg on a coat of arms) expressing a suitable sentiment.**mould¹** (US = mold) /məʊld/ *n* [C] **1** container, hollow form, into which molten metal or a soft substance is poured to cool into a desired shape; the shape or form given by this container. **2** jelly, pudding, etc made in such a container. □ *vt* **1** make something in, or as in, a mould: ~ a head out of/in clay. **2** (fig) guide or control the growth of; influence: ~ a person's character.**mould²** (US = mold) /məʊld/ *n* [U] woolly or furry growth of fungi appearing on damp surfaces. □ *vi* (US) become covered with mould: *Cheese ~s in warm, wet weather*.**mouldy** *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) covered with, smelling of, mould: ~y bread. (b) (fig) (of a person) mean and obstructive; worthless.**mould³** (US = mold) /məʊld/ *n* [U] soft, fine loose earth: 'leaf ~, from decayed leaves.**moul-der** (US = mol-der) /'məʊldə(r)/ *vi*

crumble to dust by natural decay: ~ing away in his grave.

mould-ing (US = mold-) /'məʊldɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] act, way, of moulding or shaping. **2** line of ornamental plaster, carved woodwork, etc round a wall or window, etc.**moult** (US = molt) /məʊlt/ *vt, vi* **1** (of birds) lose (feathers) before a new growth. **2** (of dogs and cats) lose hair.**mound** /maʊnd/ *n* [C] mass of piled up earth; small hill: *a ~ burial ~, of earth over a grave*.**'mount¹** /maʊnt/ *n* [C] **1** (literary) mountain, hill: *Christ's sermon on the ~*. **2** (abbr Mt) (before proper names) mountain: *Mt Everest*.**'mount²** /maʊnt/ *vt, vi* **1** go up (a hill, a ladder, etc). **2** get on to (a horse, etc); supply with a horse; put on a horse: *He ~ed (his horse) and rode away*. **3** *mount the throne*, become king, queen, emperor, etc. **4** become greater in amount: *Our expenses are ~ing (up)*. **5** put and fix in position: ~ pictures, eg fix them in an album; ~ insects, eg for display or preservation in a museum. **6** (mil uses): **'mount guard (at/over)**, act as a guard or sentry. **'mount an offensive**, attack. **7** put (a play) on the stage or TV. **8** (esp of large animals) get up on (a female animal) in order to copulate. □ *n* [C] that on which a person or thing is or may be mounted (eg a card for a drawing or photograph, a horse for riding on, a gun-carriage).**moun-tain** /'maʊntɪn/ *n* [C] **1** mass of very high land going up to a peak: *Everest is the highest ~ in the world*. **2** (fig) very large thing: *a ~ of debt/letters*.**moun-tain-ee** /'maʊntɪn'ɪə(r)/ *n* [C] person who climbs mountains.**moun-tain-ee-ing** *n* [U] climbing mountains (as a sport).**moun-tain-ous** /'maʊntɪnəs/ *adj* (a) having mountains: ~ous country. (b) huge: ~ous waves.**mourn** /mɔːn/ *vi, vt* feel or show sorrow or regret: ~ for a dead child; ~ over the child's death.**mourner**, person who mourns, esp at a funeral.**mourn-ful** /-fl/ *adj* sad.**mourn-fully** /-fəli/ *adv***mourn-ing** /'mɔːnɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** grief. **2** (the wearing of) black clothes as a sign of grief: *go into ~ for three weeks*.**mouse** /maʊs/ *n* [C] (*pl* mice /maɪs/) **1** sorts of small rodent ('house ~, 'field ~, 'harvest ~). **2** (fig) shy, timid person. □ *vi* (of cats) hunt for, catch, mice.**'mouse-trap**, trap for catching mice.**mousse** /mus/ *n* [C,U] (dish of) flavoured cream beaten and frozen: *chocolate ~*.**mous-tache** (US = mus-) /mə'staːʃ/ *US*: 'mɑːstæʃ/ *n* [C] hair allowed to grow on the upper lip.**mousy** /'maʊsi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** (esp of

hair) dull brown. **2** (of a person) timid, shy.

mouth¹ /maʊθ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s /maʊðz/) **1** opening through which animals take in food; space behind this containing the teeth, tongue, etc. **by word of mouth**, **word**(1). **down in the mouth**, sad, dejected. **look a gift-horse in the mouth**, **horse**(1). **make one's mouth water**, make one feel hungry or thirsty. **put words into sb's mouth**; **take the words out of sb's mouth**, **word**(2). **2** opening or outlet (of a bag, bottle, tunnel, cave, river, etc).

'mouth-organ, small musical wind-instrument with metal reeds, played by passing it along the lips.

'mouth-piece, (a) that part of a tobacco pipe, a musical instrument, etc placed at or between the lips. (b) person, newspaper, etc that expresses the opinions of others: *Which newspaper is the ~piece of the Socialists?*

mouth-ful /-fəl/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) as much as can be put into the mouth comfortably at one time: *have only a ~ful of food*.

mouth² /maʊð/ *vt, vi* speak (words) too distinctly or pompously: *An actor who ~s his words is a poor actor*.

movable /'mu:vəbl/ *adj* **1** that can be moved; (of property) that can be taken from place to place (eg furniture). **portable**. **2** varying in date: *Christmas is fixed but Easter is a ~ feast*. **□ n** (*pl*) personal property; articles that can be removed from a house (contrasted with fixtures).

move¹ /mu:v/ *n* [C] **1** change of place or position, esp of a piece in chess or other games played on boards; player's turn to do this: *Do you know all the ~s in chess? Whose ~ is it?* **2** something (to be) done to achieve a purpose: *What's our next ~?* **3 on the move**, moving about: *Large enemy forces are on the ~*. **get a move on**, (informal) hurry up. **make a move**, (a) move to a different place. (b) begin to act: *Unless we make a ~ soon, we shall never get to the top of the mountain*.

move² /mu:v/ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) change position; put, cause to be, in a different place or attitude; (cause to) be in motion: *M~ your chair nearer to the fire. It was calm and not a leaf ~d*. **move heaven and earth**, **heaven**(4). **2 move house**, take one's furniture, etc to another house, flat, etc. **move in**, take possession of a new dwelling-place. **move out**, give up a dwelling-place: *We ~d out on Monday and the new tenants ~d in on Tuesday*. **3 move (sb) on**, move (a person) to another place or position: *'M~ on, please'*. **move along/down/up**, move farther in the direction indicated so as to make space for others: *'M~ along, please', said the bus conductor*. **4** affect the feelings of with pity, etc: *be ~d to tears*. *The story of their sufferings ~d us deeply*. **5** cause to do something: *If the spirit ~s him, (=*

If he feels like doing so,) *he'll come and help us*.

6 put forward for discussion and decision (at a meeting): *Mr Chairman, I ~ that the money be used for library books*. **motion**(3). **7** make progress; go forward: *Time is moving on*. **8** take action: *Nobody seems willing to ~*. **9** be socially active in: *They ~ in the best society*. **10** cause (the bowels) to act, to empty; (of the bowels) be emptied.

moving staircase, = escalator.

move-ment /'mu:vmənt/ *n* **1** [U] moving or being moved; activity (contrasted with quiet and rest): *He lay there without ~*. **2** [C] act of changing position: *an opening ~ in chess; ~s of troops in the war area*. **3** [C] moving part of a machine or mechanism or a particular group of such parts: *the ~ of a clock or a watch*. **4** [C] united actions and efforts of a group of people for a special purpose: *the ~ to abolish nuclear armaments*. **5** [C] (music) principal division of a musical work with a distinctive structure of its own: *the final ~ of the Ninth Symphony*. **6** [C] emptying of the bowels. **7** [U] activity (in a stock market, etc): *not much ~ in oil shares*.

mover /'mu:və(r)/ *n* [C] (esp) person who moves (6) a proposal.

movie /'mu:vi/ *n* [C] (informal or US) **1** film¹(3). **2 the ~s**, the cinema.

mow /məʊ/ *vt* (*pt* ~ed; *pp* ~n /məʊn/ or ~ed) **1** cut (grass, etc) (with a 'lawn-~er). **2 mow down**, destroy, kill, as if by mowing: *Our men were ~n down by the enemy's machine-gun fire*.

mower, person or machine that mows.

Mr /'mɪstə(r)/ **⇨** mister.

Mrs /'mɪsɪz/ (used in front of the name of a married woman who has no other title).

Ms /mæz/ (used in front of the name of a woman (married or unmarried) who has no other title).

much¹ /mʌtʃ/ (more, most. **⇨** little) *adj, n* [U] (used with *sing nouns*; compare *many* which is used with *pl nouns*. *Much* can often be replaced by *plenty* (of), *a lot* (of), *a large quantity* (of), *a good/great deal* (of). *Much* is often used with *how*, *too*, *so*, or *as*): *There isn't ~ food in the house. M~ of what you say is true. You have given me too ~. I thought as ~, That is what I thought. It is as ~ your responsibility as mine, You and I are equally responsible. It was as ~ as he could do to (= He could do no more than) pay his way. a bit much, (informal) excessive: I don't mind taking you but it's a bit ~ to expect me to pay for you. be too much, more than can be endured: Your insolence really is too ~! (with) not/without so much as, not even: He left without so ~ as saying 'Thank you'. how much, (a) what quantity: Tell me how ~ flour (= what weight) you want. (b) what price: How ~ is that dress?*

not much of a, not a good: *He's not ~ of a singer. (not) up to much, (not) worth*

much: *I don't think his work is up to ~*, ie it is not good. **1 so much**, (a) an unspecified (often large) quantity: *so ~ money; four meals at ~ so ~ a head*. (b) nothing but: *His essays are ~ so ~ rubbish. not so much as*, (a) not even: *He didn't so ~ as ask me to sit down!* (b) less... than: *He's not so ~ rude as forgetful.* **2 so much for**, that is all that needs to be said, done, etc about: *'So ~ for the organizing; now what about the cost?' so much so that*, to such an extent that: *He's ill—so ~ so that he can't get out of bed. this/that much*, the quantity, extent, etc indicated: *I will say this ~..., I will admit, agree, that... make much of*, (a) understand: *I didn't make ~ of that lecture.* (b) attach importance to; exaggerate: *He makes (too) ~ of his connections with rich people. not think much of*, have a poor opinion of: *I don't think ~ of the new teacher.*

much² /mʌtʃ/ *adv* **1** (modifying comparatives and superlatives, sometimes preceding the): *You must work ~ harder. This is ~ (= by far) the best. much more/less*, (used to show that what has been stated applies with greater force to the following statement): *It is difficult to understand him, ~ more his wife. I didn't even speak to him, ~ less discuss your problems.* **2** (modifying participles and adjectives such as *afraid*): *I am very ~ afraid that... I was ~ annoyed.* **3** (modifying a verbal phrase): *It doesn't ~ matter. I enjoyed it very ~. He doesn't like beef ~.* **4** (in phrases) **much as**, although: *M ~ as I should like to go, I can't.* **how much**, to what extent: *How ~ does losing your job really matter? much the same, about the same: *The patient's condition is ~ the same. much to*, to my, his, her, etc great...: *M ~ to her surprise/regret... too much*, too highly: *He thinks too ~ of himself.**

much-ness /mʌtʃnɪs/ *n* (only in) **much of a/muchness**, (almost) alike.

muck /mʌk/ *n* [U] **1** dung; farmyard manure (the droppings of animals). **2** dirt; filth. **make a muck of sth**, (informal) do it badly. □ *vt, vi* **1 muck sth up**, (informal) make it dirty; do it badly. **2 muck about**, (sl) do useless or unnecessary things: *'What's he up to?' — 'Oh, just ~ing about.'* **3 muck out**, clean out (stables, etc) by removing dung: *She ~s out (the stables) every morning.*

mucky *adj* (-ier, -iest) dirty.

mu-cous /'mju:kəs/ *adj* of, like, covered with, mucus.

the mucous membrane, the moist skin that lines the nose, mouth and food canal.

mu-cus /'mju:kəs/ *n* [U] sticky, slimy substance (as) produced by the mucous membrane: *Snails and slugs leave a trail of ~.*

mud /mʌd/ *n* [U] soft, wet earth: *Rain turns soil into ~. his/her/your, etc name is mud*, he/she/you, etc are in disgrace. ⇨ also stick-in-the-mud.

'mud-guard, guard (curved cover) over a wheel (of a bicycle, etc).

muddle /'mʌdl/ *vt, vi* **1** bring into a state of confusion and disorder; make a mess of: *You've ~d the scheme completely. A glass of whisky soon ~s him. Don't ~ (= mix) things up (together).* **2 muddle along/on**, progress with no clear purpose or plan: *He's still muddling along/on. muddle through*, reach the end of an undertaking in spite of inefficiency, obstacles of one's own making, etc. □ *n* (usually sing with a, an) confused state; confusion of ideas: *Everything was in a ~ and I couldn't find what I wanted. You have made a ~ of it*, mismanaged it, made a mess of it.

'muddle-headed *adj* confused in thought.

muddy /'mʌdɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** full of, covered with, mud: *~ roads/shoes.* **2** mud-coloured; like mud because thick: *~ coffee.* □ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) fill, cover, stain, with mud: *You've mudded the carpet.*

mu-az-zin /mu:'ezɪn US: mju:-/ *n* [C] man who calls the hours of prayers from the minaret of a mosque.

muff /mʌf/ *n* [C] covering, open at both ends, (formerly) used by a woman to keep the hands warm; similar covering for the foot.

muf-fin /'mʌfɪn/ *n* [C] light, flat, round cake, usually eaten hot with butter.

muffle /'mʌfl/ *vt* **1** wrap or cover for warmth or protection: *~d up in a heavy overcoat.* **2** decrease the sound of something (eg a machine) by covering it: *~d voices*, eg from persons whose mouths are covered.

muf-fler /'mʌflə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** cloth, scarf, worn round the neck for warmth. **2** something used to reduce sound: *the ~ in the engine of a motor-vehicle.*

mufti /'mʌftɪ/ *n* [C] official adviser on Muslim law.

mug¹ /mʌg/ *n* [C] **1** drinking vessel with a handle, for use without a saucer; its contents: *a 'beer-~; a ~ of coffee.* **2** (sl) face; mouth: *What an ugly ~ you have!*

mug² /mʌg/ *n* [C] (sl) fool; easily deceived person.

mug³ /mʌg/ *vt* (-gg-) **mug sth up**, (informal) (try to) become familiar with information, etc on which one is to be tested.

mug⁴ /mʌg/ *vt* (-gg-) (sl) attack (a person) violently and rob (eg in a dark street, a lift, an empty corridor, etc).

mug-ger, person who mugs⁴.

mug-ging, such an attack.

mug-gins /'mʌɡɪnz/ *n* [C] (sl) (pl ~es) fool.

muggy /'mʌɡɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (of the weather, etc) damp and warm; close and sticky.

mugginess *n* [U]

Mu-ham-mad /mə'hæmɪd/ *n* Prophet and Founder of Islam.

Mu-ham-madan /-ən/ *adj*, *n* (of a) believer in Islam.

Mu-ham-ma-dan-ism /mə'hæmɪdənɪzəm/ *n* Islam (the preferred name).

mu-latto /mju:'lætəʊ *US*: mə'l-/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or ~es) (dated) person who has one parent of a white race and one Negroid parent.

mul-berry /'mʌlbəri *US*: -beri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) tree with broad, dark-green leaves on which silkworms feed; its fruit (dark purple or white).

mule¹ /mju:l/ *n* [C] animal that is the offspring of an ass and a mare. **as obstinate/stubborn as a mule**, very obstinate/stubborn.

mul-ish /-ɪʃ/ *adj* stubborn; obstinate.

mu-lish-ly *adv*

mu-lish-ness *n* [U]

mule² /mju:l/ *n* [C] slipper without a heel.

mull¹ /mʌl/ *vt* make (wine, beer) into a hot drink with sugar, spices, etc: ~ed claret.

mull² /mʌl/ *vt* **mull sth over**; **mull over sth**, think about it carefully.

mul-lah /'mʌlə/ *n* [C] Muslim expert in Islamic theology and sacred law.

mul-let /'mʌlɪt/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) kinds of seafish used as food: red/grey ~.

mul-li-ga-tawny /'mʌlɪgə'tɔ:ni/ *n* [U] (~soup) highly seasoned soup with curry powder in it.

mul-lion /'mʌlɪən/ *n* [C] vertical stone division between parts of a window.

multi- /'mʌltɪ-/ *prefix* many: a multi-storey carpark.

multi-far-ious /'mʌltɪ'feəriəs/ *adj* (formal) many and various: his ~ duties.

multi-lat-eral /'mʌltɪ'lætərəl/ *adj* involving two or more participants: ~ disarmament, after agreement between two or more countries.

multiple /'mʌltɪpl/ *adj* having many parts or elements: a ~ choice exercise, with several answers given of which one is right. □ *n* [C] quantity which contains another quantity an exact number of times: 28 is a ~ of 7.

least/lowest common 'multiple, (abbr **LCM**) least quantity that contains two or more given quantities exactly: 12 is the **LCM** of 3 and 4.

multi-plex /'mʌltɪpleks/ *adj* having many parts or forms; of many elements.

multi-pli-ca-tion /'mʌltɪplɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] multiplying or being multiplied: The symbol \times stands for ~. 2 [C] instance of this: 3×11 is an easy ~.

multi-plic-ity /'mʌltɪ'plɪsɪti/ *n* [U] (formal) being great in number: a ~ of duties.

multi-ply /'mʌltɪplaɪ/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) 1 take (a given quantity or number) a given number of times: ~ 3 by 5. 6 multiplied by 5 is 30, $6 \times 5 = 30$. 2 produce a large number of; make greater in number. 3 increase in number by procreation: Rabbits ~ rapidly.

multi-storey /'mʌltɪ stɔ:ri/ *adj* having

many storeys: a ~ carpark.

multi-tude /'mʌltɪtju:d *US*: -tu:d/ *n* 1 [C] great number (esp of people gathered together). 2 (with *the*) the common people; the masses: policies which appeal to the ~. 3 [U] greatness of number: like the stars in ~, very great in number.

multi-tud-in-ous /'mʌltɪ'tju:dɪnəs *US*: -tu:dənəs/ *adj* great in number.

mum¹ /mʌm/ *n* [C] (informal) mother.

mum² /mʌm/ *n* **Mum's the word!** Say nothing about this!

mumble /'mʌmbəl/ *vt, vi* say something indistinctly: The old man was mumbling away to himself.

numbo-jumbo /'nʌmbəʊ 'dʒʌmbəʊ/ *n* [U] (fig) meaningless language.

mum-mify /'mʌmɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) preserve (a dead body) by embalming.

mummy¹ /'mʌmɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (informal) mother.

mummy² /'mʌmɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) 1 body of a human being or animal embalmed for burial. 2 dried-up body preserved from decay (as in early Egypt).

mumps /'mʌmps/ *n* [U] (used with a *sing verb*) contagious disease with painful swellings in the neck.

munch /mʌntʃ/ *vt, vi* chew with much movement of the jaw: ~ing (away at) a hard apple.

mun-dane /mʌn'deɪn/ *adj* 1 worldly (contrasted with spiritual or heavenly). 2 dull, routine: ~ jobs in factories.

mu-nici-pal /'mju:'nɪsɪpl/ *adj* of a town or city having self-government: ~ buildings, eg the town hall, public library.

mu-ni-ci-pally /-pli/ *adv*

mu-ni-ci-pal-ity /'mju:'nɪsɪ'pæləti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) town, city, district, with local self-government; governing body of such a town, city, etc.

mu-nifi-cence /'mju:'nɪfɪsn/ *n* [U] (formal) great generosity.

mu-nifi-cent /'mju:'nɪfɪsnt/ *adj* (formal) 1 extremely generous. 2 (of a gift) large in amount or splendid in quality.

mu-ni-tion /'mju:'nɪʃn/ *n* [C] (*pl* except when used as an *adjective*) military supplies, esp guns, shells, bombs, etc: The war was lost because of a shortage of ~s/a ~s) shortage. □ *vt* provide with munitions: ~ a fort.

mural /'mjuərəl/ *adj* of, like, on, a wall: a ~ painting. □ *n* [C] wall-painting.

mur-der /'mɜ:də(r)/ *n* [U] unlawful killing of a human being on purpose; [C] instance of this: commit ~; guilty of ~. **get away with murder**, (informal) do whatever one wishes (and not be punished). □ *vt* 1 kill (a human being) unlawfully and on purpose. 2 spoil by not having skill or knowledge: ~ a piece of music, play it very badly.

mur-derer, person guilty of murder.

mur-der-ess /-ɪs/, woman murderer.

mur-der-ous /-əs/ *adj* planning, suggesting, designed for, murder: *a ~ous-looking villain*.

mur-der-ous-ly *adv*

murk /mɜ:k/ *n* [U] darkness; gloom.

murky *adj* (-ier, -iest) dark; gloomy: *a ~y night*; *~y coffee*.

murk-ily /-əl/ *adv*

mur-mur /'mɜ:mə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** low, continuous, indistinct sound: *the ~ of bees in the garden*; *the ~ of distant traffic/conversation from the next room*. **2** subdued expression of feeling: *They paid the higher taxes without a ~, ie without complaining*. □ *vi, vt* **1** make a murmur(1): *a ~ing brook*. **2** complain in a murmur(2): *~ against new taxes*. **3** say in a low voice: *~ a prayer*.

muscle /'mɜ:sl/ *n* [C, U] (band or bundle of) elastic substance in an animal body that can be tightened or loosened to produce movement: *Don't move a ~, stay perfectly still*. **2** (fig) authority; power: *modern weapons added more ~ to the attack*. □ *vi* **muscle 'in (on)**, (sl) use force to get a share of something advantageous.

'muscle-bound *adj* having stiff muscles as the result of excessive exercise.

'muscle-man /-mæn/ *n* [C] (*pl* -men) man of great muscular development.

mus-cu-lar /'mɜ:kjʊlə(r)/ *adj* **1** of the muscles: *~ rheumatism*. **2** having strong muscles: *a ~ man*.

muse¹ /'mju:z/ *n* [C] **1** (in Greek myth) any one of the nine goddesses, daughters of Zeus, who protected and encouraged poetry, music, dancing, history and other branches of art and learning. **2 the ~**, spirit that inspires a poet.

muse² /'mju:z/ *vi* **muse over/on/upon**, think deeply or dreamily, ignoring what is happening around one: *~ing over memories of the past*.

mu-seum /mju:'ziəm/ *n* [C] building in which objects illustrating art, history, science, etc are displayed.

mush /mʌʃ/ *n* [U] soft, thick mixture or mass.

mushy *adj* like mush: *~ peas*.

mush-room /'mʌʃrʊm/ *US*: -rʊm/ *n* [C] **1** fast-growing fungus of which some kinds can be eaten. **2** sudden, rapid, development: *the ~ growth of London suburbs*. □ *vi* **1** gather mushrooms. **2** spread or grow rapidly: *English language schools are ~ing in Bournemouth*.

mu-sic /'mju:zɪk/ *n* [U] **1** art of making pleasing combinations of sounds in rhythm and harmony; the sounds and composition so made: (as an adjective) *a ~ lesson/teacher*.

face the music, ⇨ *face*²(2). **set/put sth to music**, provide words, eg of a poem, with music. **2** written or printed signs representing these sounds: *sheet ~*.

'music-hall, (GB) place for variety entertainment (eg songs, acrobatic performances,

comedians) (*US* = *vaudeville*).

'music-stand, framework for holding sheets of printed music.

'music-stool, adjustable seat without a back used when playing a piano.

mu-si-cal /'mju:zɪkl/ *adj* of, fond of, skilled in, music: *She's not at all ~*, does not enjoy or understand music. □ *n* [C] **1** musical comedy. **2** cinema film in which music and singing have an essential part.

'musical 'comedy, light, amusing play with songs and dancing.

'musical 'instrument, used to play music, eg the piano, violin, flute.

mu-si-cally /-kli/ *adv*

mu-si-cian /'mju:zɪn/ *n* [C] person skilled in playing music; composer of music.

musk /mɜ:sk/ *n* [U] **1** strong-smelling substance produced in glands by male deer, used in the manufacture of perfumes. **2** kinds of plant with a smell like musk.

'musk-rat, (also *musquash*) large water animal of N America, like a rat, valuable for its fur.

'musk-rose, rambling rose with large, sweet-smelling flowers.

musky *adj* (-ier, -iest) having the smell of musk.

mus-ket /'mɜ:skɪt/ *n* [C] light gun used by foot-soldiers (16th to 19th centuries) now replaced by the rifle.

mus-ket-eer /'mɜ:skɪtə(r)/, soldier armed with a musket.

Mus-lim /'mʊzlm/ *n* believer in Islam; (used as an adjective) of Islam: *~ holidays*.

mus-lin /'mɜ:zlm/ *n* [U] thin, fine, cotton cloth, used for dresses, curtains, etc.

mus-quash /'mɜ:kwɒʃ/ *n* [C, U] (fur of the) musk-rat.

mus-sel /'mɜ:sl/ *n* [C] (sorts of) mollusc with a black shell, eaten as food.

must¹ /mɜ:st/ *n* [U] grape-juice before fermentation has changed it into wine.

must² /mɜ:st/ *strong form*: *mast/ auxiliary verb* (No infinitive, no participles, no inflected forms; *must not* may be contracted to *mustn't* /'mɜ:stnt/) **1** (expressing an immediate or future obligation or necessity; *must not* expresses a prohibition): *You ~ do as you're told*. *Cars ~ not be parked in front of the entrance*. *We ~n't be late*. (Note: compare the use of *may* to express permission and of *need not* to express non-obligation. Compare the use of *had to* for a past obligation and *shall/will/have to* for a future obligation.) **2** (used to show what was necessary or obligatory at a time in the past): *As he had broken it, he agreed that he ~ buy a new one*. **3** (with less emphasis on necessity; stressing what is desirable or advisable): *I ~ ask you not to do that again*. **4** (expressing certainty): *If you try hard, you ~ win* (= will certainly win) *eventually*. **5** (expressing

strong probability): *You ~ be hungry after your long walk. You ~ be joking!* You can't be serious! **6** (indicating something unwelcome): *M~ you worry her with questions, just when she is busy cooking the dinner!* □ *n* [C] (informal) something that must be done, seen, heard, etc: *Tom Stoppard's new play is a ~.*

mus-tache *n* ⇨ moustache.

mus-tard /'mʌstəd/ *n* [U] **1** plant with yellow flowers and seeds (black or white) in long, slender pods. **2** fine, yellow powder made from the seeds of this plant; this powder made into hot sauce. **as keen as mustard**, very keen.

mus-ter /'mʌstə(r)/ *n* [C] assembly or gathering of persons, esp for review or inspection. **pass muster**, be considered satisfactory. □ *vt, vi* call, collect or gather together: *Go and ~ all the men you can find. They ~ed (up) all their courage.*

musty /'mʌsti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** stale; smelling or tasting mouldy: *a ~ room/book*. **2** (fig) out-of-date: *a professor with ~ ideas.*

mu-sti-ness /'mʌstɪnəs/ *n* [U]

mu-table /'mju:təbl/ *adj* (formal) liable to change; likely to change.

mu-ta-bil-ity /'mju:təbɪləti/ *n* [U]

mu-ta-tion /'mju:'teɪʃn/ *n* [U] change; alteration; [C] instance of this: *Are ~s in plants caused by cosmic rays?*

mute /'mju:t/ *adj* **1** silent; making no sound: *staring at me in ~ amazement*. **2** (of a person) dumb. **3** (of a letter in a word) not sounded: *The 'b' in 'dumb' is ~.* □ *n* [C] **1** dumb person. **2** piece of bone or metal used to soften the sounds produced from a stringed instrument; pad placed in the mouth of a wind instrument for the same purpose. □ *vt* muffle the sound of (esp a musical instrument).

mu-ti-late /'mju:tɪleɪt/ *US*: -təl- *vt* damage by breaking, tearing or cutting off a necessary part; destroy the use of (a limb, etc).

mu-ti-la-tion /'mju:tɪleɪʃn/ *n* [U] mutilating or being mutilated; [C] injury or loss caused by this.

mu-ti-nous /'mju:tɪnəs/ *adj* guilty of mutiny; rebellious: ~ sailors.

mu-tiny /'mju:tɪni/ *US*: -təni/ *n* (pl -ies) [U] (esp of soldiers and sailors) open rebellion against lawful authority; [C] instance of this. □ *vi* (pt, pp -ied) be guilty of mutiny.

mu-tin-eeer /'mju:tɪniə(r)/, person guilty of mutiny.

mut-ter /'mʌtə(r)/ *vt, vi* speak in a low voice not meant to be heard; grumble in an indistinct voice: *He was ~ing away to himself*. □ *n* [C] muttered speech or sound.

mut-terer, person who mutters.

mut-ton /'mʌtən/ *n* [U] flesh of fully grown sheep, eaten as food.

mu-tual /'mju:tʃuəl/ *adj* **1** (of love, friendship, respect, etc) shared; (of feelings, opin-

ions, etc) held in common with others: ~ suspicion/affection. **2** each to the other(s); reciprocal: ~ aid. **3** common to two or more persons: *our ~ friend Smith*, ie a friend of both of us.

mu-tual-ly /-tʃəli/ *adv*

muzzle /'mʌzl/ *n* [C] **1** nose and mouth of an animal (eg dog or fox). **2** guard of straps or wires placed over this to prevent biting, etc. **3** open end or mouth of a firearm: *a ~-loading gun*. □ *vt* **1** put a muzzle on (a dog, etc). **2** (fig) prevent (a person, society, newspaper, etc) from expressing opinions freely.

muzzy /'mʌzi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (of a person, thoughts) confused; stupid from drinking.

my /maɪ/ *possessive adj* **1** belonging to me: *Where's ~ hat?* **2** (as a part of a form of address): *Yes, ~ dear. M~ dear Anne, ...* **3** (used in exclamations): *M~ goodness!*

my-col-ogy /maɪ'kɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] science or study of fungi.

my-nah (also **my-na**) /'mama/ *n* [C] (kinds of) starling of SE Asia, known for their ability to copy human speech.

my-opia /maɪ'əpiə/ *n* [U] short-sight.

my-opic /maɪ'ɒpɪk/ *adj* short-sighted.

myr-iad /'maɪriəd/ *n* [C] very great number (of).

myrrh /mɜ:(r)/ *n* [U] sweet-smelling, bitter-tasting kind of gum or resin obtained from shrubs, used for making incense and perfumes.

myrtle /'mɜ:tl/ *n* [C] (kinds of) evergreen shrub with shiny leaves and sweet-smelling white flowers.

my-self /maɪ'self/ *pron* **1** (reflexive): *I hurt ~. (all) by myself*, (a) alone. (b) without help. **2** (used for emphasis): *I said so ~.* **3** *I'm not ~ today*, am not in my normal state of health or mind.

mys-ter-i-ous /mɪ'stəriəs/ *adj* full of, suggesting, mystery: *a ~ visitor*; *a ~-looking parcel*.

mys-ter-i-ous-ly *adv*

mys-tery /'mɪstəri/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [C] something of which the cause or origin is hidden or impossible to understand: *The murder remained an unsolved ~.* **2** [U] condition of being secret or obscure: *The origin of this tribe is lost in ~.* It has been impossible to learn anything about it. **3** (pl) secret religious rites and ceremonies.

'mystery (play), medieval drama based on episodes in the life of Jesus.

mys-tic /'mɪstɪk/ *adj* of hidden meaning or spiritual power; causing feelings of awe and wonder: ~ rites and ceremonies. □ *n* [C] person who seeks union with God and, through that, realization of truth beyond men's understanding.

mys-ti-cal /'mɪstɪkl/ *adj* = mystic.

mys-ti-cism /'mɪstɪsɪzəm/ *n* [U] beliefs, ex-

periences, of a mystic; teaching and belief that knowledge of God and of real truth may be obtained through meditation.

mystify /'mɪstɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) puzzle; bewilder.

mystification /'mɪstɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U] mystifying or being mystified; [C] something that mystifies.

mystique /mɪ'sti:k/ *n* [C] **1** puzzling atmosphere, impressive character of a person, institution, etc caused by devotion and veneration: *the ~ of the monarchy in Great Britain*. **2** secret skill, etc known only to the practitioner (of an art, etc).

myth /mɪθ/ *n* **1** [C] story, handed down from olden times, eg ideas or beliefs about the early history of a race, explanations of natural events, etc. **2** [U] such stories collectively: *famous in ~ and legend*. **3** [C] person, thing, etc that is imaginary or invented: *That rich uncle of whom he boasts is only a ~*.

mythical /'mɪθɪkl/ *adj* (a) of, existing only in, myth: *~ical heroes*. (b) imaginary: *~ical wealth*.

mythology /mɪ'thɒlədʒi/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] study or science of myths. **2** [U] myths collectively: *Greek ~*; [C] body or collection of myths: *the mythologies of primitive races*.

mythological /'mɪθə'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* of mythology; unreal.

myxomatosis /'mɪksəmə'təʊsɪs/ *n* [U] infectious fatal disease of rabbits.

sth), make him say clearly what he intends to do. **2** keep fixed (a person, his attention, etc): *He ~ed me in the corridor*.

'nail-brush, for cleaning nails (1).

'nail-file, small, flat file for shaping nails (1).

'nail-scissors, for trimming nails (1).

'nail-varnish/polish, for giving a shiny colour to nails (1).

naïve, (also **naive**) /naɪ'vi:/ *adj* natural and innocent in speech and behaviour (eg because young or inexperienced): *a ~ girl*; *~ remarks*.

naïvely *adv*

naïveté, naivety /naɪ'vɪti/ *n* [U] being naïve; [C] naïve remark, etc.

naked /'neɪkɪd/ *adj* **1** without clothes on: *as ~ as the day he was born*. **2** without the usual covering: *a ~ light*, without a lampshade, etc. **see sth with the naked eye**, without using a microscope, telescope or other aid. **the naked truth**, not disguised.

nakedly *adv*

nakedness *n* [U]

name ¹ /neɪm/ *n* **1** [C] word(s) by which a person, animal, place, thing, etc is known and spoken to or of: *The teacher knows all the pupils in his class by ~*. **in the name of**, (a) with the authority of: *Stop in the ~ of the law!* (b) in the cause of (used when making an appeal): *In the ~ of common sense, what are you doing?* **call sb names**, call him insulting names (eg liar, coward). **not have a penny to one's name**, be without money. **take sb's name in vain**, use a name disrespectfully. **2** (sing only) reputation; fame: *have a ~ for being honest*. **make/win a name for oneself**, become well-known. **3** [C] famous person: *the great ~s of history*.

'name-day, (a) day of the Saint whose name one was given at christening. (b) Saint's Day (in the RC Church).

'name-dropping, the practice of casually mentioning the names of important people (as if they were friends) to impress people. Hence, **'name-drop** *vi* (-pp-).

'name-sake, person or thing with the same name as another.

name ² /neɪm/ *vt* **1** give a name to: *They ~d the child John*. ⇨ first/given name. **name sb after sb**, give him the same name. **2** say the names(s) of: *Can you ~ all the plants and trees in this garden?* **3** make an offer of (price, etc): *N~ your price*, Say what price you want. **4** state (what is desired, etc): *Please ~ the day*, say on what date you will be willing to (eg marry). **5** nominate for, appoint to, a position: *Mr X has been ~d for the directorship*.

name-less /'neɪmlɪs/ *adj* **1** not having a name; having an unknown name: *a ~ grave*; *a well-known person who shall be ~*, whose name I shall not mention. **2** too bad to be named: *~ vices*.

name-ly /'neɪmlɪ/ *adv* that is to say: *Only one*

Nn

N, n /en/ (*pl* N's, n's /enz/) **1** the 14th letter of the English alphabet. **2** (*maths*) indefinite number.

nab /næb/ *vt* (-bb-) (*informal*) catch (eg a thief, etc): *be ~ed by the police*.

na-dir /'neɪdɪə(r)/ *n* [C] (*fig*) lowest, weakest, point: *at the ~ of one's hopes*. ⇨ *zenith*.

nag ¹ /næg/ *n* [C] (*informal*) small horse.

nag ² /næg/ *vt, vi* (-gg-) find fault with continuously: *She ~ged (at) him all day long*.

nag-ger, person who nags.

nail /neɪl/ *n* [C] **1** layer of hard substance over the outer tip of a finger (**'finger-nail**) or toe (**'toe-nail**). **fight tooth and nail**, ⇨ *fight*². **2** piece of metal, pointed at one end and with a head at the other, (to be) hammered into articles to hold them together, or into a wall, etc. **as hard as nails**, (of a person) (a) in a first-rate physical condition. (b) pitiless; unsympathetic. **hit the nail on the head**, ⇨ *hit* (1). □ *vt* **1** make fast with a nail: *~ a lid on a box*; *~ down a carpet*. **nail sb down** (to

boy was absent, ~ Harry.

nanny /'næni/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) woman employed by rich people to look after their babies and young children.

nanny-goat /'næni gəʊt/ *n* [C] female goat.
 ⇨ *billy-goat*.

nap¹ /næp/ *n* [C] short sleep (esp during the day, not necessarily in bed): *have/take a ~ after lunch*. □ *vi* (-pp-) (rare, except in) **catch sb napping**. (a) find him asleep, being lazy. (b) catch him unawares.

nap² /næp/ *n* [U] surface of cloth, felt, etc made of soft, short hairs or fibres.

na-palm /'næpɑ:m/ *n* [U] jellied petroleum used in making fire-bombs.

nape /neɪp/ *n* [C] back of the neck.

nap-kin /'næpkɪn/ *n* [C] 1 (*table ~*), piece of cloth used at meals for protecting clothing, for wiping the lips, etc. 2 = *nappy* (the usual word).

'**napkin-ring**, ring for a person's napkin(1).

nappy /'næpi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) towel folded round a baby's bottom and between its legs, to absorb excreta.

nar-cissus /'nɑ:'sɪsəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es or -cissi /-sɪsaɪ/) sorts of bulb plant (daffodil, etc), esp the kind having heavily scented white or yellow flowers in the spring.

nar-cotic /'nɑ:'kɒtɪk/ *n* [C], *adj* 1 (kinds of drug) producing sleep, often dulling the senses and, in large doses, producing complete insensibility: *Opium is a ~ (drug)*. 2 (person) addicted to narcotics.

nar-rate /nə'reɪt/ *vt* tell (a story); give an account of: ~ *one's adventures*.

nar-ra-tion /nə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U] the telling of a story, etc; [C] story; account of events, etc.

nar-rator /-tə(r)/, person who narrates.

nar-ra-tive /'nærətɪv/ *n* 1 [C] story or tale; orderly account of events; [U] (composition that consists of) story-telling. 2 (used as an *adjective*) in the form of, concerned with, story-telling: ~ *literature*, stories and novels; ~ *poems*.

nar-row /'nærəʊ/ *adj* (-er, -est) (opposite of *wide*) 1 measuring little across in comparison with length: *a ~ bridge*. 2 small, limited: *a ~ circle of friends*. 3 with a small margin: *a ~ escape from death*; *elected by a ~ majority*. 4 strict; exact: *What does the word mean in the ~est sense?* 5 limited in outlook; having little sympathy for the ideas, etc, of others. □ *n* (usually *pl*) narrow strait or channel between two larger bodies of water; narrow place in a river or pass. □ *vt, vi* (cause to) become narrow.

'narrow-minded *adj* not sympathizing with the ideas of others.

'narrow-mindedly *adv*

'narrow-mindedness *n* [U]

nar-row-ly *adv* only just; with little to spare: *He ~ly escaped drowning*.

nar-row-ness *n* [U]

na-sal /'neɪzl/ *adj* of, for, in, the nose: ~ *sounds*, eg /m, n, ŋ/. □ *n* [C] nasal sound.

na-sal-ize (also -ise) /'neɪzələɪz/ *vt* make (a sound) with the breath, or part of it, passing through the nose.

nas-tur-tium /nə'stɜ:tʃəm/ *US*: næ-/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) garden plant with red, orange or yellow flowers and round leaves.

nasty /'nɑ:stɪ/ *US*: 'næ-/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) 1 dirty; disgusting; unpleasant: *medicine with a ~ smell* and a nastier taste. 2 immoral: *a man with a ~ mind*. 3 unpleasant: *a ~ temper/look in his eye*. **a nasty piece of work**, (informal) unpleasant person. 4 causing difficulty or danger; awkward: *That's a ~ question*, an awkward one.

nas-tily /-ətɪ/ *adv*

nas-ti-ness *n* [U]

na-tal /'neɪtl/ *adj* of, from, birth.

na-tion /'neɪʃn/ *n* [C] large community of people associated with a particular territory usually speaking a single language and having a society under one government: *the United Nations Organization*.

'**na-tion-wide** *adj* (a) throughout a nation. (b) concerning, expressed by, all citizens.

na-tional /'næʃənl/ *adj* of the (whole) nation; of a particular nation: *a ~ theatre*, one supported by the State; ~ *pride*, expressed by all citizens. □ *n* [C] citizen of a particular nation: *British ~s in Spain*.

'national *'anthem*, song or hymn of a nation (eg 'God Save the Queen' in GB).

'national *'insurance*, (GB) State contributions from earnings, used for health, pensions, unemployment pay, etc.

'national *'park*, public area of land for the use and enjoyment of the people.

'national *'service*, period of compulsory service in the armed forces.

'National *'Trust*, (in GB) society founded in 1895 to preserve places of natural beauty or historic interest for the nation.

na-tion-ally /'næʃənəli/ *adv*

na-tion-al-ism /'næʃənəlizəm/ *n* [U] 1 patriotic feelings, efforts, principles. 2 movement for political (economic, etc) independence (in a country controlled by another).

na-tion-al-ist /'næʃənəlist/ *n* [C] supporter of nationalism(2): *Scottish ~s*. □ *adj* (also

na-tion-al-ist-ic /'næʃənəlistɪk/) favouring, supporting, nationalism.

na-tion-al-ity /'næʃənəliɪti/ *n* [C,U] (*pl* -ies) being a member of a nation: *What is your ~?*

na-tion-al-ize (also -ise) /'næʃənəlaɪz/ *vt* 1 transfer from private to State ownership: ~ *the railways*. 2 make (a person) a national: ~ *d Greeks in Great Britain*. 3 make into a nation: *The Czechs were ~d after the war of 1914-18*, became an independent nation.

na-tion-al-iza-tion (also -isation) /'næʃənəlaɪzəʃn/ *US*: -lɪz/ *n* [U]

na-tive /'nætv/ *n* [C] **1** person born in a place, country, etc and associated with it by right of birth: *a ~ of London/Wales/India/Kenya*. **2** animal or plant natural to and having its origin in a certain area: *The kangaroo is a ~ of Australia*. □ *adj* **1** associated with the place and circumstances of one's birth: *my ~ land*. **2** of the natives of a place, esp non-European: *~ customs*. **3** (of qualities) belonging to a person by nature, not acquired through training, by education, etc: *~ ability/charm*. **4** *native to*, (of plants, animals, etc) having their origin in: *One of the animals ~ to India is the tiger*. **5** (of metals) found in a pure state, uncombined with other substances: *~ gold*.

na-tiv-ity /'nætvət/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) birth, esp (the *N*~) of Jesus Christ.

Na-tivity Play, one about the Nativity.

nat-ter /'nætə(r)/ *vi* (*informal*) grumble, chatter, (esp to oneself): *What's she ~ing (on) about now?*

natu-ral /'nætʃrəl/ *adj* **1** of, concerned with, produced by, nature: *animals living in their ~ (= wild) state; a country's ~ resources*, its minerals, forests, etc. **2** of, in agreement with, the nature(4) of a living thing: *~ gifts/abilities*. **3** (of persons) born with qualities or powers: *He's a ~ orator*, makes speeches easily. *It comes ~ to her*. **4** ordinary; normal; to be expected: *It is ~ for a bird to fly*. **5** not cultivated, exaggerated or self-conscious: *speak in a ~ voice*. **6** (*music*) of the normal scale of C; neither sharp nor flat. □ *n* [C] **1** (*music*) natural(6) note. **2** *a natural (for sth)*, (*informal*) person naturally expert or qualified: *He's a ~ for the job/the part*.

natural childbirth, without anaesthesia.

natural death, from age or disease, not as the result of an accident, murder, etc.

natural forces/phe-nomena, the forces of nature, eg storms, thunder, lightning.

natural gas, gas for fuel occurring with petroleum deposits, not manufactured.

natural history, botany and zoology.

natural life, duration of one's life on earth.

natural science, study of the natural world, eg biology, chemistry, geology.

natural selection, evolutionary theory that animals and plants survive or become extinct in accordance with their ability to adapt themselves to their environment.

natu-ral-ism /'nætʃrəlizəm/ *n* [U] **1** accurate representation of nature in literature and art; drawing and painting of things in a way true to nature. **2** system of thought which rejects the supernatural and divine revelation and holds that natural causes and laws explain all phenomena.

natu-ral-ist /'nætʃrəlist/ *n* [C] **1** person who makes a special study of animals or plants. **2** believer in naturalism.

natu-ral-is-tic /'nætʃrəlistik/ *adj* of naturalism: *a ~ painter*. ⇨ *abstract art*.

natu-ral-ize (also **-ise**) /'nætʃrəlaɪz/ *vt, vi* **1** give (a person from another country) rights of citizenship: *~ immigrants into the US*. **2** take (a word) from one language into another: *English sporting terms have been ~d in many languages, eg 'football'*. **3** introduce and acclimatize (an animal or plant) into another (part of a) country.

natu-ral-ization (also **-isation**) /'nætʃrəlaɪzəʃn/ *US: -lɪz-/n* [U]

nat-ur-ally /'nætʃrəli/ *adv* **1** by nature(4): *She's ~ musical*. **2** of course; as might be expected: *'Did you answer her letter?' — 'N~!'* **3** without artificial help, special cultivation, etc: *Her hair curls ~*. **4** without exaggeration, pretence, etc: *She speaks and behaves ~*.

na-ture /'nætʃə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] the whole universe and every created thing: *Is ~ at its best in spring?* **2** [U] force(s) controlling what happens or exists in the physical world: *Miracles are contrary to ~*. **3** [U] simple life without civilization: *a return to ~*, to the simple and primitive life before mankind became civilized. **4** [C, U] qualities and characteristics, physical, mental and spiritual, which naturally belong to a person or thing: *It is the ~ of a dog to bark*. ⇨ *human nature*; *good/ill-natured*. **5** essential qualities of things: *Chemists study the ~ of gases*. **6** sort, kind: *Things of this ~ do not interest me*.

'nature cure, treatment of disease using natural remedies (sunlight, diet, exercise).

'nature study, (at school) the study of animals, plants, etc.

na-tur-ism /'nætʃərizəm/ *n* [U] = nudism.

na-tur-ist /-ɪst/ *n* [C] = nudist (the more usual word).

naught /nɔ:t/ *n* nothing, esp in the phrases: *care naught for*, have no interest in; consider worthless. *come to naught*, fail.

naughty /'nɔ:tɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** (of children, their behaviour, etc) bad; wrong; disobedient; causing trouble. **2** taking pleasure in shocking, intended to shock, people: *~ stories; ~ words*, swear words.

naught-ily /-əlɪ/ *adv*

naughti-ness *n* [U]

nausea /'nɔ:sɪə/ *US: 'nɔ:ʃə/ n* [U] feeling of sickness or disgust: *be overcome by/filled with ~ after eating octopus/at the sight of cruelty to animals*.

naus-eate /'nɔ:sɪet/ *US: 'nɔ:ʒ-/ vt* cause nausea: *a nauseating sight*.

naus-eous /'nɔ:sɪəs/ *US: 'nɔ:ʃəs/ adj*

nauti-cal /'nɔ:tɪkl/ *adj* of ships, sailors or navigation: *~ terms*, used by sailors.

nautical mile, sixtieth of a degree(1), 2025 yards (= 1852 metres).

na-val /'nɛvəl/ *adj* of a navy; of warships: *~ officers/battles*.

nave /nɛv/ *n* [C] central part of a church where the people sit.

navel /'nɛvl/ *n* [C] mark in the surface of the belly (left by the detachment of the umbilical cord).

navi-gable /'nævɪgəbl/ *adj* **1** (of rivers, seas, etc) suitable for ships: *The Rhine is ~ from Strasbourg to the sea.* **2** (of ships, etc) that can be steered and sailed: *not in ~ condition.*

navi-gate /'nævɪgeɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** plot the course, find the position, etc of a ship or aircraft, using charts and instruments. **2** steer (a ship); pilot (an aircraft). **3** sail over (a sea); sail up or down (a river). **4** (fig) direct: *~ a Bill through the House of Commons.*

navi-gator /-tə(r)/, (a) person who navigates (1). (b) sailor with skill and experience who has taken part in many voyages.

navi-ga-tion /'nævɪgeɪʃn/ *n* [U] **1** the act, science, of navigating. **2** the making of voyages on water or of journeys through the air.

navy /'nɛvɪ/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** a country's warships. **2** the officers and men of a country's warships: *join the ~.*

navy blue, dark blue.

neap /ni:p/ *n* [C] (also ~-tide) tide when high water is at its lowest level of the year.

Ne-an-der-thal /'ni:əndətəl/ *adj* (also ~ *man*), extinct type of man of the stone age.

Nea-poli-tan /'ni:əpɒlɪtən/ *n, adj* **1** (inhabitant) of Naples. **2** (small *n*) with many flavours and colours: *~ ice-cream.*

near¹ /nɪə(r)/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** not far from; close in space or time: *The post office is quite ~.* **near to**, close to; almost: *She was ~ to tears.* **a near miss**, (also fig) not on target but close enough to cause damage. **a near thing**, a narrow escape (from an accident, etc). **2** close in relation or affection: *a ~ relation*, eg a mother, a son; *friends who are ~ and dear to us.* **3** (contrasted with *off*) (of parts of animals and vehicles, etc) the left side: *the ~ foreleg*; *the ~ front wheel of a car.* □ *vt, vi* come or draw near (to); approach: *The ship was ~ing land. He's ~ing his end*, is dying.

near-ness *n* [U]

near² /nɪə(r)/ *adv* not far; to or at a short distance in space or time: *We searched far and ~* (= everywhere) *for the missing child.* **as near as**, as closely as: *As ~ as I can guess there were forty people present.* **as near as makes no difference**, with no difference worth considering: *They're the same height, or as ~ as makes no difference.* **near at hand**, □ hand¹ (1). **nowhere near**, not nearly: *She's nowhere ~ as old as her husband.* **near 'by**, not far away: *A good restaurant is ~ by.*

'Near 'East, variant of Middle East.

'near-side, side nearest the kerb: *the ~side lane of traffic.*

'near-'sighted *adj* = short-sighted (which is more usual).

near³ /nɪə(r)/ *prep* (= *near to*) close to (in space, time, relationship, etc): *Come and sit ~ me.*

near-by /'nɪəbaɪ/ *adj* not far away: *a ~ restaurant.* □ *near by* at near².

near-ly /'nɪəli/ *adv* **1** almost: *It's ~ one o'clock. I'm ~ ready.* □ hardly, scarcely. **2** closely: *We're ~ related*, are near relations. **3** **not nearly**, not at all near: *I have £20, but that isn't ~ enough for my fare.*

neat /ni:t/ *adj* (-er, -est except 5 below) **1** (liking to have everything) tidy; done carefully: *a ~ worker*; *~ writing.* **2** simple and pleasant: *a ~ dress.* **3** pleasing in appearance: *a woman with a ~ figure.* **4** cleverly said or done: *a ~ reply/conjuring trick.* **5** (of wines and spirits) undiluted: *drink one's whisky ~.*

neat-ly *adv*

neat-ness *n* [U]

'neath /ni:θ/ *prep* (poetic) beneath.

neb-ula /'nebjulə/ *n* [C] (pl ~e /-li:/) group of very distant stars, mass of gas, seen in the night sky as a patch of light.

nebu-lar /-lə(r)/ *adj* of nebulae.

nebu-lous /'nebjuləs/ *adj* **1** = nebular. **2** like clouds; hazy. **3** (fig) without form; vague: *a ~ argument.*

neces-sar-ily /'nesə'serəli/ *adv* as a necessary result: *Big men are not ~ strong men.*

neces-sar-y /'nesəsəri/ *US: -seri/ adj* which has to be done; which must be; which cannot be avoided: *Sleep is ~ to health. Is that really ~? Is it ~ to play your records so loudly?*

necessi-tate /'nɪsɪsɪteɪt/ *vt* (formal) make necessary: *The increase in population ~s a greater food supply.*

necess-ity /'nɪsɪsəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] urgent need; circumstances that make a person do something: *He was driven by ~ to steal food for his starving children.* **of necessity**, unavoidably. **2** (obligation regarded as a) natural law that directs human life, the universe, etc. **3** [C] something that is indispensable: *the necessities of life*, food, clothing and shelter. **4** [C] something which must be or happen: *Is it a logical ~ that prices go up if wages go up?*

neck¹ /nek/ *n* [C] **1** part of the body that connects the head and the shoulders: *wrap a scarf round one's ~.* **neck and neck**, side by side, level, in a race or struggle. **a pain in the neck**, □ pain (2). **break one's neck**, (fig) work extremely hard (to achieve something). □ breakneck. **risk one's neck**, (informal) do something dangerous. **'stick one's neck out**, (informal) do or say something at the risk of severe criticism, pain, etc. **talk through (the back of) one's neck**, talk, argue, foolishly. **2** flesh of an animal's neck as used for food: *~ of lamb.* **3** something like a neck in shape or position: *the ~ of a bottle*; *a narrow ~ of land*; *the ~ of a guitar.*

'neck-lace /-lɪs/, string of beads, pearls, etc

worn round the neck as an ornament.

'neck-let /-lɪt/, ornament (eg of beads) for the neck.

'neck-line, (of fashions for women's clothes) line or edge at or near the neck.

'neck-tie, (*tie* is the usual word) band of material worn under a collar and knotted in front.

neck² /nek/ *vi* (*sf*) (of young couples of opposite sex) exchange kisses, caresses and hugs: *~ing in the park*.

nec-tar /'nektə(r)/ *n* [U] **1** (in Greek myth) the drink of the gods. ⇨ ambrosia. **2** sweet liquid in flowers, collected by bees. **3** (*fig*) any delicious drink.

nec-tar-ine /'nektərɪn/ *n* [C] kind of peach with thin, smooth skin and firm flesh.

née /neɪ/ *adj* (*Fr*) born (put after the name of a married woman and before her father's family name): *Mrs J Smith, ~ Brown*.

need¹ /ni:d/ *n* **1** [U] circumstances in which something is absent when it is necessary or requires some course of action: *There's no ~ (for you) to start yet. There's a great ~ for a book on this subject. if need be*, if necessary. **2** (*pl*) something felt to be necessary: *My ~s are few*. **3** [U] poverty; misfortune; bad circumstances: *He helped me in my hour of ~*.

needy *adj* (-ier, -iest) very poor: *help the poor and ~y*.

need² /ni:d/ *auxiliary verb* (no infinitive, no participles, *3rd person sing* present tense *need*; *need not* may be contracted to *needn't* /ni:dnt/) **1** be obliged; be necessary: *N ~ you go yet? No, I ~n't*. **2** (indicating that although something may have occurred or been done in the past, it was or may have been unnecessary): *N ~ it have happened? We ~n't have hurried*, We hurried but now we see that this was unnecessary.

need-ful /-fl/ *adj* necessary: *do what is ~ful*.

need-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

need-less *adj* unnecessary: *~less work/trouble. Needless to say...* It is not necessary to say or add...

need-less-ly *adv*

need³ /ni:d/ *vt* **1** want; require: *Does he ~ any help? I'm here if you ~ me*. **2** be under a necessity or obligation: *I agree that they ~ to be told about the arrangement*. **3** deserve; ought to have: *What he ~s is a slap!*

needle /'ni:dl/ *n* [C] **1** small, thin piece of polished steel, pointed at one end and with a small hole at the other end for thread, used in sewing and darning. *look for a needle in a haystack*, search hopelessly. *as sharp as a needle*, very observant. ⇨ pins and needles. **2** long, thin piece of polished wood, bone or metal (without an eye), with a pointed end (for knitting) or a hook (for crocheting). **3** thin steel pointer in a compass, showing magnetic north; similar pointer in a telegraphic in-

strument. **4** something like a needle (**1**) in shape, appearance or use (eg the thin, pointed leaves of pine-trees; a sharp, pointed peak or rocky summit; the long, sharp, end of a syringe used for giving injections). **5** stylus used in recording and playing records. **6** tall slender monument: *Cleopatra's ~*, in London. □ *vt* **1** sew, pierce, operate on, with a needle. **2** (*informal*) annoy, make angry.

'needle-craft/-work, sewing; embroidery.

needs /'ni:dz/ *adv* (now used only with *must*) **needs must**, circumstances may compel us (to do something). **must needs**, (*dated*) foolishly insists or insisted: *He must ~ go away just when I want his help*.

ne'er /neə(r)/ *adv* (*poetic*) never.

ne'er-do-well /'neə du: wel/ *n* [C] (*dated*) useless person.

ne-gate /nɪ'geɪt/ *vt* (*formal*) deny; make null and void.

ne-ga-tion /nɪ'geɪʃn/ *n* [U] **1** act of denying, refusing: *Shaking the head is a sign of ~*. **2** absence of any positive or real quality or meaning.

ne-ga-tive /'negətɪv/ *adj* **1** (of words and answers) showing no or not: *give a ~ answer*. ⇨ affirmative. **2** expressing the absence of any positive character; that stops, hinders or makes powerless: *~ criticism*, that does not help by making constructive suggestions. ⇨ positive (**3**). **3** (*maths*) (of a number or quantity) less than zero, to be subtracted from others. **4** (*electricity*) of the sort carried by electrons: the ~ plate in a battery. ⇨ positive (**6**). **5** (*photography*) having the lights and shades of the actual scene reversed: *~ film*. □ *n* [C] **1** word or statement that denies: 'No', 'not' and 'neither' are ~s. *The answer is in the ~*, is 'No'. **2** (*maths*) minus quantity (eg $-5x$). **3** developed film etc on which lights and shades are reversed. □ *vt* **1** prove (a theory, etc) to be untrue: *Experiments ~d his theory*. **2** reject; refuse to accept; neutralize (an effect).

ne-ga-tive-ly *adv*

ne-glect /nɪ'glekt/ *vt* **1** pay no attention to; give no or not enough care to: *~ing one's studies/children/health*. **2** omit or fail (to do something): *He ~ed to say 'Thank you'*. □ *n* [U] neglecting or being neglected: *~ of duty*. *The garden was in a state of ~*.

ne-glect-ful /-fl/ *adj* in the habit of neglecting things: *~ful of her appearance*.

nég-ligé, neg-li-gee /'neglɪʒeɪ *US*: 'neglɪ'ʒeɪ/ *n* [C,U] loose, informal, often transparent, dress.

neg-li-gence /'neglɪdʒəns/ *n* [U] **1** carelessness; failure to take proper care or precautions: *The accident was due to ~*. **2** neglected condition or appearance.

neg-li-gent /'neglɪdʒənt/ *adj* taking too little care; guilty of neglect: *He was ~ in his work/~ of his duties*.

neg-li-gent-ly *adv*
neg-li-gible /'neglɪdʒəbl/ *adj* of little or no importance or size: *a ~ quantity*.
ne-go-ti-able /nɪ'gəʊjəbl/ *adj* **1** that can be negotiated (2): *Is the dispute ~?* **2** that can be changed into cash, or passed from person to person instead of cash: *~ securities*, eg cheques. **3** (of roads, rivers, etc) that can be passed over or along.
ne-go-ti-ate /nɪ'gəʊtɪət/ *vi, vt* **1** discuss, confer, in order to come to an agreement: *We've decided to ~ with the employers about our wage claims*. **2** arrange by discussion: *negotiating a sale/a loan/a treaty/peace*. **3** get or give money for (cheques, etc). **4** get past or over: *This is a difficult corner for any car to ~*.
ne-go-ti-ator /-tə(r)/, person who negotiates.
ne-go-ti-ation /nɪ'gəʊtɪ'eɪʃn/ *n* [C, U] negotiating: *enter into/start/carry on ~s with him*. *Price is a matter of ~*.
Ne-gress /'ni:grɪs/ *n* [C] Negro woman or girl.
Ne-gro /'ni:grəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) member (or, outside Africa, descendant) of one of the black African races south of the Sahara.
Ne-groid /'ni:grɔɪd/ *adj* of Negroes or the Negro race. □ *n* [C] = Negro (the usual word).
neigh /nei/ *vi, n* [C] (make the) cry of a horse.
neigh-bour (US = -bor) /'neɪbə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person living in a house, street, etc near another: *We're nextdoor ~s*. Our houses are side by side. **2** person, thing or country that is near(est) another: *Britain's nearest ~ is France*.
neigh-bour-ing *adj* nearby; next door: *~ing countries/villages*.
neigh-bour-ly (US = -bor-) *adj* kind; friendly.
neigh-bour-li-ness (US = -bor-) *n* [U] friendly feeling, help.
neigh-bour-hood (US = -bor-) /'neɪbəhʊd/ *n* [C] **1** (people living in a) district; area near the place, etc referred to: *There's some beautiful scenery in our ~*. *He lives in the ~ of London*. **2** condition of being near: *He lost a sum in the ~ of \$500*.
nei-ther /'neɪðə(r)/ *US: 'ni:ð-/ adj, pron* (used with a *sing noun* or *pron*) not one nor the other (of two): *N~ statement is true*. *In ~ case can I agree*. ♡ *either. □ adv, conj* **1** **neither... nor**, not one or the other: *He ~ knows nor cares what happened*. *N~ you nor I could do it*. **2** (after a negative *if*-clause, etc): *If you don't go, ~ shall I*. A: 'I don't like it.' — B: 'N~ do I.'

neo- /ni:əʊ/ *prefix* new; revived, later: *neo-classical*.

neo-col-oni-al-ism /ni:əʊ kə'ləʊniəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] colonialist policies of imperialist countries to preserve supremacy in former colonies.

neo-lithic /ni:ə'liθɪk/ *adj* of the new or later stone age: *~ man*.

neon /'ni:n/ *n* [U] colourless gas occurring in

small proportions in the earth's atmosphere. **neon light**, orange-red light produced when an electric current passes through this gas.

neon sign, advertisement, etc in which neon light is used.

nephew /'nevju: *US: 'nefju:/ n* [C] son of one's brother or sister.

nep-ot-ism /'nepətɪzəm/ *n* [U] the giving of special favour to his relatives (esp employment) by a person in high position.

Nep-tune /'neptju:n *US: -tu:n/ n* **1** (Roman god of) the sea. **2** one of the farthest planets of the solar system.

nerve /nɜ:v/ *n* **1** [C] fibre or bundle of fibres carrying impulses of feeling and motion between the brain and all parts of the body. **2** (*pl*) condition of being easily excited, worried, irritated: *He is suffering from ~s*. **a bundle of nerves**, very nervous person. **get on one's nerves**, annoy: *That noise/man gets on my ~s*. **3** [U] quality of being bold; courage: *A test pilot needs plenty of ~*. **have the nerve to do sth**, (a) have the necessary courage, etc.

(b) (*informal*) be impudent enough: *He had the ~ to suggest that I was cheating!* **have a nerve**, (*informal*) be self-assured or impudent: *He's got a ~, going to work dressed like that!* **lose/regain one's nerve**, lose/recover one's courage, etc. □ *vt* summon up (one's strength) (physical or moral): *~ oneself for a task*.

'nerve-cell, cell that transmits impulses in nerves (1).

'nerve-centre, (a) group of nerve-cells. (b) (*fig*) centre of power or control.

'nerve-gas, poisonous gas that affects the nervous system.

'nerve-racking, causing great worry; needing great courage.

nerve-less *adj* (a) confident, not nervous. (b) without strength or spirit; without energy: *The knife fell from his ~less hand*.

nerve-less-ly *adv*

nerv-ous /'nɜ:vəs/ *adj* **1** of the nerves (1): *the ~ system*. **2** easily excited, afraid, timid: *Are you ~ in the dark?*

'nervous 'breakdown, mental illness with exhaustion and severe loss of self-control and confidence.

'nervous 'energy, (*informal*) energy produced in an excitable, sometimes uncontrolled, state.

'nervous system, nerves (1) and nerve-centres as a whole.

ner-vous-ly *adv*

ner-vous-ness *n* [U]

nervy /'nɜ:vɪ/ *adj* (*informal*) suffering from nervous (2) strain.

ness /nes/ *n* [C] (usually in place names) headland.

-ness /-nɪs/ *suffix* (*adjective* + ~ = *noun*) a quality, state, character: *dryness; silliness*.

nest /nest/ *n* [C] **1** place made or chosen by a bird for its eggs. **2** place in which certain living things have and keep their young: *a 'wasps' ~*. **3** comfortable place: *make a ~ of cushions*. **4** number of like things (esp boxes, tables) fitting one inside another. **5** (fig) shelter; hiding-place; secluded retreat: *a ~ of crime/vice/pirates*. □ *vi* make and use a nest: *The swallows are ~ing in the woodshed*.

'nest-egg, (fig) sum of money saved for future use.

nestle /'nesl/ *vt, vi* **1** settle comfortably and warmly: *~ (down) among the cushions*. **2** press oneself lovingly to: *The child was nestling closely against ~d up to her mother*.

nest-ling /'nestlɪŋ/ *n* [C] bird too young to leave the nest.

net¹ /net/ *n* [U] open material of knotted string, hair, wire, etc; [C] such material made up for a special purpose: *a 'hair-~; a mosquito-~*, for use over a bed; *'fishing-~s; 'tennis ~s*. □ *vt* (-tt-) **1** catch (fish, animals, etc) with or in a net. **2** cover with a net or nets: *~ strawberries*. **3** put nets in place in: *~ a river*.

'net-ball, game for teams of girls or women in which a ball has to be thrown so that it falls through a net fastened to a ring on the top of a post.

'net-work (a) complex system of lines that cross: *a ~work of railways/canals*. (b) connected system: *an intelligence/spy ~work*.

net², **nett** /net/ *adj* remaining when nothing more is to be taken away: *~ price*, off which discount is not to be allowed; *~ profit*, when working expenses have been deducted; *~ weight*, excluding the weight of the container, packing, etc. □ *vt* (-tt-) gain as a net profit; *He ~ted £5 from the deal*.

nether /'neðə(r)/ *adj* (archaic) lower: *the ~ regions/world*, the world of the dead; hell.

nett ⇨ **net**².

net-ting /'netɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** making or using nets. **2** net of string, thread or wire.

nettle /'netl/ *n* [C] common wild plant which has on its leaves hairs that sting and redden the skin when touched. □ *vt* **1** sting (oneself) with nettles. **2** (fig) make angry; annoy: *She looked ~d by my remarks*.

'nettle-rash, red patches on the skin (like those) caused by nettles.

net-work ⇨ **net**¹.

neur-al /'njuərəl/ *US: 'nuər-/ adj* of the nerves(1).

neur-al-gia /nju'rældʒə/ *US: nu-/ n* [U] sharp, nervous pain, esp of the face and head.

neur-al-gic /-dʒɪk/ *adj*

neur-ologist /njuə'rɒlədʒɪst/ *US: nu-/ n* [C] expert in, student of, neurology.

neur-ol-ogy /njuə'rɒlədʒi/ *US: nu-/ n* [U] branch of medical science that is concerned with nerves.

neur-osis /nju'rəʊsɪs/ *US: nu-/ n* [C] (pl -ses /-sɪz/) disturbance in behaviour, bodily activity, etc caused by disorders of the nervous system or by something in the subconscious mind.

neur-otic /nju'rɒtɪk/ *US: nu-/ adj* **1** (of a person) suffering from a neurosis; abnormally sensitive, excited. **2** (of a drug) affecting the nervous system. □ *n* [C] neurotic person or drug.

neu-ter /'nju:tə(r)/ *US: 'nu:/ adj* **1** (gram) (of gender) neither feminine nor masculine. **2** (of plants) without male or female parts. **3** (of insects, eg worker ants) sexually undeveloped; sterile. □ *n* [C] **1** neuter noun or gender. **2** sexually undeveloped insect; castrated animal: *My cat is an enormous ginger ~*. □ *vt* castrate: *a ~ed cat*.

neu-tral /'nju:trəl/ *US: 'nu:/ adj* **1** taking neither side in a war or quarrel: *~ nations*. **2** belonging to a country that remains neutral in war: *~ territory/ships*. **3** having no definite characteristics; not clearly one (colour, etc) or another: *~ tints*. **4** (chemistry) neither acid nor alkaline. **5** (of gear mechanism) of the position in which no power is transmitted: *leave a car in ~ gear*. □ *n* [C] **1** neutral person, country, etc. **2** neutral position of gears: *slip the gears into ~*.

neu-tral-ity /nju:'træləti/ *US: nu:/ n* [U] state of being neutral, esp in war.

neu-tral-ize (also -ise) /-aɪz/ *vt* (a) make neutral; declare by agreement that (a place) shall be treated as neutral in war. (b) take away the effect or special quality of, by using something with an opposite effect or quality: *~ize a poison*.

neu-tral-iz-ation (also -isation) /nju:'træl-ɪ'zeɪʃn/ *US: nu:'træl-ɪ'z-/ n* [U]

neu-tron /'nju:trɒn/ *US: 'nu:trɒn/ n* [C] particle carrying no electric charge, of about the same mass as a proton, and forming part of the nucleus of an atom.

never /'nevə(r)/ *adv* **1** at no time; on no occasion: *He has ~ been abroad*. *N ~ in all my life have I heard such nonsense!* *Such a display has ~ been seen before*. **2** (used as an emphatic substitute for not): *That will ~ do*, isn't good enough at all. **Never mind!** Don't worry!

never-more /'nevə'mɔ:(r)/ *adv* never again.

never-the-less /'nevəðə'les/ *adv, conj* however; in spite of that; still: *There was no news; ~, she went on hoping*.

new /nju: / *US: nu:/ adj* (-er, -est) **1** not existing before; seen, heard of, introduced, for the first time; of recent origin, growth, manufacture, etc: *a ~ invention/film/novel/idea; the newest (= latest) fashions*. **as good as 'new**, in very good condition. **2** already in existence, but only now seen, discovered, etc: *learn ~ words in a foreign language*. **3 new to**, unfamiliar with; not yet accustomed to: *I*

am ~ to this town. **new from**, recently arrived from: *a typist ~ from school.* **4** (with the) later, modern, having a different character. **5** beginning again: *a ~ life after a divorce.* **□ adv** (preceding, joined or hyphenated to, the word it qualifies) recently: *~born; ~laid; ~laid 'eggs.*

'new-comer, person who has recently arrived in a place.

'new-fangled, recently in use or fashion (and, for this reason, disliked by some): *~fangled ideas.*

'new Moon, (period of the) moon seen as a crescent after being invisible.

'New Testament, second part of the Bible, containing the life and teachings of Christ.

'new town, one for the population from overcrowded cities.

the New World, N and S America.

new year, coming year or one recently begun.

'New Year's Day, 1 January.

'New Year's Eve, 31 December.

new-ness *n* [U]

new-ly /'nju:li/ *US: 'nu:li/ adv* **1** recently: *a ~ married couple.* **2** in a new, different way: *~ arranged furniture.*

'newly-weds *n pl* newly married couple(s).

news /nju:z/ *US: nu:z/ n pl* (used with a *sing verb*) new or fresh information; report(s) of what has most recently happened: *What's the latest ~? Here are the ~ headlines. Here are some interesting pieces/bits of ~. That's no ~ to me, I already know that.* **'No news is 'good news**, Absence of information means we, you, etc can continue to be optimistic.

'news-agent, shopkeeper who sells newspapers, periodicals, etc.

'news-flash, important piece of broadcast news.

'news-letter, letter or circular sent out to members of a society, etc.

'news-paper, printed publication, usually issued daily, with news, advertisements, etc.

'news-print, paper for printing newspapers.

'news-reel, short film of news.

'news-stand, stall for the sale of newspapers, etc.

'news-worthy *adj* sufficiently interesting for reporting, eg in a newspaper.

newt /nju:t/ *US: nu:t/ n* [C] (kinds of) small animal like a lizard which spends most of its time in the water.

next /nekst/ *adj, n* [U] **1** coming immediately after, in order or space: *Take the ~ turning to the right. Miss Green was the ~ (person) to arrive.* **the next best (thing)**, that which is chosen or accepted if the first choice fails: *There are no tickets left for the Circus: the ~ best thing is the Zoo.* **2** close to; at the side of: *the chair ~ to mine; sit ~ to the fire.* **next to nothing**, scarcely anything; almost nothing:

She earns ~ to nothing. **next door**, ⇨ door(1). **next of kin**, ⇨ kin. **3** (of time; the) is needed if the reference is to a time that is future in relation to a time already mentioned: *I shall go there ~ Friday/week/year. We arrived in Turin on a Monday; the ~ day we left for Rome. Is he coming this weekend (ie the coming weekend)? ~ weekend (ie the following weekend)?* **□ adv** **1** after this/that; then: *What are you going to do ~? When I ~ saw her she was dressed in green.* **come next**, follow: *What comes ~? What's the next thing (to do, etc)?* **2** (used to express surprise or wonder): *Whatever will he be saying ~?*

nib /nɪb/ *n* [C] split metal part (to be) inserted in a pen-holder.

nibble /'nɪbl/ *vt, vi* **1** take tiny bites: *rabbits nibbling carrots.* **2** (fig) show some willingness to accept (an offer), agree (to a suggestion, etc), but without being definite. **□ n** [C] act of nibbling: *I felt a ~ at the bait.*

nice /naɪs/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** (contrary to nasty) pleasant; agreeable; kind; friendly; fine: *a ~ day; ~ weather; a ~ little girl; medicine that is not very ~ to take.* **'nice and...**, pleasant because...: *~ and warm by the fire.* **2** needing care and exactness; sensitive; subtle: *~ shades of meaning.* **3** (ironic) difficult; bad: *You've got us into a ~ mess.* **4** moral; conscientious: *He's not too ~ in his business methods.*

nice-ly *adv* (a) in a nice manner. (b) (informal) very well: *The patient is doing ~ly, is making good progress.*

nice-ness *n* [U]

nicety /'naɪsəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] accuracy; exactness: *~ of judgement.* **2** [C] delicate distinction: *the niceties of criticism.*

niche /nɪʃ/ *n* [C] **1** (usually shallow) recess (often with a shelf) in a wall, eg for a statue or ornament. **2** (fig) suitable or fitting position: *He found the right ~ for himself in the Civil Service.*

nick¹ /nɪk/ *n* [C] **1** small V-shaped cut. **2** in *the nick of time*, only just in time. **3** (sl) prison. **□ vi** make a nick(1) in.

nick² /nɪk/ *n* (sl) (only in) *in good/poor nick*, in good/poor health or condition.

nickel /'nɪkl/ *n* **1** [U] hard, silver-white metal (symbol Ni) used in alloys. **2** [C] coin used in the US, value 5 cents. **□ vt** (-ll-, US = -l-) coat with nickel.

nick-nack /'nɪknæk/ *n* [C] = knick-knack.

nick-name /'nɪkneɪm/ *n* [C] name given in addition, altered from or used instead of the real name (eg *Fatty* for a fat boy). **□ vi** give a nickname to: *They ~d him 'Spotty'.*

nicotine /'nɪkətiːn/ *n* [U] poisonous, oily substance in tobacco leaves.

niece /niːs/ *n* [C] daughter of one's brother or sister.

niggle /'nɪgl/ *vi, vt* **1** give too much time or attention to unimportant details; complain

about trivial matters. **2** irritate: *Her bad manners ~d me.*

nig-gling *adj* small, unimportant but annoying.

nigh /naɪ/ *adv, prep* (-er, -est) (*archaic and poetic*) near (to).

night /naɪt/ *n* [C] dark hours between sunset and sunrise or twilight and dawn: *in/during the ~; on Sunday ~; on the ~ of Friday, the 13th of June.* **night after 'night**, for many nights in succession. **all night (long)**, throughout the night. **night and day**, continuously: *travel ~ and day for a week.* **at night**, (a) when night comes. (b) during the night: *6 o'clock at ~, 6pm.* **by night**, during the night: *travel by ~.* **have a good/ bad night**, sleep well/badly. **make a night of it**, spend all night in pleasure-making, eg at a party. **spend the night with**, (a) stay as a guest during the night. (b) sleep with. ⇨ also stand¹(7).

'night-club, club open until the early hours of the morning to members for dancing, supper, entertainment, etc.

'night-dress, long, loose dress worn by a woman or child in bed.

'night-fall, the coming of night; evening.

'night-gown, = nightdress.

'nightie, 'nighty, (*informal*) = nightdress.

'night life, entertainment, eg cabaret, night-clubs, available in a town late at night: *the ~ life of London.*

'night-long *adj* lasting the whole night.

'night-mare /-meə(r)/, (a) frightening dream. (b) haunting fear; memory of a horrible experience: *Travelling on those bad mountain roads was a ~mare.*

'night-school, one giving lessons in the evening.

'night-time, time of darkness.

'night-watch, (person or group keeping) watch by night.

'night-watchman /-mən/, man employed to keep watch (eg in a factory) at night.

night-ly *adj, adv* (taking place, happening, existing) in the night or every night.

night-in-gale /'naɪtɪŋgeɪl/ *n* [C] small, reddish-brown bird that sings sweetly by night as well as by day.

nil /nɪl/ *n* nothing: *The result of the football match was 3-0 (say 'three-~').*

nimble /'nɪmbl/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** quick-moving; agile: *as ~ as a goat*, very nimble. **2** (of the mind) sharp; quick to understand.

nim-bly /'nɪmblɪ/ *adv*

nim-bus /'nɪmbəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es or -bi /-baɪ/) **1** bright disc round or over the head of a saint (in a painting, etc). **2** rain cloud.

nin-com-poop /'nɪŋkəmpuːp/ *n* [C] foolish, unintelligent person.

nine /naɪn/ *adj, n* [C] (of) 9: *He's ~ (years old).* ⇨ stitch(2).

nine-teen /naɪn'tiːn/ *adj, n* [C] (of) 19. (**talk**) **nineteen to the dozen**, (talk) continuously.

nine-teenth /naɪn'tiːnθ/ *adj, n* [C] (*abbr* 19th) (of) one of 19 parts or the next after 18.

nine-ti-eth /'naɪntiəθ/ *adj, n* [C] (*abbr* 90th) (of) one of 90 parts or the next after 89.

ninety /'naɪntɪ/ *adj, n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (of) 90. **ninety-nine times out of a hundred**, almost always. **in the nineties**, (a) (of a person's age, temperature, speed, etc) between 89 and 100. (b) between '89 and '00 in a century.

ninth /naɪnθ/ *adj, n* [C] (*abbr* 9th) (of) one of 9 parts or the next after 8.

nine-pins /'naɪnpɪnz/ *n pl* (used with a *sing verb*) **1** game in which a ball is rolled along the floor at nine bottle-shaped pieces of wood. **2** (*sing*) one of these pins.

ninny /'nɪni/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (*dated*) fool.

nip /nɪp/ *vt, vi* (-pp-) **1** pinch; press hard (eg between finger and thumb, or with the claws as a crab does, or with the teeth as a dog or horse does): *He ~ped his finger in the door.* **2** (of frost, wind, etc) stop the growth of; damage. **nip sth in the bud**, stop its (bad) development. **3** bite; pinch. **4** (*informal*) hurry: *I'll ~ on ahead and open the door.* □ *n* [C] **1** sharp pinch or bite. **a (cold) nip in the air**, sharp feeling of frost. **2** small drink (esp of spirits): *a ~ of brandy.*

nip-ping *adj* (of the air or wind) sharp; biting cold. ⇨ nippy.

nip-per /'nɪpə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (*pl*) (*informal*) pincers, forceps or other tool for gripping. **2** claw of a crab, etc. **3** (*informal*) small child.

nipple /'nɪpl/ *n* [C] **1** part of the breast through which a baby gets its mother's milk; similar small projection on the breast of a human male. (*Note: teat* is used for other mammals.) **2** something like a nipple: *greasing ~s in an engine.*

nippy /'nɪpɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (*informal*) biting cold.

nir-vana /nɪə'vɑːnə/ *n* [U] (*Buddhism*) state after death in which the individual becomes part of the supreme spirit (God).

nisi /'naɪsaɪ/ *conj* (*Latin, legal*) unless.

de, cree 'nisi, ⇨ decree.

nit¹ /nɪt/ *n* [C] egg of a louse or other parasitic insect (eg as found in the human hair).

nit² /nɪt/ *n* [C] (*informal*) = nitwit.

ni-trate /'naɪtreɪt/ *n* [C,U] salt formed by the chemical reaction of nitric acid with an alkali, esp potassium ~ and sodium ~, used as fertilizers.

ni-tric /'naɪtrɪk/ *adj* of, containing, nitrogen.

'nitric acid, (symbol HNO_3), clear colourless, powerful acid that eats into and destroys most substances.

ni-tro-gen /'naɪtrədʒən/ *n* [U] gas (symbol **N**) without colour, taste or smell, forming about four-fifths of the earth's atmosphere.

ni-tro-glycer-ine, -glycerin /-ˌnaɪtrəʊ-

gliserin *US*: -rɪn/ *n* [U] powerful explosive made by adding glycerine to a mixture of nitric and sulphuric acids.

nit-wit /'nitwɪt/ *n* [C] (*informal*) unintelligent person.

nix /nɪks/ *n* [U] (*sl*) nothing.

no¹ /nəʊ/ *adj* **1** not one; not any: *She had ~ money. N~ two men think alike. N~ other man could do the work. no end of, ⇨ **end**¹ (**3**). **2** (implying the opposite of the following word): *He's ~ friend of mine.* **3** (in the pattern: *there + to be + no + ...ing*): *There's ~ saying (= It is impossible to say) what he'll be doing next.* **4** (in commands, etc): *N~ smoking.* Smoking is not allowed. **No way!** (*sl*) Certainly not! **be no good/use**, useless: *It's ~ good worrying about her now. by no means*, ⇨ **means**¹. **in no time (at all)**, ⇨ **time**¹ (**6**).*

no-claims bonus, reduction in insurance costs because not claim has been made.

no-go, (*informal*) impossible to do (successfully).

no-go area, (*informal*) (usually urban) area barricaded to prevent the police or security force from entering.

no-man's-land, (in war) ground between the fronts of two opposing armies.

no-one, **no one**, *pron* = nobody.

no² /nəʊ/ *adv* (used with comparatives): *We went ~ farther than (= only as far as) the bridge. I have ~ more money.* □ **particle** (opposite of 'Yes'): *Is it Monday today? N~ it isn't.* □ *n* [C] word or answer no; refusal; negative vote. **never/not take no for an answer**, refuse to give up trying. **The noes** /nəʊz/ **have it**, Those voting 'no' are in the majority.

nob /nɒb/ *n* [C] (*sl*) member of the upper classes; person of high rank.

nobble /'nɒbl/ *vt* (*sl*) **1** interfere with (a race-horse) to lessen its chance of winning. **2** (*informal*) get the attention of (in order to gain an advantage, etc). **3** (*informal*) get something dishonestly or by devious means.

no-bil-ity /nəʊ'bɪləti/ *n* [U] **1** quality of being noble; noble character, mind, birth, rank. **2** (usually with *the*) the nobles as a class: *a member of the ~.*

noble /'nəʊbl/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** of high rank, title or birth: *a man of ~ rank/birth.* **2** having, showing, impressive character and qualities: *a ~ leader; ~ sentiments.* **3** splendid; that excites admiration: *a building planned on a ~ scale.* □ *n* [C] person of noble birth.

'noble-man, peer; peeress.

nobly /'nəʊbli/ *adv* in a noble manner; splendidly.

no-body /'nəʊbədɪ/ *pron* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] not anybody; no person: *We saw ~ we knew. He said he would marry me or ~. N~ could find their luggage. nobody else*, no other person: *I love you and ~ else. N~ else would marry*

you. **2** (used in the *sing* with *a* or *an*, and in the *pl*) unimportant or unimpressive person: *Don't marry a ~ like James.*

noc-tur-nal /'nɒk'tʃ:ənəl/ *adj* of, in or done, active, or happening in, the night: *~ birds, eg owls.*

noc-turne /'nɒktʃ:n/ *n* [C] dreamy piece of music.

nod /nɒd/ *vi, vt* (-dd-) **1** bow (the head) quickly as a sign of agreement or as a familiar greeting: *He ~ded to me as he passed. have a nodding acquaintance with*, know (a person) well enough to greet but not to talk to. **2** let the head fall forward as if sleepy or falling asleep: *She sat ~ding by the fire. nod off*, fall asleep. **3** indicate by nodding: *He ~ded his approval.*

node /nəʊd/ *n* [C] point on the stem of a plant where a leaf or bud grows out.

nod-ule /'nɒdjʊl/ *n* [C] small rounded lump, knob or swelling.

nod-ular /-lə(r)/, **nodu-lated** /-leɪtɪd/ *adj.*

Noel /nəʊ'el/ *n* = Christmas (which is more usual).

nog-gin /'nɒɡɪn/ *n* [C] small measure, usually a quarter of a pint, of liquor.

no-how /'nəʊhaʊ/ *adv* (*informal*) in no way; not at all.

noise /nɔɪz/ *n* [C,U] loud and unpleasant sound, esp when confused and undesired: *the ~ of jet aircraft. Don't make so much ~/such a loud ~!* **make a noise (about sth)**, talk or complain in order to get attention. □ *v* make public: *It was ~d everywhere that he had been arrested.*

noise-less *adj* making little or no noise: *with ~less footsteps.*

noise-less-ly *adv*

nois-some /'nɔɪsəm/ *adj* (esp of smell) disgusting.

noisy /'nɔɪzi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** making, accompanied by, much noise: *~ children/games.* **2** full of noise: *a ~ classroom.*

nois-ily /-əli/ *adv*

noisi-ness *n* [U]

no-mad /'nəʊmæd/ *n* [C] member of a tribe that wanders from place to place, with no fixed home.

no-madic /'nəʊmædɪk/ *adj* of nomads: *a ~ic society.*

nom de plume /'nɒm də 'plu:m/ *n* [C] (*pl* noms de plume) (*Fr*) pen-name.

no-men-cla-ture /'nəʊmənklætʃə(r)/ *n* [C] (*formal*) system of naming: *botanical ~.*

nomi-nal /'nɒmɪnəl/ *adj* **1** existing, etc in name or word only, not in fact: *the ~ ruler of the country.* **2** inconsiderable: *a ~ rent*, one very much below the actual value of the property. **3** (*gram*) of a noun or nouns. **4** of, bearing, a name: *~ shares.*

nomi-nal-ly /-nəli/ *adv*

nomi-nate /'nɒmɪneɪt/ *vt* **1** put forward for election to a position: *~ a woman for the*

Presidency. 2 appoint to office: a committee of five ~d members and eight elected members.

nomi-na-tion /nɒmɪ'neɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] nominating; [C] instance of this: *How many ~s have there been so far?* 2 [U] right of nominating.

nomi-na-tive /nɒmɪ'nə'tɪv/ *adj*, *n* [C] (gram) (of the) form of a word when it is the grammatical subject: *the ~ case*, eg pronoun *we*.

nomi-nee /nɒmɪ'ni:/ *n* [C] person who is nominated for an office or appointment.

non- /nɒn/ *prefix* who or which is not, does not, etc:

non-align-ment, principle or practice of not joining a large group of world powers.

non-ag-gression, not attacking; not starting hostilities: *a ~ pact*.

non-combatant, person (esp in the armed forces, eg a surgeon or chaplain) who does not take part in the fighting.

non-com'missioned *adj* (esp of army officers such as sergeants and corporals) not holding commissions (4).

non-com'mittal *adj* not committing oneself to a definite course or to either side (in a dispute, etc): *give a ~committal answer*.

non-con'ductor, substance that does not conduct heat or electric current.

non-con'formist, (a) person, esp a Protestant, who does not conform to the ritual, etc of an established Church. (b) **N~**, (in England) member of a sect that has separated from the Church of England.

non-con'formity, (beliefs and practices of) nonconformists as a body; failure to conform.

non-con'tributory *adj* not involving contributions: *a ~contributory pension scheme*.

non-e'vent, which is not as good, etc as it was declared to be.

non-'fiction *n* [U] literature based on fact (not novels, stories, plays, which deal with fictitious events and persons).

non-'flammable *adj* not inflammable.

non-int'er-vention, principle or practice, esp in international affairs, of keeping out of disputes.

non-payment, failure or neglect to pay (a debt, etc).

non-'resident *adj* who does not live in: *a ~resident landlord*. □ *n* [C] person not staying at a hotel, etc: *meals served to ~residents*.

non-'smoker, (a) person who does not smoke tobacco. (b) place, eg a train compartment, where smoking is forbidden.

non-'starter, (a) horse which, although entered for a race, does not run. (b) (fig) person who has no chance of success in something he is doing or decides to do.

non-'stick *adj* (eg of a pan) made so that food, etc will not stick to its surface.

non-'stop *adj*, *adv* without a stop: *a ~stop train from London to Brighton; fly ~stop from New York to Paris*.

non-'U *adj* (a) not (of the) upper class. (b) not fashionable.

non-'union *adj* not belonging to, not of, a trade union: *~union labour*.

non-'violence, policy of rejecting violent means (but using peaceful protest, etc) to gain a political or social objective.

nona-gen-ar-ian /nɒnə'geəriən/ *n* [C], *adj* (person who is) between 90 and 99 years old.

non-cha-lance /nɒn'ʃələns/ *n* [U] indifference; unconcern.

non-cha-lant /nɒn'ʃələnt/ *adj* not having, not showing, interest or enthusiasm.

non-cha-lant-ly *adv*

non-com-pos men-tis /nɒn ,kɒmpəs 'mentɪs/ *adj* (Latin) (legal) not legally responsible because not of sound mind.

non-de-script /nɒndɪ'skrɪpt/ *n* [C], *adj* (person or thing) not easily classed, not having a definite character.

none /nʌn/ *pron* 1 not any, not one: *I wanted some string but there was ~ in the house. 'Is there any petrol left?' 'No, ~ at all.' N~ of them has/have come back yet. none but, only: They chose ~ but the best. none the less, less. none other than: The new arrival was ~ other than the President (= the President himself). 2 (in constructions equal to an imperative): *N~ of that! Stop that! N~ of your impudence!* Don't be impudent! □ *adv* by no means; in no degree; not at all: *I hope you're ~ the worse for that accident*.*

non-en-tity /nɒn'entəti/ *n* [C] (pl-ties) 1 unimportant person. 2 thing that does not really exist or that exists only in the imagination.

none-such, **non-such** /nɒnsʌtʃ/, 'nɒn-/ *n* [C] person or thing without equal.

non-pareil /nɒn pə'reil/ *US: -rel/ adj*, *n* [C] (formal) unique or unrivalled (person or thing).

non-plus /nɒn'plʌs/ *vt* (-ss-, *US: -s-*) (usually passive) surprise or puzzle (a person) so much that he does not know what to do or say: *I was completely ~sed when she said 'No'.*

non-sense /nɒnsəns/ *US: -sens/ n* (with or without *a*, *an* but not usually *pl*) meaningless words; foolish talk, ideas, behaviour: *N~! I don't believe a word of it! What ~!*

non-sen-si-cal /nɒn'sensɪkl/ *adj* not making sense: *~ remarks*.

non-such ⇨ nonesuch.

non se-qui-tur /nɒn 'sekwi:tʃ(r)/ *n* [C] (Latin) (in logic) conclusion which does not follow from the premises.

noodle /'nu:dl/ *n* (usually *pl*) flour-paste and water or flour and eggs prepared in long, narrow strips: *chicken-~ soup*.

nook /nok/ *n* [C] out-of-the-way place; hidden corner: *search every ~ and cranny*, search everywhere.

noon /nu:n/ *n* 12 o'clock in the middle of the day: *at ~*.

noon-day/tide, = noon.

no-one, no one /'nəʊ wʌn/ *pron* = nobody(1).

noose /nuːs/ *n* [C] loop of rope (with a slip-knot) that becomes tighter when the rope is pulled: *the hangman's ~. put one's head in the noose*, (fig) allow oneself to be caught, defeated. □ *vi* catch with a noose; make a noose.

nope /nəʊp/ *int* (sl) No!

nor /nɔː(r)/ *conj* **1** (after *neither* or *not*) and not: *I have neither time ~ money for pop festivals.* **2** and... not: *He can't do it; ~ can I, ~ can you, ~ can anybody.*

nor' /'nɔː(r)/ *prefix* ⇨ north.

norm /nɔːm/ *n* [C] **1** the ~, standard; pattern; type (as representative of a group when judging other examples). **2** (in some industries, etc) amount of work required or expected in a working day: *fulfil one's ~.*

nor-mal /'nɔːml/ *adj* in agreement with what is representative, usual or regular: *the ~ temperature of the human body.* □ *n* (sing only) usual state, level, etc: *above/below ~.*

nor-mal-ly /'nɔːmli/ *adv*

north /nɔːθ/ *n* **1** the ~, one of the four cardinal points of the compass, to the left of a person facing the sunrise; part of any country farther in this direction than other parts: *the ~ of England; cold winds from the ~.* **2** (used as an adjective) situated in, living in, of, from, the north: *a ~ wind.* □ *adv* to or towards the north: *sailing ~.*

the North, northern area (of England, Wales, etc).

the North Pole, end of the earth's axis of rotation marking the farthest north.

nor-th-east, north-west (abbr **NE, NW**) *n, adj, adv* (sometimes, esp *naut*, **nor'-east** /'nɔːr 'iːst/, **nor'-west** /'nɔːr 'west/) (regions) midway between north and east or north and west.

nor-th-north-east, north-north-west (abbr **NNE, NNW**) *n, adj, adv* (sometimes, esp *naut*, **nor'-nor'-east, nor'-nor'-west**) (regions) midway between north and north-east or northwest.

nor-th-easter-ly *adj* (a) (of wind) blowing from the northeast. (b) (of direction) towards the northeast.

nor-th-eastern /-'iːstən/ *adj* of, from, situated in, the northeast.

nor-th-wester-ly *adj* (a) (of wind) from the northwest. (b) (of direction) towards the northwest.

nor-th-western /-'westən/ *adj* of, from, situated in, the northwest.

north-er-ly /'nɔːðli/ *adj, adv* **1** (of winds) from the north. **2** (of direction) towards the north; in or to the north.

north-ern /'nɔːðən/ *adj* of, from, in, the north part of the world, a country, etc.

the Northern Hemisphere, ⇨ hemisphere.

the northern lights, the aurora borealis.

north-er-ner, person born in or living in the north regions of a country.

'north-ern-most /-məʊst/ *adj* farthest north.

north-ward /'nɔːθwəd/ *adj* towards the north: *in a ~ direction.*

north-wards *adv*: *to travel ~s.*

nose¹ /nəʊz/ *n* [C] **1** part of the face above the mouth, through which breath passes, and serving as the organ of smell: *hit a man on the ~. as plain as the nose on one's face*, obvious. (*right*) *under one's very nose*, (a) directly in front of one. (b) in one's presence, and regardless of one's disapproval.

cut off one's nose to spite one's face, damage one's own interests in a fit of bad temper. **follow one's nose**, (a) go straight forward. (b) be guided by instinct. **keep one's nose clean**, avoid trouble. **lead sb by the nose**, make him do everything one wants him to do. **look down one's nose at sb**, ⇨ look down. **pay through the nose**, pay an excessive price. **poke/stick one's nose into** (sb else's business), ask questions, etc without being asked to do so. **put sb's nose out of joint**, ⇨ joint²(2). **rub sb's nose in it**, (informal) remind him unkindly of his recent failure. **turn one's nose up at**, show contempt for. **2** sense of smell: *a dog with a good ~.* **3** (fig) good sense for finding out: *a reporter with a ~ for news/scandal.* ⇨ nose². **4** something like a nose in shape or position, eg the open end of a pipe or the front part of an aircraft.

'nose-bag, bag for food (oats, etc) fastened on a horse's head.

'nose-bleed, bleeding from the nose.

'nose-cone, most forward section of a rocket or guided missile, usually separable.

'nose-dive *n* sharp vertical descent made by an aircraft. □ *vi* (of an aircraft) come down steeply with the nose pointing to earth.

'nose-gay, bunch of cut (esp sweet-scented) flowers.

'nose-ring, ring fixed in the nose of a bull, etc for leading it.

'nose-wheel, the front landing-wheel under an aircraft.

nose² /nəʊz/ *vt, vi* **1** go forward carefully, push (one's way): *The ship ~d its way slowly through the ice.* **2 nose sth out**, discover by smelling: *The dog ~d out a rat.* **3** (fig) enquire or search for rudely: *~ out a scandal; nosing into other people's affairs/nosing about for information.*

nosey, nosy /'nəʊzi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest), *n* [C] (sl) inquisitive (person).

'nosey-parker, (sl) inquisitive person.

nos-tal-gia /nɒ'stældʒiə/ *n* [U] longing for

something one has known in the past; homesickness: *full of ~*.

nos-tal-gic /nɒ'stældʒɪk/ *adj* of, feeling or causing, nostalgia.

nos-tal-gi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

nos-tril /'nɒstrɪl/ *n* [C] either of the two external openings into the nose.

not /nɒt/ *adv* (often contracted to -n't /-nt/, as in *hasn't* /'hæznt/, *needn't* /'ni:dn't/) Used to make a negative. **1** (used with non-finite verbs): *He warned me ~ to be late.* **2** (used after certain verbs, esp *think*, *suppose*, *believe*, *expect*, *fear*, *fancy*, *trust*, *hope*, *seem*, *appear*, and the phrase *be afraid* equivalent to a *that*-clause): *'Can you come next week?' - 'I'm afraid ~.* *I'm afraid that I cannot come.* *'Will it rain this afternoon?' - 'I hope ~.* **as likely as not**, \diamond likely(2). **as soon as not**, \diamond soon(4). **not at all**, /nɒt ə 'tɔ:l/ (used as a polite response to thanks, enquiries after a person's health, etc): *'Thank you very much' - 'N~ at all.'* *'Are you tired?' - 'N~ at all.'* Not in the least. **3** (used in understatements): *~ a few*, = many; *~ seldom*, = often; *~ without reason*, = with good reason. **not that**, it is not suggested that: *If he ever said so - ~ that I ever heard him say so - he told a lie.*

nota bene /nəʊtə 'benet/ *v* imperative (Latin) (abbr **NB**, **nb** /en 'bi:/) observe, note, carefully.

no-table /'nəʊtəbl/ *adj* deserving to be noticed; remarkable: *~ events/speakers.* \square *n* [C] eminent person.

no-tably /-əbl/ *adv*

no-tary /'nəʊtəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (also ~ 'public) official with authority to do certain kinds of legal business, such as witnessing the signing of legal documents.

no-ta-tion /nəʊ'teɪʃn/ *n* [C] system of signs or symbols representing numbers, amounts, musical notes, etc. **2** [U] representing of numbers, etc by such signs or symbols.

notch /nɒtʃ/ *n* [C] V-shaped cut (in or on something). \square *vt* make or cut a notch in or on.

note ¹ /nəʊt/ *n* [C] **1** short record (of facts, etc) made to help the memory: *He spoke for an hour without ~s.* **2** short letter: *a ~ of thanks.* **3** short comment on or explanation of a word or passage in a book, etc: *a new edition of 'Hamlet', with ~s at the back.* \diamond footnote. **4** observation (not necessarily written): *He was comparing ~s with a friend*, exchanging views, comparing experiences, etc. **5** written or printed promise to pay money: *'bank-~s; a £5 ~.* **6** single sound of a certain pitch and duration: *play ~s on the piano.* **strike the right note**, \diamond strike²(4). **7** sign used to represent such a sound in manuscript or printed music. **8** (usually *sing* with *a*, *an*) quality or tone (esp of voice) showing feelings, attitude, etc: *There was a ~ of pleasure in his speech.* **9** [U] distinction; importance: *a family of ~.* **10** [U] notice;

attention: *worthy of ~.* *Take ~ of what he says.* Pay attention to it.

'note-book, pad(2) in which to write notes.

'note-case, wallet for banknotes.

'note-paper, (kinds of) paper for writing, esp private, letters.

note ² /nəʊt/ *vi* **1** notice; pay attention to: *N~ how I did it.* **2** make a note of; write (down) in order to remember: *The policeman was noting down every word I said.*

noted /'nəʊtɪd/ *adj* celebrated; well-known: *a town ~ for its pottery/as a health resort.*

note-worthy /'nəʊtwɜ:ði/ *adj* deserving to be noted; remarkable.

noth-ing ¹ /'nɒθɪŋ/ *adv* not at all; in no way: *It is ~ near as large/~ like as good.*

noth-ing ² /'nɒθɪŋ/ *n* not anything: *He's had ~ to eat yet.* *N~ ever pleases her.* *There's ~ like leather* (= Nothing is so good as leather) *for shoes.* **for nothing**, (a) free: without payment. (b) without a reward or result; to no purpose: *It was not for ~ that he spent three years studying the subject.* **next to nothing**, \diamond next(2). **be nothing to**, (a) not be of interest to: *She's ~ to him.* (b) not to be compared to: *My losses are ~ to yours.* **come to nothing**, fail. **have nothing on**, \diamond on¹(4). **have nothing to do with**, (a) avoid; have no dealings with: *Have ~ to do with that man.* (b) not to be the business or concern of: *This has ~ to do with you.* **mean nothing to**, (a) have no meaning for: *These technical words mean ~ to me.* (b) be of no concern or interest to: *He used to like Jane but she means ~ to him now.* **think nothing of**, \diamond think of. **to say nothing of**, without mentioning: *He owns houses, cars and shops, to say ~ of his land abroad.*

no-tice /'nəʊtɪs/ *n* [C] (written or printed) news of something about to happen or that has happened: *put up a ~.* **2** [U] warning, suggestion (of what will happen): *give the typist a month's ~*, tell her that she must leave her job at the end of one month. **(do sth) at short notice**, with little warning, time for preparation, etc. **3** [U] attention. **bring sth/come to sb's notice**, call a person's attention/ have one's attention called to something: *It has come to my ~ that...* *I have learnt that...* **take no notice (of)**, pay no attention: *Take no ~ of them/ of what they're saying about you.* **4** [C] short particulars of a new book, play, etc in a periodical. \square *vt, vi* pay attention; observe: *I wasn't noticing. I didn't ~ you.*

no-tice-able /-əbl/ *adj* easily seen or noticed.

no-tice-ably /-əblɪ/ *adv*

no-ti-fi-able /,nəʊtɪ'faɪəbl/ *adj* that must be reported (esp of certain diseases that must be reported to public health authorities).

no-tify /'nəʊtɪfaɪ/ *vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) give notice of; report: *~ the police of a loss; ~ the authorities that...*

no-ti-fi-ca-tion /nəʊtɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

no-tion /'nəʊʃn/ *n* [C] idea; opinion: *I have no ~ of what he means.*

no-tional /-ʃənl/ *adj* (a) (of knowledge, etc) not based on experiment or demonstration. (b) existing only in thought.

no-tor-i-ety /nəʊtə'ri:əti/ *n* [U] state of being notorious.

no-tori-ous /nəʊ'tɔ:riəs/ *adj* well-known (esp for something bad): *a ~ criminal.*

no-tori-ous-ly *adv*

not-with-stand-ing /nɒtwɪð'stændɪŋ/ *adv* nevertheless; all the same. □ *conj* although. □ *prep* in spite of.

nou-gat /'nu:ɡɑ: US: 'nu:ɡət/ *n* [U] sort of hard sweet made of sugar, nuts, etc.

nought /nɒt/ *n* [C] nothing; the figure 0: *point ~ one, ie -01. come to nought, fail.*

noun /nɑ:ʊn/ *n* [C] (gram) word (not a *pronoun*) which can function as the subject or object of a *verb*, or the object of a *preposition* (marked *n* in this dictionary). ⇨ *countable/uncountable noun*.

nour-ish /'nʌrɪʃ US: 'nər-/ *vt* 1 keep (a person) alive and well with food: ~ing food. 2 improve (land) with manure, etc: ~ the soil. 3 (formal) have or encourage (hope, fear, etc): ~ hope in one's heart.

nour-ish-ment *n* [U] (formal) food.

nova /'nəʊvə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s or ~e /-vi/) star that suddenly increases its brilliance and then dims again.

novel /'nɒvl/ *adj* strange; new; of a kind not previously known: ~ ideas.

novel /'nɒvl/ *n* [C] story in prose, long enough to fill one or more volumes, about either imaginary or historical people: *the ~s of Dickens.*

novel-lette /-let/, short novel.

novel-ist /-ɪst/, writer of novels.

nov-elty /'nɒvəlti/ *n* (pl -ies) 1 [U] newness; strangeness; quality of being novel: *the ~ of his surroundings.* 2 [C] previously unknown or unfamiliar thing, idea, etc. 3 (pl) manufactured goods of low cost, eg toys, decorations.

No-vem-ber /nəʊ'vembə(r)/ *n* the eleventh month of the year, with 30 days.

nov-ice /'nɒvɪs/ *n* [C] 1 person who is still learning and who is without experience. 2 person who is training to become a monk or a nun.

no-vi-ci-ate, no-vi-ti-ate /nəʊ'vɪʃɪət/, *nov-ice*; period of being a novice.

now /nəʊ/ *adv* 1 at the present time; in the present circumstances: *Where are you ~ living/living ~?* *N ~ is the best time to visit Devon.* 2 (used after a *preposition*): *Up to/Till/Until ~ we have been lucky. (every) now and then again, occasionally; from time to time: We go to the opera ~ and then. now... now; now... then, at one time, at another time: N ~ you see me, ~ you don't.* 3 at once;

immediately: *Do it (right) ~! just now, ⇨ just²(6).* 4 (used without reference to time, to indicate the mood of the speaker, to explain, warn, comfort, etc): *N ~ stop quarrelling and listen to me. now, 'now; now then, (used at the beginning of a sentence, often as a protest or warning, or simply to call attention: N ~ then, what have you been up to? □ conj because of the fact (that): N ~ (that) you're grown up, you must stop this childish behaviour.*

now-adays /'nəʊədeɪz/ *adv* at the present time (and often used in contrasts between present day manners, customs, etc and those of past times): *N ~ children are much healthier.*

no-where /'nəʊweə(r) US: -hweər/ *adv* not anywhere: *The boy was ~ to be found. no-where near, ⇨ near².*

nox-i-ous /'nɒksjəs/ *adj* harmful: ~ gases.

nozzle /'nɒzl/ *n* [C] metal end of a hose, etc through which a stream of liquid or air is directed.

nu-ance /'nju:əns US: nu:'æns/ *n* [C] small difference in or of shade of meaning, opinion, colour, etc.

nu-bile /'nju:bəl US: 'nu:bl/ *adj* (of girls) marriageable; old enough to marry.

nu-clear /'nju:kliə(r) US: 'nu:/ *adj* of a nucleus; using nuclear energy.

nuclear 'bomb, using nuclear energy to provide its destructive power.

nuclear dis'armament, agreement not to develop, stock or use nuclear weapons.

nuclear 'energy, great energy produced during reactions on atomic nuclei.

nuclear 'physics, study of the atomic nucleus and its behaviour.

nuclear 'power, (a) power from nuclear energy. (b) country having nuclear weapons.

nuclear-powered *adj* using nuclear energy: *a ~-powered submarine.*

nuclear re'actor, device that generates power by atomic fission.

nuclear 'warfare, using nuclear bombs.

nu-cleus /'nju:kliəs US: 'nu:/ *n* [C] (pl nuclei /-klaɪ/) 1 central part of an atom, consisting of protons and neutrons. 2 central part, round which other parts are grouped or round which other things collect.

nude /nju:d US: nud/ *adj* naked. □ *n* [C] nude human figure (esp in art). *in the nude, naked.*

nu-dist /-ɪst/, person who lives unclothed and believes that sun and air is good for the health.

'nudist camp/colony, place where nudists practise their beliefs.

nu-dity /-əti/, nakedness.

nudge /nʌdʒ/ *vt* touch or push slightly with the elbow in order to attract a person's attention. □ *n* [C] push given in this way.

nug-get /'nʌɡɪt/ *n* [C] lump of metal, esp gold, as found in the earth.

nui-sance /'nju:sns US: 'nu:-/ *n* [C] thing, person, act, etc that causes trouble or offence: *These flies are a ~.*

null /nʌl/ *adj* of no effect or force. **null and void.** (legal) without legal effect, invalid.

null-ify /'nʌlɪfaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) make null and void.

null-li-fi-ca-tion /'nʌlɪfɪkeɪʃn/ *n* [U]

numb /nʌm/ *adj* (-er, -est) without ability to feel or move: ~ with cold/shock. □ *vt* make numb: ~ed with grief.

numb-ness *n* [U]

num-ber /'nʌmbə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** 3, 13, 33 and 103 are ~s. **2** quantity or amount: a large ~ of people. A ~ of books (= Some books) are missing from the library. **in number:** They were fifteen in ~. There were fifteen of them. **without number,** too many to be counted.

3 (usually shortened to **No**, with *pl* **Nos**, before a figure): Room No 145, eg in a hotel. **4** one issue of a periodical, esp for one day, week, etc: the current ~ of 'Punch'. ⇨ back-number. **5** dance, song, music, etc for the stage. **6** (pl) numerical superiority: The enemy won by force of ~s. **7** (pl) arithmetic: He's not good at ~s. □ *vt* **1** give a number to: Let's ~ them from 1 to 10. **2** amount to; add up to: We ~ed 20 in all. **3** include; place: ~ her among one's friends. **4** (passive) be restricted in number: His days are ~ed, He has not long to live. **5** (mil) call out one's number in a rank of soldiers: The company ~ed off from the right.

'number-plate, plate showing the index-mark and number of motor-vehicles, the number of a house, etc.

nu-mer-al /'nju:mərəl US: 'nu:-/ *n* [C], *adj* (word, figure or sign) standing for a number; of number.

Arabic numeral, 1, 2, 3, 4 etc.

Roman numeral, I, II, III, IV, etc.

nu-mer-ate /'nju:məreɪt US: 'nu:-/ *adj* (of a person) having good basic ability in mathematics and science. ⇨ *literate*.

nu-mer-ation /'nju:mə'reɪʃn US: 'nu:-/ *n* [C] **1** method or process of numbering or calculating. **2** expression in words of numbers written in figures.

nu-mer-a-tor /'nju:mə'reɪtə(r) US: 'nu:-/ *n* [C] number above the line in a vulgar fraction, eg 3 in $\frac{3}{4}$. ⇨ *denominator*.

nu-meri-cal /'nju:merɪkəl US: 'nu:-/ *adj* of, in, denoting, numbers: ~ symbols.

nu-meri-cally /-kəl/ *adv:* The enemy were ~ly superior.

nu-mer-ous /'nju:mərəs US: 'nu:-/ *adj* great in number; very many: her ~ friends.

nun /nʌn/ *n* [C] woman who, after taking religious vows, lives, with other women in a convent in the service of God.

nun-ery /'nʌnəri/, convent.

nup-tial /'nʌpʃəl/ *adj* (formal) of marriage or weddings.

nup-tials *n pl* (formal) wedding.

nurse /nɜ:s/ *n* [C] **1** person who cares for people who are ill or injured (in a hospital, etc). **2** ('nurse-)maid, woman or girl employed to look after babies and young children. ⇨ *nanny*. **3** ('wet-)nurse, woman (formerly) employed to give her own natural milk to another woman's child. **4** [U] nursing or being nursed: put a child to ~.

nurse /nɜ:s/ *vt* **1** take charge of and look after (persons who are ill, injured, etc). **2** feed (a baby) at the breast. **3** hold (a baby, a child, a pet dog) on the knees; clasp carefully. **4** give special care to: ~ young plants. **nurse a cold,** stay at home, keep warm, in order to cure it. **nurse a constituency,** keep in touch with the voters (to obtain or retain their support). **5** have in the mind, think about a great deal: He was nursing feelings of revenge.

nurs-ery /'nɜ:səri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** room (in a house, passenger liner, etc) for the special use of small children. **2** place where young plants and trees are raised (for transplanting later).

'day nursery, (a) room (in a wealthy home) where small children play, have their meals, etc. (b) building where mothers who go out to work may leave babies and young children.

'nurs-ery-man /-mən/, man who owns a nursery (2).

'nursery rhyme, poem or song (usually traditional) for young children.

'nursery school, for children of 3 to 5.

nursery slope, skiing slope suitable for learners.

nurs-ing /'nɜ:sɪŋ/ *n* [U] the profession or duties of a nurse (1): Careful ~ will be needed.

'nursing-home, building, usually privately owned, smaller than a hospital, for the sick or aged.

nur-ture /'nɜ:tʃə(r)/ *n* [U] (formal) care, training; education (of children). □ *vt* bring up; train: a delicately ~d girl.

nut /nʌt/ *n* [C] **1** fruit consisting of a hard shell round a part (kernel) that can be eaten. **a hard nut to crack,** a difficult problem to solve. **2** small piece of metal with a threaded hole for screwing on to a bolt. **3** (sl) head (of a human being). **off one's nut,** (sl) insane. **4** (pl) small lumps of coal.

'nut-crackers *n pl* device for cracking nuts open.

'nut house, (sl) mental hospital.

'nut-shell, hard outside covering of a nut. (put sth) in a nutshell. (fig) say, write, it in the fewest possible words.

nut-meg /'nʌtmeg/ *n* **1** [C] hard, small, round, sweet-smelling seed of an E Indian evergreen. **2** [U] this seed grated to powder, used as a flavouring.

nu-tri-ent /'nju:triənt US: 'nu:-/ *adj* (formal) serving as or providing nourishment.

nu-tri-ment /'nju:trɪmənt US: 'nu:-/ *n* [C, U]

(*formal*) nourishing food.

nu-tri-tion /nju:'triʃn/ *US*: nu:-/ *n* [U] (*formal*) the process of supplying and receiving nourishment; the science of food values: *the care and ~ of children*.

nu-tri-tious /nju:'triʃəs/ *US*: nu:-/ *adj* (*formal*) having high value as food.

nu-tri-tive /nju:'tritiv/ *US*: 'nu:-/ *adj* (*formal*) serving as food; of nutrition.

nuts /nʌts/ *adj* (*sl*) crazy; mad. **be nuts about/over sb/sth**, be very much in love with, infatuated with.

nutty /'nʌti/ *adj* (-iə-, -iəst) **1** tasting, looking, like nuts (1). **2** (*sl*) mad; crazy. **3** containing, made up of, nuts (4): ~ coal.

nuzzle /'nʌzl/ *vt, vi* press, rub or push the nose against: *The horse ~d (up against) my shoulder*.

ny-ion /'naɪon/ *n* **1** [U] (*P*) synthetic fibre used for hosiery, rope, brushes, etc: ~ tights/ blouses. **2** (*pl*) (*dated*) nylon stockings; tights.

nymph /nɪmf/ *n* [C] **1** (in Greek and Roman stories) one of the lesser goddesses, living in rivers, trees, hills, etc. **2** (*literary*) beautiful young woman. **3** pupa; chrysalis.

Oo

O, o /əʊ/ (*pl* O's, o's /əʊz/) **1** the 15th letter of the English alphabet. **2** O-shaped sign or mark. **3** zero (esp when saying telephone numbers).

O, oh /əʊ/ *int* cry of surprise, fear, pain, sudden pleasure, etc.

oak /əʊk/ *n* [C] sorts of large tree with tough, hard wood, common in many parts of the world; [U] the wood of this tree: *a forest of ~s* / *of ~-trees*.

oar /ɔ:(r)/ *n* [C] pole with a flat blade used to move a boat through the water. **put/shove one's oar in**, (*informal*) interfere. **rest on one's oars**, relax one's efforts.

oars-man, 'oars-woman, rower.

oasis /əʊ'eɪsɪs/ *n* [C] (*pl* oases /-sɪz/) **1** fertile place, with water, in a desert. **2** (*fig*) experience, place, etc which is pleasant in the midst of what is dull, unpleasant, etc.

oast /əʊst/ *n* [C] kiln for drying hops.

'oast-house, building containing an oast.

oat /əʊt/ *n* [C] (usually *pl*) **1** (grain from a) cereal plant grown in cool climates as food (oats for horses, oatmeal for human beings). **sow one's wild oats**, lead a life of pleasure and gaiety while young before settling down seriously. **2** (used with a *sing verb*) oatmeal porridge: *Is Scotch ~s on the breakfast menu?* **'oat-meal**, oats in porridge, etc.

oath /əʊθ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s /əʊðz/) **1** solemn undertaking with God's help to do something. **2** solemn declaration that something is true. **be on/under oath**, (*legal*) having sworn to tell the truth. **swear/take an oath**, promise solemnly to give (one's loyalty, allegiance, etc). **3** wrongful use of God's name or of sacred words to express strong feeling; swear-word.

ob-du-racy /'ɒbdjərəsɪ/ *US*: -də-/- *n* [U] (*formal*) stubbornness.

ob-du-rate /'ɒbdjərət/ *US*: -də-/- *adj* (*formal*) stubborn; not showing regret.

ob-dur-ate-ly *adv*

obedience /ə'bi:diəns/ *n* [U] being obedient, showing obedience: *Soldiers act in ~ to the orders of their superior officers*.

obedi-ent /ə'bi:diənt/ *adj* doing, willing to do, what one is told to do: ~ children.

obedi-ent-ly *adv*

ob-elisk /'ɒbəɪsk/ *n* [C] tall, pointed four-sided stone pillar, set up as a monument or landmark.

obese /əʊ'bi:s/ *adj* (*formal*) (of persons) very fat.

obesity /əʊ'bi:səti/ *n* [U] (*formal*) being obese.

obey /ə'bei/ *vt, vi* do what one is told to do; carry out (a command): *They refused to ~. I was ~ing orders*.

obitu-ary /ə'bitʃuəri/ *US*: -tʃuəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** printed notice of a person's death, often with a short account of his life. **2** (used as an adjective): ~ notices, eg in a newspaper.

ob-ject¹ /'ɒbdʒekt/ *n* [C] **1** something that can be seen or touched; material thing: *Tell me the names of the ~s in this room*. **2** person or thing to which action or feeling or thought is directed: *an ~ of pity/admiration*. **3** purpose; end: *with no ~ in life; fail/succeed in one's ~*. **4** (*gram*) noun, clause, etc towards which the action of the verb is directed, or to which a preposition indicates some relation.

direct object, ⇨ *direct*¹.

indirect object, ⇨ *indirect*.

prepositional object, ⇨ *preposition*.

ob-ject² /əb'dʒekt/ *vi* say that one is not in favour of something; be opposed (to); make a protest against: *I ~ to all this noise/to being treated like a child. He stood up and ~ed in strong language*.

ob-jec-tor /-tə(r)/, person who objects. ⇨ *conscientious objector*.

ob-jec-tion /əb'dʒekʃn/ *n* **1** [C, U] statement or feeling of dislike, disapproval or opposition: *He has a strong ~ to getting up early. He took ~ to what I said*. **2** [C] that which is objected to.

ob-jec-tion-able /-əbl/ *adj* likely to be objected to; unpleasant: *an ~able smell; ~able remarks*.

ob-jec-tion-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

ob-jec-tive /əb'dʒektɪv/ *adj* **1** (in philosophy) having existence outside the mind; real. ⇨ **subjective**. **2** (of persons, writings, pictures) not influenced by personal thought or feeling; dealing with things, actual facts, etc. **3** (*gram*) of the object (**4**): *the ~ form of 'I' is 'me'*. ⇨ also case¹ (**4**). □ *n* [**C**] **1** object aimed at; purpose. **2** position to which armed forces are moving to capture it; military aim: *All our ~s were won.*

ob-jec-tive-ly *adv* in an objective (**2**) manner.

ob-jec-tiv-ity /ɒb'dʒektɪvəti/ *n* [**U**] state of being objective; impartial or unprejudiced judgement.

ob-la-tion /ə'bleɪʃn/ *n* [**C**] offering made to God or a god.

ob-li-gate /'ɒblɪgeɪt/ *vt* (usually *passive*) compel (a person, esp legally) (to do something): *He felt ~d to help.*

ob-li-ga-tion /ɒblɪ'geɪʃn/ *n* [**C**] promise, duty or condition that shows what action ought to be taken (eg the power of the law, duty, a sense of what is right): *the ~s of conscience*. **be/place sb under an obligation**, **be/make him indebted to another**.

ob-li-ga-tory /ə'blɪgətəri/ *US*: -tɔːri/ *adj* that is required by law, rule or custom: *Is attendance at the meeting ~ or optional?*

ob-lige /ə'blaɪdʒ/ *vt* **1** require, compel, by a promise, oath, etc: *The law ~s parents to send their children to school*. **be obliged to do sth**, **compelled**: *They were ~d to (= had to) sell their house in order to pay their debts*. ⇨ **have**³ (**1**). **2** do something as a favour or in answer to a request: *Please ~ me by closing the door*. *I'm much ~d to you*, *I'm grateful for what you've done*.

oblig-ing *adj* willing to help: *obliging neighbours*.

oblig-ing-ly *adv*

ob-lique /ə'blɪk/ *adj* sloping; slanting.

oblique angle, angle that is not a right angle (ie not 90°).

ob-lique-ly *adv*

ob-lit-er-ate /ə'blɪtəreɪt/ *vt* rub or blot out; remove all signs of; destroy.

ob-lit-er-a-tion /ə'blɪtə'reɪʃn/ *n* [**U**]

ob-liv-ion /ə'blɪvɪən/ *n* [**U**] state of being completely forgotten. **sink/fall into oblivion**, **be forgotten**.

ob-liv-i-ous /ə'blɪvɪəs/ *adj* unaware, having no memory: *~ of one's surroundings/of what was happening*.

ob-long /'ɒblɒŋ/ *US*: -lɔːŋ/ *n* [**C**], *adj* (figure) having four straight sides and angles at 90°, longer than it is wide.

ob-nox-i-ous /ə'bɒksɪəs/ *adj* (of, eg smell) nasty; very disagreeable (*to*).

ob-nox-i-ous-ly *adv*

oboe /'əʊbəʊ/ *n* [**C**] woodwind instrument of treble pitch with a double-reed mouthpiece.

'ob-o-ist /-ɪst/, player of the oboe.

ob-scene /əb'siːn/ *adj* (of words, thoughts, books, pictures, etc) morally disgusting; offensive; likely to corrupt (esp by regarding or describing sex indecently).

ob-scene-ly *adv*

ob-scen-ity /əb'seniːti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) [**U**] being obscene; offensive language, etc; [**C**] instance of this.

ob-scure /əb'skjʊə(r)/ *adj* **1** dark; hidden; not clearly seen or understood: *an ~ view/corner*. *Is the meaning still ~ to you?* **2** not well known: *an ~ village/poet*. □ *vt* make obscure; hide: *Clouds were obscuring the moon*.

ob-scure-ly *adv*

ob-scur-ity /əb'skjʊərəti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [**U**] state of being obscure: *content to live in ~*. **2** [**C**] something that is obscure: *a philosophical essay full of obscurities*.

ob-sequi-ous /əb'siːkwɪəs/ *adj* too eager to obey or serve; showing excessive respect (esp from hope of reward or advantage): *~ to the Manager*.

ob-sequi-ous-ly *adv*

ob-serv-able /əb'zɜːvəbl/ *adj* **1** that can be seen or noticed. **2** deserving to be observed.

ob-serv-ance /əb'zɜːvns/ *n* **1** [**U**] the keeping or observing (**2,3**) of a law, custom, festival, etc: *the ~ of Independence Day*. **2** [**C**] act performed as part of a ceremony, or as a sign of respect or worship.

ob-serv-ant /əb'zɜːvnt/ *adj* **1** quick at noticing things: *an ~ boy*. **2** careful to observe (**2**) laws, customs, etc: *~ of the rules*.

ob-serv-ant-ly *adv*

ob-serv-a-tion /ɒbzə'veɪʃn/ *n* **1** [**U**] observing or being observed: *~ of the stars*. **be/come/keep under observation**, **be watched/watch carefully**: *under medical ~*. **2** [**U**] power of taking notice: *a man of little ~*. **3** (usually *pl*) collected and recorded information: *~s on bird life in the Antarctic*. **4** [**C**] taking of the altitude of the sun or other heavenly body in order to find the latitude and longitude of one's position.

observation post (*mil*) post as near to the enemy's lines as possible, from which reports of the enemy's movements may be obtained.

ob-serv-a-tory /əb'zɜːvətəri/ *US*: -tɔːri/ *n* [**C**] (*pl* -ies) building from which natural things (eg the sun and the stars, marine life) may be observed.

ob-serve /əb'zɜːv/ *vt, vi* **1** see and notice; watch carefully: *observing the behaviour of birds*. *The accused man was ~d entering the bank*. **2** pay attention to (rules, etc). **3** celebrate (the usual word) (festivals, birthdays, etc): *Do they ~ Christmas in that country?* **4** say by way of comment: *He ~d that the house seemed to be too small*. **5** attend (eg a conference) to listen but not to take an active part.

ob-server, (**a**) person who observes (**1**): *an*

~r of nature. (b) person who observes (3); an ~r of the Sabbath. (c) person who observes (5).

ob-serv-ing *adj* quick to notice.

ob-serv-ing-ly *adv*

ob-sess /əb'ses/ *vt* (usually *passive*) (of a fear, etc) occupy the mind of; continually distress: ~ed by fear of unemployment/failure.

ob-ses-sion /əb'seɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] state of being obsessed. 2 [C] thing, fixed idea, etc that occupies one's mind.

ob-sess-ive /əb'sesɪv/ *adj* of or like an obsession.

ob-sol-es-cence /əb'sə'lesns/ *n* [U] being obsolescent.

ob-sol-es-cent /əb'sə'lesnt/ *adj* becoming out of date; passing out of use.

ob-sol-ete /'əbsəli:t/ *adj* no longer used; out-of-date.

ob-stacle /'ɒbstəkl/ *n* [C] something that stops progress or makes it difficult: ~s to world peace.

'obstacle race, (a) one in which obstacles, eg ditches, hedges, have to be crossed. (b) (fig) aim, etc with many difficulties to be overcome.

ob-ste-tri-cian /əb'ste'triʃn/ *n* [C] expert in obstetrics.

ob-stet-rics /əb'ste'trɪks/ *n* *pl* branch of medicine and surgery connected with childbirth.

ob-sti-nacy /'ɒbstɪnəsi/ *n* [U] being obstinate; stubbornness.

ob-sti-nate /'ɒbstɪnət/ *adj* 1 not easily giving way to argument or persuasion: ~ children. 2 not easily overcome: an ~ disease.

ob-sti-nate-ly *adv*

ob-struct /əb'strakt/ *vt* 1 be, get, put, something in the way of; block up (a road, passage, etc): Trees ~ed the view. 2 make (the development, etc of something) difficult: ~ justice in the magistrate's court.

ob-struc-tion /əb'strakʃn/ *n* 1 [U] obstructing or being obstructed: The Opposition adopted a policy of ~. 2 [C] something that obstructs: ~s on the road, eg trees blown down in a storm.

ob-struc-tive /əb'straktɪv/ *adj* causing, likely or intended to cause, obstruction: a policy ~ to our plans.

ob-tain /əb'teɪn/ *vt, vi* 1 get; secure for oneself; buy; have lent or granted to oneself: ~ what one wants. Where can I ~ the book? 2 (formal) (of rules, customs) be established or in use: The custom still ~s in some districts.

ob-tain-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be obtained.

ob-trude /əb'tru:d/ *vt, vi* push (oneself, one's opinions, etc) forward, esp when unwanted.

ob-tru-sive /əb'tru:sɪv/ *adj* (making oneself) too noticeable.

ob-tru-sive-ly *adv*

ob-tuse /əb'tju:s/ *US*: -'tu:s/ *adj* 1 insensitive and not trying to be gentle or polite: an ~ remark. 2 (of a person) slow in understanding; unintelligent.

obtuse angle, one between 90° and 180°.

obtuse-ly *adv*

ob-tuse-ness *n* [U]

ob-vi-ate /'ɒbvɪet/ *vt* (formal) get rid of, clear away (dangers, difficulties, needs, etc).

ob-vi-ous /'ɒbvɪəs/ *adj* easily seen or understood; clear; plain.

ob-vi-ous-ly *adv*

oc-ca-sion /ə'keɪʒn/ *n* 1 [C] time at which a particular event takes place or should take place: on this/that ~...; on the present/last ~...; on rare ~s. He has had few ~s to speak French. **on occasion**, now and then; whenever the need arises. **rise to the occasion**, show that one is capable of doing what needs to be done. 2 [U] reason; cause; need: I've had no ~ to visit him recently. 3 [C] immediate, subsidiary or incidental cause of something: The real causes of the strike are not clear, but the ~ was the dismissal of two workmen. *□ vt* (formal) be the cause of: The boy's behaviour ~ed his parents much anxiety.

oc-ca-sional /ə'keɪʒənl/ *adj* 1 happening, coming, seen, etc from time to time, but not regularly: He pays me ~ visits. 2 used or meant for a special event, time, purpose, etc: ~ verses, eg written to celebrate an anniversary.

oc-ca-sion-ally *adv* now and then; at times.

oc-cu-pancy /'ɒkjʊpəns/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) act, fact, period of occupying a house, land, etc by being in possession.

oc-cu-pant /'ɒkjʊpənt/ *n* [C] 1 person who occupies a house, room or office. 2 person in actual possession of land, etc.

oc-cu-pa-tion /'ɒkjʊ'peɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] act of occupying (1,2); taking and holding possession of: the ~ of a house by a family. 2 [U] period during which land, a building, etc is occupied. 3 [C] business, trade, etc. 4 [C] that which occupies one's time, either permanently or as a hobby, etc.

oc-cu-pa-tional /-ʃənl/ *adj* arising from, connected with, a person's job.

occu-pational hazards, risks that arise from a person's work (eg explosions in coal-mines).

occu-pational therapy, treatment of illness, etc by mental or physical activity.

oc-cu-pier /'ɒkjʊpaɪə(r)/ *n* [C] occupant; person in (esp temporary or subordinate) possession of land or a building (contrasted with the owner or tenant).

oc-cupy /'ɒkjʊpaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) 1 live in, be in possession of, (a house, farm, etc). 2 take and keep possession of (towns, countries, etc) in war: ~ the enemy's capital. 3 take up, fill (space, time, attention, a seat, the mind):

Many anxieties ~ my mind. He is occupied with playing chess. Is this seat occupied? **4** hold, fill: She occupies an important position in the Department of the Environment.

oc-cur /ə'kʌ:(r)/ vi (-rr-) **1** take place; happen: When did the accident ~? **2** **occur to**, come to mind: Did it ever ~ to you that..., Did you ever have the idea that...? **3** exist; be found: Sadly poverty ~s in every country.

oc-cur-rence /ə'kʌrəns US: ə'kʌrəns/ n **1** [C] happening; event: an sad ~. **2** [U] fact or process of occurring: of frequent/rare ~.

ocean /əʊʃn/ n [C] **1** the great body of water that surrounds the land masses of the earth. **2** one of the main divisions of this: the Atlantic/Pacific O~. **3** (informal) great number or quantity: ~s of time.

oceanic /əʊʃi'ænik/ adj of, like, living in, the ocean.

ochre (US also **ocher**) /'əʊkə(r)/ n [U] **1** sorts of earth used for making pigments varying from light yellow to brown. **2** pale yellowish-brown colour.

o'clock /ə'klɒk/ particle (used in asking and telling the time) (ie an hour): He left at five ~. I'll come between five and six ~. It is nearly one ~.

oc-ta-gon /'ɒktəgən US: -gɒn/ n [C] flat figure with eight sides and angles.

oc-tag-onal /ɒk'tægənəl/ adj eight-sided.

oc-tane /'ɒkteɪn/ n [C,U] hydrocarbon paraffin (as in fuels such as petrol).

oc-tave /'ɒktɪv/ n [C] **1** (music) note that is six whole tones above or below a given note; the interval of five whole tones and two semitones; note and its octave sounded together. **2** (poetry) first eight lines of a sonnet; stanza of eight lines.

oc-tet, oc-tette /'ɒk'tet/ n [C] **1** (piece of music for) eight singers or players. **2** = octave(2).

Oc-to-ber /'ɒk'təʊbə(r)/ n the tenth month of the year, with 31 days.

oc-to-gen-arian /'ɒktədʒi'neəriən/ n [C], adj (person) of an age from 80 to 89.

oc-to-pus /'ɒktəpəs/ n [C] (pl ~es) sea-animal having a soft body and eight arms (tentacles) with suckers.

ocu-lar /'ɒkjʊlə(r)/ adj (formal) of, for, by, the eyes; of seeing: ~ proof/demonstration.

ocu-list /'ɒkjʊlist/ n [C] specialist in diseases of the eye.

odd /ɒd/ adj **1** (of numbers) not even; not exactly divisible by two: 1, 3, 5 and 7 are ~ numbers. **2** of one of a pair when the other is missing: an ~ shoe/glove. **3** of one or more of a set or series when not with the rest: two ~ volumes of an encyclopaedia. **odd man 'out**, (a) person or thing left when the others have been arranged in pairs. (b) (informal) person who keeps away from, or cannot fit himself into, the society, community, etc of which he is a

member. **4** with a little extra: 'thirty~ years, between 30 and 40; twelve 'pounds ~, £12 and some pence extra. **5** not regular, habitual or fixed; occasional: make a living by doing ~ jobs; knit at ~ times/moments. **6** (-er, -est) strange; peculiar: He's an ~/-looking old man. How ~!

odd-ly adv in a strange manner: Oddly enough.... As strange as it may seem...

odd-ity /'ɒdɪti/ n (pl -ies) **1** [U] quality of being odd(6); strangeness: ~ of behaviour/dress. **2** [C] queer act, thing or person.

odd-ment /'ɒdmənt/ n [C] something left over; spare piece: The chair was sold as an ~ at the end of the auction. ⇨ odds and ends.

odds /ɒdz/ n pl **1** the chances in favour of or against something happening: The ~ are in our favour/against us, We are likely/unlikely to succeed. **2** difference in amount between the money betted and the money that will be paid if the bet is successful: ~ of ten to one. **3** **be at odds (with sb) (over sth)**, be quarrelling or disagreeing.

odds and ends, small articles, bits and pieces, of various sorts and usually of small value.

ode /əʊd/ n [C] poem, usually in irregular metre, rhyming and expressing noble feelings.

odi-ous /əʊdiəs/ adj hateful; repulsive.

odi-ous-ly adv

odium /əʊdiəm/ n [U] (formal) general or widespread hatred; strong feeling against something: inhuman behaviour that exposed him to ~.

odour (US = **odor**) /'əʊdə(r)/ n [C] pleasant or unpleasant smell.

odour-less (US = **odor-)** adj

od-ys-sey /'ɒdɪsi/ n [C] (pl ~es) long, adventurous journey or series of adventures (from the voyage of Odysseus after the siege of Troy, in Homer's epic).

oe-cu-meni-cal /i:kju:'meni:kəl/ adj = ecumenical.

o'er /ɔ:(r)/ adv, prep (poetic) = over.

oesoph-agus /i:'sɒfəgəs/ n = esophagus.

of [usual form: əv strong form: ɒv] prep **1** (showing separation in space or time): five miles south ~ Leeds. **2** (showing origin, authorship): ~ royal descent; the works ~ Shakespeare. **3** (showing cause): die ~ grief/hunger. **4** (showing relief, removal, separation, etc): cure her ~ a disease/a bad habit; rid a warehouse ~ rats; free ~ customs duty; independent ~ help; short ~ money. **5** (showing material, substance or identity): a dress ~ silk; built ~ brick; a centimetre ~ rain; your letter ~ 2 June. **6** (description, quality, etc): a girl ~ ten (years), ten years old; a case ~ measles; cameras ~ Japanese manufacture; the countries ~ Europe. **7** (in the pattern noun + of + noun): Where's that fool ~ an assistant, that foolish assistant? We had a whale ~ a good

time. **◇ whale**(2). **8** (showing objective relation): *the writer ~ this letter; loss ~ power/appetite; the fear ~ being killed*. **9** (showing subjective relation): *the love ~ God, God's love for mankind; with the help ~ my family*. **10** (showing connection, reference or belonging): *the cause ~ the accident; a topic ~ conversation; the leg ~ the table, the table leg; the opposite ~ what I intended; a Doctor ~ Medicine; be accused/suspected/convicted ~ a crime; What ~ (= about) the risk?* **11** (showing sharing, inclusion, measure, selection): *a pint ~ milk; one/a few/all ~ us. He's the most dangerous ~ enemies. It surprises me that you, ~ all men (= most or least of all), should be so foolish*. **12** (in the pattern noun + **off** + possessive) from among the number of: *a friend ~ mine; a volume ~ Keat's poetry; that foolish young wife ~ yours*. **13** (in the pattern adj + **off** + pronoun/noun): *How kind ~ you to help!* **14** (showing time): *In days ~ old, in the past*. **off late**, recently. **15** by: *beloved ~ all*.

off¹ /ɒf US: ɔ:f/ **adj** **1** (contrasted with near) (of horses, vehicles) on the right-hand side: *the ~ front wheel; the ~side lane of the motorway*. **2** (remotely) possible or likely. **on the 'off chance**, **◇ chance**¹(2). **3** inactive; dull: *the ~ season*.

'off-peak, **◇ peak**(3).

'off-putting, **◇ put off**.

'off-the-record, **◇ record**¹(2).

off² /ɒf US: ɔ:f/ **adverbial particle** (For special uses with off as an adverbial particle such as go off; turn sth off, **◇ the verb** entries.) **1** (showing distance in space or time) departure, removal, separation at or to a distance; away: *The town is five miles ~. The holidays are not far ~, will soon arrive. He's ~ to London, going to London. It's time I was ~/I must be ~ now, I must leave now. Take your coat ~. O ~ with his head! Cut his head off!* **2** (contrasted with on) (showing the ending of something arranged, planned, etc): *Their engagement (ie to marry) is (broken) ~, ended. The miners' strike is ~. I've paid ~ the loan*. **3** (contrasted with on) disconnected; no longer available: *The water/gas/electricity/brake is ~*. **4** (showing absence or freedom from work or duty): *The manager gave the staff a day ~, a day's holiday*. **5** (of food) no longer fresh: *This meat/fish is/has gone ~. a bit 'off*, (sl) (slightly) annoying: *It's a bit ~, making me work over the weekend!* **6** (in a theatre) behind or at the side(s) of the stage: *Noises ~. on and off; off and on*, from time to time; now and again; irregularly: *It rained on and ~ all day*. **better/worse off**, **◇ better**²(1), worse adv(1). **badly/comfortably/well off**, **◇ these adverbs**. **right/straight off**, at once (away is more usual).

off³ /ɒf US: ɔ:f/ **prep** **1** not on; down or up from; away from: *fall ~ a ladder/a tree/a*

horse. Keep ~ the grass. Can you take something ~ (ie reduce) the price? She is wearing an ~ the shoulder 'dress, with no neckline, straps, etc. **2** (of a road or street) extending or branching from: *a narrow lane ~ the main road*. **3** at some distance from: *an island ~ the coast*. **4** (informal) not taking or indulging in: *I'm ~ my food; have no appetite, don't enjoy it. She's ~ smoking/drugs, does not smoke/take drugs any more*. **5** not quite: *~ white*. **(look) off colour**, **◇ colour**¹(2). **off duty**, **◇ duty**(1). **be rushed off one's feet**, **◇ foot**¹(2). **(go) off one's head**, **◇ head**¹(20). **off the map**, **◇ map**. **(wander) off the point**, **◇ point**¹(9). **off side**, **◇ offside**.

off- /ɒf US: ɔ:f/ **prefix** (used in numerous compounds). **◇ the entries below**.

off-fal /'ɒf US: ɔ:fəl/ **n** [U] those parts of an animal, eg heart, head, kidneys, but not the flesh, used for food.

off-beat /ɒf 'bi:t US: ɔ:f/ **adj** (informal) unusual; unconventional: *an ~ bou'tique*.

off-day /'ɒf deɪ US: ɔ:fɪ/ **n** [C] (informal) day when one is unlucky, does things badly, etc: *I'm afraid this is one of my ~s*.

off-fence (US = **off-fense**) /ɔ:fens/ **n** 1 [C] crime, sin, breaking of a rule: *an ~ against the law/good manners; be charged with a serious ~*. **2** [U] the hurting of a person's feelings; condition of being hurt in one's feelings: *No ~ meant!* (phrase used to say) I did not intend to hurt your feelings. **take offence**, be offended: *He's quick to take ~, is easily offended*. **3** [U] attacking: *They say that the most effective defence is ~*. **4** [C] that which annoys or causes anger: *That dirty house is an ~ to the neighbourhood*.

off-fend /ɔ:fend/ **vi, vt** **1** do wrong; commit an offence: *~ against good manners/the law/traditions*. **2** hurt the feelings of: *I'm sorry if I've ~ed you/if you were ~ed by my remarks*. **3** displease; annoy: *ugly buildings that ~ the eye*.

off-fender, person who offends, esp by breaking a law.

off-fense /ɔ:fens/ **◇ offence**.

off-fen-sive /ɔ:fensiv/ **adj** **1** causing offence to the mind or senses; disagreeable: *fish with an ~ smell; ~ language*. **2** used for, connected with, attacking: *~ weapons/wars*. **◇ defensive**. **□ n** [C] attacking; an attack: *launch an ~ against the enemy*. **take the/mount an offensive**, start to attack.

off-fen-sive-ly **adv**

off-fen-sive-ness **n** [U]

off-fer /'ɒfə(r) US: ɔ:f-/ **vi, vt** **1** hold out, put forward, to be accepted or refused; say what one is willing to pay, give or exchange: *They ~ed a reward. I have been ~ed a job in Spain. He ~ed to help me. He ~ed me his help*. **2** present (to God): *~ (up) prayers to God*. **3** attempt; give signs of: *~ no resistance to the*

enemy. **4** occur; arise: *Take the first opportunity that ~s*, that there is. □ *n* [C] statement offering to do or give; that which is offered: *an ~ of help. I've had an ~ of £9000 for the house.* **be open to offers**, be willing to consider a price to be named by a buyer.

off-fer-ing /'ɒfəriŋ/ *US: 'ɔ:f-/* *n* **1** [U] act of offering: *the ~ing of bribes.* **2** [C] something offered or presented, eg the money collected during a church service. ⇨ also *peace-offering.*

off-fer-tory /'ɒfətəri/ *US: -tɔ:ri/* *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) money collected in church during, or at the end of, a service.

off-hand /ɒf'hænd/ *US: ɔ:f/* *adj* **1** without previous thought or preparation: *~ remarks.* **2** (of behaviour, etc) casual; impolite: *in an ~ way.* □ *adv* without previous thought or preparation: *I can't say ~ whether I agree.*

off-ice /'ɒfis/ *US: 'ɔ:f-/* *n* [C] **1** (often *pl*) room(s) used as a place of business, for clerical work: *a lawyer's/business ~.* ⇨ *booking-office, box-office.* **2** (buildings of a) government department, including the staff, their work and duties: *the 'Foreign O~.* **3** duty, esp in a public position of trust or authority: *Which party will be in ~ after the next general election?* **4** duty: *the ~ of chairman.* **5** (*pl*) (formal) attentions, services, help: *through the good ~s* (= kind help) *of a friend.*

'office-bearer, official; officer.

'office-block, large building with business offices.

'office-boy, boy employed to do minor jobs in an office.

'office hours, period during the day when a business is active.

'office-worker, employee in an office (1).

off-icer /'ɒfɪsə(r)/ *US: 'ɔ:f-/* *n* [C] **1** person appointed to command others in the armed forces, in merchant ships, aircraft, the police force, etc usually wearing special uniform with indications of rank: *~s and men/crew.* **2** person with a position of authority or trust, engaged in active duties, eg in the government: *executive/clerical ~s; a customs ~.* **3** form of address to a policeman.

off-fi-cial /'ɒfɪʃl/ *adj* **1** of a position of trust or authority; said, done, etc with authority: *~ responsibilities/records; in his ~ uniform; ~ statements.* *The news is not ~.* **2** characteristic of, suitable for, persons holding office: *written in ~ style.* □ *n* [C] person holding public office (eg in national or local government).

off-fi-cially /-fɪʃli/ *adv* in an official manner; with authority.

off-fi-ciate /'ɒfɪʃiənt/ *vi* do the duties expected of an office or position: *~ as chairman; ~ at a marriage ceremony*, (of a priest) perform the ceremony.

off-fi-cious /'ɒfɪʃəs/ *adj* (formal) too eager or ready to use one's authority, rank, etc.

off-fi-cious-ly *adv*

off-ing /'ɒfɪŋ/ *US: 'ɔ:f-/* *n* **1** [C] part of the sea distant from the point of observation but visible: *a steamer in the ~.* **2 in the offering**, (fig) possible: *Promotion is in the ~.*

off-ish /'ɒfɪʃ/ *US: 'ɔ:f-/* *adj* (informal) distant in manner. ⇨ *stand-offish.*

off-licence /'ɒf laɪns/ *US: 'ɔ:f/* *n* [C] **1** licence to sell beer and other alcoholic drinks for drinking off the premises. **2** shop, part of a public house, where such drinks may be bought and taken away.

off-load /ɒf'ləʊd/ *US: ɔ:f/* *vt* unload: *~ a cargo; ~ shares onto the market.*

off-peak /'ɒf pi:k/ *US: 'ɔ:f/* *adj* ⇨ *peak* (3).

off-putting /ɒf'pʊtɪŋ/ *US: ɔ:f/* *adj* (informal) disconcerting. ⇨ *put off.*

off-set /'ɒfsɛt/ *US: 'ɔ:f-/* *vt* (-tt-) balance, compensate for: *He has to ~ his small salary by freelance work.* □ *n* [C] method of printing in which the ink is transferred from a plate to a rubber surface and then on to paper.

off-shoot /'ɒfʃu:t/ *US: 'ɔ:f-/* *n* [C] **1** stem or branch growing from a main stem. **2** (fig) branch (of a family, mountain range, etc).

off-shore /'ɒf ʃɔ:(r)/ *US: 'ɔ:f/* *adj* **1** in a direction away from the shore or land: *~ breezes.* **2** at a short way out to sea: *~ islands/fisheries.*

off-side /ɒf'saɪd/ *US: ɔ:f/* *adj, adv* (in football, hockey) (of a player) in a position in front of the ball which is against the rules: *be ~; the ~ rule.*

off-spring /'ɒfsprɪŋ/ *US: 'ɔ:f-/* *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) child; children; young of animals: *He's the ~ of a scientist and a dancer.*

off-white /ɒf'waɪt/ *US: ɔ:f/* *adj* not pure white.

oft /ɒft/ *US: ɔ:ft/* *adv* (poetic) = often: *many a time and ~, very often.*

'oft-times *adv* (archaic) = often.

of-ten /'ɒfn/ *US: 'ɔ:fən/* *adv* of frequency (more ~, most ~ is more usual than -er, -est) many times; in a large number of instances: *We ~ go there. We've been there quite ~, several times.* **as often as not; more often than not**, very frequently: *During foggy weather the trains are late more ~ than not.* **every so often**, from time to time. **how often**: *How ~ do the buses run?* **once too often**, once more than is wise, etc: *You've let me down once too ~ and I shall not trust you again.*

ogle /'ɒɡl/ *vi, vt* stare at; make eyes at (suggesting love or longing): *ogling all the pretty girls.*

ogre /'ɒɡrə(r)/ *n* [C] (in fables) cruel man-eating giant.

ogress /'ɒɡrɪs/, female ogre.

oh /əʊ/ *int* exclamation of surprise, fear, etc.

ohm /əʊm/ *n* [C] (symbol Ω) unit of electrical resistance.

oho /əʊ'həʊ/ *int* exclamation of surprise or triumph.

oil /ɔɪl/ *n* [C,U] **1** (sorts of) liquid which does not mix with water, obtained from animals (eg *cod-liver 'oil*) plants (eg *olive-'oil*), or found in rock underground (*'mineral oil, petroleum*). **burn the midnight oil**, sit up late at night to study, etc. **strike oil**, (a) find petroleum in the ground. (b) (fig) become very prosperous or successful. **2** (pl) oil colours. **paint in oils**, paint with oil colours (⇒ oil colours below). □ *vt* put oil on or into (eg to make a machine run smoothly).

'oil-bearing *adj* (eg of rock) containing mineral oil.

'oil-can, can with a long spout, containing fine oil used for oiling machinery.

'oil-cloth, waterproofed cotton material.

'oil colours *n pl* paints made by mixing colouring matter in oil.

'oil-field, area where petroleum is found.

'oil-fired *adj* burning oil as fuel: *~fired central heating*.

'oil-painting, (a) [U] art of painting in oil colours. (b) [C] picture painted in oil colours.

'oil-rig, structure for drilling (eg in the seabed) for oil.

'oil-skin, (a) [C,U] (coat, etc made of) cloth treated with oil to make it waterproof. (b) (pl) suit of clothes made of this material, as worn by sailors, etc.

'oil slick, layer of oil on the sea, etc (eg from an oil-tanker after a collision).

'oil-tanker, ship, large vehicle, for carrying oil (esp petroleum).

'oil-well, well producing petroleum.

oiled /ɔɪld/ *adj* (usually **well-oiled**) (sl) drunk.

oily /ɔɪli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** of or like oil: *an ~ liquid*. **2** covered or soaked with oil: *~ fingers*. **3** (of speech or manner) using flattery (to win favour).

oint-ment /ɔɪntmənt/ *n* [C,U] (sorts of) medicinal paste made from oil or fat and used on the skin (to heal injuries or roughness, or as a cosmetic).

okay /əʊ'keɪ/ *adj, adv* (common abbr **OK**) (*informal*) all right; correct; approved. □ *vt* agree to; approve of. □ *n* [C] agreement; sanction: *Have they given you their OK?*

okra /'əʊkrə/ *n* [C,U] (tropical and semi-tropical plant with) pointed green seed pods used as a vegetable.

old /əʊld/ *adj* (-er, -est) ⇒ also **elder¹**, **eldest**. **1** (with a period of time, and with *how*) of age: *He's forty years ~* / *a forty-year-~*. *How ~ are you?* *He's ~ enough to know better*. **2** (contrasted with *young*) having lived a long time; no longer young or middle-aged: *He's far too ~ for the job*. *What will he do when he grows/ is/gets ~?* (**the**) **young and old**, everyone. **3** (contrasted with *new, modern, up-to-date*) belonging to past times; having been in existence or use for a long time: *~ clothes; ~*

customs/families/civilizations/times. **4** long known or familiar: *an ~ friend of mine*, one who has been a friend for a long time (but not necessarily old in years). **5** former; previous (but not necessarily old in years): *~ boys*, former pupils. **6** having much experience or practice: *He's an ~ supporter of the club/ member of the committee*. **7** (*informal*) (used in addressing persons): *'Good ~ John!* *'Hullo, ~ thing!* **8** (*informal*) (used to intensify): *Any ~ thing (= Anything whatever) will do*. □ *n* [U] **1** **the ~**, old people. **2** **of old**, in, from, the past: *in days of ~; the men of ~*.

'old-ish /-ɪʃ/ *adj* a little old.

old age, period of life from about 60 years.

old age 'pensioner, = senior citizen.

'old country, person's country of origin.

old-'fashioned *adj* (a) out-of-date. (b) keeping to older ways, etc: *an ~fashioned 'child*. (c) critical: *an ~fashioned 'look*.

the 'old guard, faithful members, supporters.

old hand, person with long experience: *an ~ hand at negotiating*.

old hat, (*informal*) boringly familiar thing or person.

old maid, elderly woman thought unlikely to marry.

old man, (*informal*) (a) husband; father. (b) employer, headmaster, ship's captain, etc. (c) male friend. ⇒ 4, 7 above.

old master, great painter or painting, esp of the 13th to 17th centuries.

Old Nick, the devil.

old offender, person often convicted of crimes.

'old school, (a) the school attended as a pupil. (b) conservative, old-fashioned (person): *He's one of the ~ school*.

old soldier, (fig) experienced person.

old-time *adj* belonging to former times: *~time 'dancing*.

old-timer, person having a long association with a place, job, group, etc.

old woman, (*informal*) (a) wife; mother. (b) fussy or timid man. Hence, **old-'womanish** *adj*.

old-world, *adj* belonging to former times.

the Old World, Europe, Asia and Africa.

old year, year just ended or about to end.

olden /'əʊldən/ *adj* (*literary*) of a former age: *in ~ times/days*.

oli-garchy /'ɒlɪgəki/ *n* [C,U] (pl -ies) (country with) government by a small group of powerful persons; such a group.

ol-ive /'ɒlɪv/ *n* **1** [C] (evergreen tree common in S Europe bearing a) small oval fruit with a hard seed like a stone and a bitter taste, yellowish-green when unripe and bluish-black when ripe; used for pickling, eaten raw or used to make an oil, (*~-'oil*), which is used for cooking, in salads, etc. **2** [C] leaf, branch, or

wreath of olive branches as an emblem of peace. **3** [U] (also used as an adjective) yellowish-green or yellowish-brown (colour).

Olympic /ə'limpɪk/ *adj* **the ~ Games** (informal **the ~s**) **1** the contests held at Olympia in Greece in ancient times. **2** the international athletic and sports competitions held in modern times every four years in a different country.

om-buds-man /'ɒmbʊdzmæn/ *n* [C] **the O~**, (in GB officially called *Parliamentary Commissioner*) experienced person having authority to inquire into and judge grievances of citizens (against the executive branch of Government).

omega /'əʊmɪgə US: əʊ'megə/ *n* [C] **1** the last letter (Ω) of the Greek alphabet. **2** (fig) final development; last of a series.

om-elette, (also **om-elet**) /'ɒmlɪt/ *n* [C] eggs beaten together and fried, often flavoured with cheese, etc.

omen /'əʊmən/ *n* [C,U] (thing, happening, regarded as a) sign of something good or warning of evil fortune: *an event of good/bad ~*. □ *vt* be an omen of.

om-in-ous /'ɒmɪnəs/ *adj* threatening: *an ~ silence*; *~ of disaster*.

om-in-ous-ly *adv*

omis-sion /ə'mɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] act of omitting, leaving out; neglect. **2** [C] something that is omitted.

omit /ə'mɪt/ *vt* (-tt-) **1** fail: *~ to say/~ saying who wrote it*. **2** fail to include; leave out: *The rail fare has been ~ted from the accounts*.

om-ni-bus /'ɒmnɪbəs/ *n* [C] (*pl ~es*) **1** (former name for a) bus (sometimes used in names): *The ~Midland ~O~ Co*. **2** (used as an adjective) for, including, many purposes: *an ~ volume*, in which a number of books, eg by the same author, are reprinted.

om-nip-otence /ɒm'nɪpətəns/ *n* [U] infinite power: *the ~ of God*.

om-nip-otent /-ənt/ *adj* having infinite power. **the O~**, God.

on /ɒn/ *adverbial particle* (For special uses with *on* as an adverbial particle such as *go on*, *go on sth*, ⇨ *the verb entries*.) **1** (expressing the idea of progress, advance, continued activity; ⇨ *verb entries* for special uses): *Come ~! I'll follow ~*, come after you. *He's getting ~ in years*, growing old. *O~ with the show!* Let the show begin, continue! **and 'so on**, ⇨ *so*²(1). **later on**, ⇨ *late*²(1). **on and 'on**, without stopping: *We walked ~ and ~ until we reached the river*. **off and on**, ⇨ *off*²(6). **2** (corresponding in meaning to *on*²(1)): *Your hat is not ~ straight*. *He climbed ~ to the table*. **3** (contrasted with *off*²(3)) in action; in use; available; functioning; flowing, running, etc: *The lights were all ~*. *Someone has left the bathroom tap ~*, running. *The film is ~*, has begun. *Is the strike ~?* *Is the hot water ~ yet?* **4**

(combined with *be* and *have* in various meanings): *What's ~?* What's the programme/happening? *Have you anything ~ this evening*, any engagements, plans, etc? **have nothing on**, (a) be naked. (b) have no commitment; be free: *I've nothing ~ until 9 o'clock*. **be 'on to**, (a) be aware of a person's intentions, activities, etc. (b) be aware of the importance, etc of something. **5** towards: *end/head ~*, ie with the end/front forward.

on² /ɒn/ *prep* (Can be replaced by *upon*, esp formal style, in 6,7,8,10 below) **1** supported by; fastened or attached to; covering or forming part of (a surface); lying against; in contact with: *a carpet ~ the floor*; *the jug ~ the table*; *the words (written) ~ the poster*; *sit ~ the grass*; *write ~ paper*; *stick a stamp ~ the envelope*; *live ~ the Continent*; *have lunch ~ the train*. *Have you a match/any money ~ you*, ie in your pockets, etc? **2** (of time) (a) during; exactly at: *~ Sunday(s)* *the 1st of May*; *~ that day*; *~ this occasion*. (b) at the time of: *~ my arrival home*; *~ (my) asking for information*. ⇨ *time*¹(3). **3** about; concerning: *a lecture ~ Shakespeare*. **4** (of membership): *He is ~ the committee* *the jury* *the staff*. **5** (of direction) towards: *marching ~ the enemy's capital*; *turn one's back ~ her*. **6** (expressing the basis, ground or reason for something): *a story based ~ fact*; *act ~ your lawyer's advice*; *arrested ~ a charge of theft*; *be ~ one's oath* *one's honour*. **7** (of a charge or imposition): *put a tax ~ tobacco*. **8** close to; against: *a town ~ the coast*; *~ both sides of the river*; *~ my right/left*; *just ~* (= almost) *2 o'clock* *£10*. **9** (concerning, about, affecting an activity, action, manner, state): *~ business/holiday*; *~ the way*, coming; *~ fire*, burning; *~ sale/loan*. **10** added to: *suffer disaster ~ disaster*.

once /wʌns/ *adv* **1** for one time; on one occasion only: *I have been there ~*. *He goes to see his parents ~ (in) every six months*. **once more**, ⇨ *more*(3). **once or twice**; **(every) once in a while**, ⇨ *while*. **(just) for once**, on this one occasion only, as an exception. **once and for 'all**, ⇨ *all*⁴(2). **2** at some indefinite time in the past; formerly: (a) *He ~ lived in Munich*. (b) (in story-telling style): *O~ upon a time there was a giant with two heads*. *There ~ lived a king who had twelve beautiful daughters*. **3** ever; at all; even for one time: *He didn't ~/He never ~ offered to help*. **4 at once**, (a) without delay; immediately: *I'm leaving for Rome at ~*. *Come here at ~!* (b) at the same time: *Don't all speak at ~!* *I can't do two things at ~*. **All at once**..., Suddenly... □ *conj* as soon as; when: *O~ you understand this particular instruction, you will have no further difficulty*.

on-com-ing /'ɒnkəmlɪŋ/ *adj* advancing; approaching: *~ traffic*. □ *n* [C] approach: *the ~ of winter*.

one¹ /wʌn/ *adj*, *n* [C] **1** (of) 1: ~ pen, two pencils and three books; ~ from twenty leaves nineteen; ~ o'clock; twenty-~; ~ thousand; ~ half. **one and all**, everyone. **one or two**, a few: *I shall be away only ~ or two days.* **by ones and twos**, one or two at a time: *People began to leave the meeting by ~s and twos.* **be one 'up (on sb)**, have an advantage over him, be one step ahead of him. **2** (similar in function to *a* and *an*): ~ day/morning. (Note: compare *one summer evening* and *on a summer evening*.) **3** (used to show a contrast with the other, another or other(s)): *It is difficult for strangers to tell (the) ~ from the other. Well, that's ~ way of doing it, but there is another way. He did not know which to admire more, the ~s courage or the other's determination.* **for 'one thing**, ⇨ thing(5). **4** (always stressed; used for emphasis): *That's the ~ thing needed.* **5** (dated) (used before a family name, with or without a title) a certain: *I heard the news from ~ Mr Smith.* **6** (used as an adjective) the same: *They all went off in ~ direction.* **in one**, combined: *He is President, Chairman and Secretary in ~.* **7 one of**..., single person or thing of the sort indicated or supplied: *O~ of my friends (pl Some of my friends) arrived late. If ~ of them (pl any of them) should need help... I borrowed ~ of your books (= a book of yours; pl some of your books) last week.* **one-off** *adj* once only. **one-sided** *adj* (a) having one side only; occurring on one side only. (b) unfair; prejudiced: *a ~-sided argument.* **one-time** *adj* former: *a ~-time politician.* **one-way**, in which traffic may proceed in one direction only: *a ~-way street.* **one**² /wʌn/ *indefinite pron* (used in place of a noun standing for a member of a class) **1 one of**, (showing inclusion; equivalent to *among*): *Mr Smith is not ~ of my customers. We have always treated her as ~ (= a member) of the family.* **2** (replacing a noun used with *a*, *an*, *any*, *some*): *I haven't a pen. Can you lend me ~? I haven't any stamps. Will you please give me ~? (Note: compare I like that pen. Can I borrow it?)* **3** (equivalent to *that*, *those*): *I drew my chair nearer to the ~ (= to that) on which Mary was sitting. The children who do best in examinations are not always the ones (= those) with the best brains.* **4** (used after *the*, *that*, etc or after an adjective as in): *a better ~; that ~. He collects stamps and he has some very rare ~s. My cheap camera seems to be just as good as John's expensive ~.* **this/that one**: *Will you have this (~) or that (~)? (Note: pl = Will you have these or those? With an adjective 'one' is necessary: Will you have this green one/these green ~s?)* **which one**: *Here are some books on European history. Which ~(s) do you want?* **one**³ /wʌn/ *personal pron* **1** a particular person

or creature: *the 'Holy O~, God; the 'Evil O~, Satan, the Devil; the little ~s, the children. He's not ~ to be (= not a man who is) easily frightened.* **2 one another('s)**, (used, like *each other*, to show mutual action or relation): *They don't like ~ another. They were throwing stones and trying to break ~ another's heads.*

one⁴ /wʌn/ *impersonal pron* (possessive = *one's*; reflexive = *oneself*) (formal) any person, including the speaker or writer: *O~ cannot always find time for reading. O~ doesn't like to have ~'s word doubted.*

on-er-ous /'ɒnərəs/ *adj* (formal) needing effort; burdensome (to): ~ duties.

on-er-ous-ly *adv*

one-self /wʌn'self/ *pron* **1** (reflexive) one's own self: *wash/dress ~. (all) by oneself.* (a) alone. (b) without help. **2** (used for emphasis): *To be certain one must look at it ~.*

on-go-ing /'ɒŋɡəʊɪŋ/ *adj* progressing; continuing: ~ research.

onion /'lʌɪən/ *n* [C] vegetable plant which is a (usually) round bulb with a strong smell and flavour, used in cooking and pickled; [U] this plant as food.

on-looker /'ɒnlʊkə(r)/ *n* [C] person who looks on at something happening.

only¹ /'əʊnli/ *adj* **1** (used with a *sing noun*) that is the one specimen of its class; single: *Smith was the ~ person able to do it. Harry is an ~ child, has no brothers or sisters.* **2** (used with a *pl noun*) that are all the specimens or examples: *We were the ~ people wearing hats.* **3** best; most worth consideration: *He's the ~ man for me.*

only² /'əʊnli/ *adv* solely; and no, no one, nothing, more: *I ~ saw 'Mary, I saw Mary and no one else. Compare: I ~ saw Mary, I saw her but didn't speak to her. We've ~ half an hour to wait now. if only. ⇨ if(7). only too. (+ *adj* or *pp*) very: *I shall be ~ too 'pleased to get home.**

only³ /'əʊnli/ *conj* but then; it must, however, be added that: *I like the book very much, ~ it's expensive.*

ono-mato-poeia /ɒnəʊmə'tpi:ə/ *n* [U] (formation of) words or names from sounds of the thing concerned (eg *cuckoo* for the bird that makes this cry).

on-rush /'ɒnrʌʃ/ *n* [C] strong, onward rush or flow.

on-set /'ɒnset/ *n* [C] attack; vigorous start: *at the first ~ of the disease.*

on-shore /'ɒnʃɔ:(r)/ *adj, adv* toward the shore.

on-slaught /'ɒnslɔ:t/ *n* [C] furious attack (on).

onto /'ɒntə *strong form*: 'ɒntu:/ *prep* = on; on to; upon. ⇨ on¹(2).

onus /'əʊnəs/ *n* (*sing only*) responsibility for, duty of, doing something: *The ~ of proof rests with you.*

on-ward /'ɒnwəd/ *adj, adv* forward: *an ~ march/movement*. □ *adv* (also **on-wards**) towards the front; forward: *move ~ (s)*.

onyx /'ɒnɪks/ *n* [U] (sorts of) quartz in layers of different colours, used for ornaments, in jewellery, etc.

oodles /'uːdlz/ *n pl* (sl) great amounts: *~ of money/love*.

ooze /uːz/ *n* [U] soft liquid mud, esp on a river-bed, the bottom of a pond, lake, etc. □ *vi, vt* **1** (of moisture, thick liquids) pass slowly through small openings: *Blood was still oozing from the wound*. **2** emit (moisture, confidence, etc): *He was oozing sweat*. **3** (fig) slowly go away: *Their courage was oozing away*.

opac-ity /ə'pæsəti/ *n* [U] (quality of) being opaque.

opal /'əʊpl/ *n* [C] kinds of semi-precious stone some of which slowly change colour.

opaque /ə'peɪk/ *adj* not allowing light to pass through; that cannot be seen through.

opaque-ly *adv*

op art /'ɒp ɑ:t/ *n* [U] form of modern abstract art using geometrical patterns which produce optical illusions of movement.

open /'əʊpən/ *adj* **1** not closed; allowing (things, persons) to go in, out, through: *sleep with ~ windows*; *leave the back door ~*. **2** not enclosed, fenced in, barred or blocked: *~ country*; *the ~ sea*. **3** not covered in or over: *an ~ boat*, one without a deck; *an ~ car*, with no roof or a roof that is folded back. **in the ~ air**, outside (a building, etc). **4** spread out; unfolded: *The flowers were all ~*. *The book lay ~ on the table*. **with open arms**, ⇨ *arm*¹(1). **5** public; free to all; not limited to any special persons, but for anyone to enter: *an ~ competition/championship/scholarship*. *The position is still ~*, No one has yet been appointed. **keep open house**, offer hospitality to everyone. **6** not settled or decided: *leave a matter ~*. **have/keep an open mind (on sth)**, ⇨ *mind*¹(2). **7** ready for business or for the admission of the public: *Are the shops ~ yet?* **8** known to all; not secret or disguised; frank: *an ~ quarrel/scandal*. *Let me be quite ~ (= frank) with you*. **9** unprotected; unguarded: *~ to ridicule/attack*. **10** not settled, finished or closed: *keep one's account ~ at a bank*. ⇨ also *offer*(4). □ *n* **the ~**, the open air. **come out into the open**, (fig) come into public view; make one's ideas, plans, etc known.

,open-and-'shut *adj* easily decided.

'open-air *adj* taking place out of doors; not covered: *an ~ air 'swimming-pool*. ⇨ **3** above.

'open-cast *adj* (of mines or mining) on the surface.

open cheque, one that is not crossed and may be cashed at the bank named.

open court, one to which the public are

admitted.

,open-ended *adj* (a) with no limit or boundary. (b) (of a debate, etc) with many possible solutions or where no agreement is expected, reached, etc.

,open-handed *adj* generous.

,open-hearted *adj* kind, generous.

open market, with free competition for sellers and buyers.

,open-'minded *adj* without prejudice.

,open-'mouthed *adj* amazed; surprised.

open-plan *adj* (of an office, etc) without walls between staff areas.

open prison, one with fewer physical restrictions.

,open 'sandwich, single slice of bread, etc with meat, cheese, etc on top.

'open season, (fishing and shooting) when there are no restrictions.

,open 'secret, something meant to be secret, but known to all.

open society, without a rigid class structure, religiously free, etc.

,Open ,Uni'versity, British university (founded in 1971) whose students live at home and are taught by correspondence, textbooks and radio and TV programmes; similar organization in other countries.

open verdict, jury's agreement that a crime was committed but not naming the criminal, not giving the cause of death, etc.

open vowel, one made with the roof of the mouth and the tongue wide apart, eg /e, æ, ɒ/.

'open-work, work (in lace, metal) with spaces.

open-ly *adv* without secrecy; frankly; publicly: *speak ~ly*. ⇨ *open*¹(8).

open-ness *n* [U] frankness.

open² /'əʊpən/ *vt, vi* **1** make, cause to be, open; unfasten: *~ a box*. *O ~ up!* Open this door! **2** cut or make an opening in or a passage through: *~ a new road through a forest*. **3** make accessible; make possible the development of: *~ up a mine/undeveloped land/a new territory to trade*. **4** spread out; unfold: *~ one's hand/a book/a newspaper/an envelope/a map*. **open one's mind/heart to sb**, make known one's ideas/feelings. **5** start: *~ an account*, eg at a bank, shop; *~ a debate/a public meeting*. **open fire**, ⇨ *fire*¹(5). **open with**, start: *The story ~s with a murder*. **6** declare, show, that business, etc may now start: *~ a shop/an office*; *~ Parliament*. **7** become open; be opened: *The flowers are ~ing*. *The door ~ed and a man came in*.

opener, person or thing that opens: (used chiefly in compounds) *a tin-'bottle-~er*. ⇨ also *eye-opener*.

open-ing /'əʊpnɪŋ/ *n* [C] **1** open space; way in or out: *an ~ in a hedge*. **2** beginning: *the ~ of a book/speech*. **3** process of becoming open: *the ~ of a flower*. **4** position (in a business

firm) which is open or vacant; opportunity: *an ~ in an advertising section*. **5** (chess) known system of early moves in a game. **□** *adj* first: *his ~ remarks*.

'opening time, when public houses, bars, etc begin to serve customers.

op-er-a /'ɒpərə/ *n* (pl ~s) **1** [C] dramatic composition with music, in which the words are sung. **2** [U] dramatic works of this kind as entertainment: *fond of ~; the ~ season*.

comic opera, with spoken dialogue and a happy ending.

grand opera, with no spoken dialogue.

light opera, with a humorous subject.

'opera-glasses, small binoculars for use in a theatre.

'opera-house, theatre for operas.

op-er-atic /'ɒpə'reɪtɪk/ *adj*

op-er-able /'ɒpərəbl/ *adj* that can be treated by means of a surgical operation.

op-er-ate /'ɒpə'reɪt/ *vi, vi* **1** (cause to) work, be in action, have an effect; manage: *~ a machine. The lift was not operating properly. The company ~s two factories*. **2** perform a surgical operation: *The doctors decided to ~ at once*. **3** (of an army) carry out various movements: *operating on a large scale*.

'operating-table/-theatre, for use in surgical operations.

op-er-ation /'ɒpə'reɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] working; way in which something works: *Is this rule in ~ yet?* **2** [C] piece of work; something (to be) done. **3** (usually pl) movements of troops, ships, aircraft, etc in warfare or during manoeuvres. **4** [C] planned campaigns in industry, etc: *building/banking ~s*. **5** [C] act performed by a surgeon on any part of the body, esp by cutting to take away or deal with a diseased part: *an ~ for appendicitis*.

op-er-ational /-fənəl/ *adj* (a) of, for, used in, operations. (b) ready for use: *When will the new airliner be ~al?*

op-er-at-ive /'ɒpə'reɪv/ *US: -ə'reɪt-/adj* **1** operating; having an effect: *This law became ~ on 1 May*. **2** of surgical operations: *~ treatment*. **□** *n* [C] worker; mechanic: *cotton ~s*.

op-er-a-tor /'ɒpə'reɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who operates or works something: *telephone ~s; airline ~s*. **2** (st) confident, efficient man (in business, love affairs, etc): *He's a smooth ~*.

op-er-etta /'ɒpə'retə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) one-act, or short, light musical comedy.

oph-thal-mic /'ɒfθəl'mɪk/ *adj* of the eyes.

op-in-ion /'ɒpɪniəm/ *n* **1** [C] belief or judgement not founded on complete knowledge: *political ~s. What's your ~ (= view) of the new President? In my ~/In the ~ of most people, the scheme is unsound. be of the opinion that*, feel, believe, that. **2** [U] views, beliefs, of a group: *O~ is changing in favour of stronger penalties for armed robbery*. **3** [C] professional estimate or advice: *You ought to*

get a lawyer's ~ on the question.

public opinion, what the majority of people think: *Public ~ is against the proposed change*.

o'pin-ion poll, survey of opinion by questioning a section of the community.

op-in-ion-ated /-eɪtɪd/ *adj* refusing to change an opinion; obstinate; dogmatic.

opium /'əʊpiəm/ *n* [U] substance prepared from poppy seeds, used to relieve pain, cause sleep, and as a narcotic drug.

opos-sum /'ə'pɒsəm/ (also **pos-sum** /'pɒsəm/) *n* [C] kinds of small American animal that carries its young in a 'pocket' and lives in trees.

op-po-nent /'ɒpə'nənt/ *n* [C] person against whom one fights, struggles, plays games, contests an election or argues.

op-por-tune /'ɒpətju:n/ *US: -tʊn/ adj* (formal) **1** (of time) suitable, favourable; good for a purpose: *arrive at an ~ moment*. **2** (of an action or event) done, coming, at a favourable time: *an ~ remark/speech*.

op-por-tune-ly *adv*

op-por-tun-ism /'ɒpətju:nɪzəm/ *US: -tʊn-/ n* [U] being guided by what seems possible, preferring what can be done to what should be done.

op-por-tun-ist /'ɒpətju:nɪst/ *n* [C] **1** believer in opportunism. **2** person who is more anxious to gain an advantage for himself than to consider whether he is trying to get it fairly.

op-por-tun-ity /'ɒpətju:nəti/ *US: -tʊn-/ n* [C,U] (pl -ies) favourable time or chance: *to make/find/get an ~; have no/little/not much ~ for hearing good music. take the opportunity of doing/to do sth*, make use of a favourable moment to act.

op-pose /'ɒpəʊz/ *vi* **1** place oneself, fight, against: *opposing the Government/a scheme*. **2** put forward as a contrast or opposite; set up against: *~ your will against mine/your views to mine. as opposed to*, in contrast with.

op-po-site /'ɒpəzɪt/ *adj* **1** facing; front to front or back to back (with): *the house ~ (to) mine; on the ~ side of the road*. **2** entirely different; contrary: *in the ~ direction*. **3** similarly placed elsewhere. **one's opposite 'number'**, person or thing occupying the same or a similar position in another group, etc. **□ prep** facing: *stop ~ the house*. **□ n** [C] word or thing that is entirely different: *Black and white are ~s. I think the ~*.

op-po-si-tion /'ɒpə'zɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] the state of being opposite or opposed: *The Socialist Party was in ~*. **2** **the O~**, (used with a *sing verb*) MP's of the political party or parties opposing the Government: *the leader of the O~; the O~ benches*. **3** [U] resistance: *Our forces met with strong ~*.

op-press /'ɒpres/ *vr* **1** rule unjustly or cruelly; keep down by unjust or cruel government. **2** (fig) cause to feel troubled, uncomfortable:

~ed with anxiety; feel ~ed with the heat.

op-press-ion /ə'presʃn/ *n* (a) [U] the condition of being oppressed: *a feeling of ~ion*. (b) [U] oppressing or being oppressed: *victims of ~ion*; [C] instance of this.

op-press-ive /ə'presɪv/ *adj* (a) unjust: *~ive laws/rules*. (b) hard to endure: *~ive weather/heat/taxes*.

op-press-ive-ly *adv*

op-press-ior /-sə(r)/, cruel or unjust ruler, leader, etc.

opt /ɒpt/ *vi* exercise a choice; decide: *More students are ~ing for science courses nowadays*. **opt out of**, choose to take no part in: *young people who have ~ed out of society*, chosen not to be conventional.

op-tic /'ɒptɪk/ *adj* of the eye or the sense of sight.

optic nerve, from the eye to the brain.

op-tics *n* (used with a *sing verb*) science of light and the laws of light.

op-ti-cal /'ɒptɪkəl/ *adj* 1 of the sense of sight. 2 for looking through; to help eyesight.

optical illusion, something by which the eye is deceived: *A mirage is an ~ illusion*.

optical instrument, eg a microscope, telescope.

op-ti-cal-ly /-klɪ/ *adv*

op-ti-cian /ɒp'tɪʃn/ *n* [C] person who makes or supplies optical instruments, esp lenses and spectacles.

op-ti-mism /'ɒptɪmɪzəm/ *n* [U] 1 belief that in the end good will triumph over evil. 2 tendency to feel confidence in success.

op-ti-mist /-mɪst/, person who believes that all things happen for the best.

op-ti-mis-tic /ɒp'tɪmɪstɪk/ *adj* expecting the best; confident: *an optimistic view of events*.

op-ti-mis-ti-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

op-ti-mum /'ɒptɪməm/ *adj* best or most favourable: *the ~ temperature for the growth of plants*.

op-tion /'ɒpʃn/ *n* 1 [U] right or power of choosing: *I haven't much ~ in the matter*, cannot choose. 2 [C] thing that is or may be chosen: *None of the ~s is satisfactory*. **leave one's options open**, not commit oneself. 3 [C] (commerce) right to buy or sell at a certain price within a certain period of time: *have an ~ on a piece of land*.

op-tional /'ɒpʃnəl/ *adj* which may be chosen or not as one wishes; not compulsory: *~ subjects at school*.

opus /'ɒpəs/ *n* [C] (pl *opera* /'bɒərə/, rarely used) separate musical composition (abbr **op**, used in citing a composition by number, as *Beethoven, Op 112*).

magnum opus, great literary undertaking, completed or in course of being written.

or /ɔ:(r)/ *conj* 1 (introducing an alternative): *Is it green ~ blue? Are you coming ~ not? either... or*, ⇨ either. **(or else)**, otherwise;

if not: *Hurry up ~ (else) you'll be late*. 2 (introducing all but the first of a series): *I'd like it to be black, white ~ grey*. 3 (introducing a word that explains or means the same as, another): *an English pound, ~ one hundred new pence*. 4 **or so**, (often equivalent to *about*) suggesting vagueness or uncertainty: *I'd like twenty ~ so*.

-or /-ɔ:(r)/ *suffix* person or thing performing the action: *governor; actor*.

or-acle /'brækl/ *US: 'ɔ:(r)-n* [C] 1 (in ancient Greece) (answer given at a) place where questions about the future were asked of the gods; priest(ess) giving the answers: *consult the ~*. 2 person considered able to give reliable guidance.

oracu-lar /'ɔ:rækjələ(r)/ *adj*

oral /'ɔ:rəl/ *adj* 1 using the spoken, not the written, word: *an ~ examination*. 2 (anat) of, by, for, the mouth: *~ medicine*. □ *n* [C] (informal) oral examination.

oral-ly /'ɔ:rəli/ *adv* by spoken words; by the mouth.

or-ange /'brɪndʒ/ *US: 'ɔ:(r)-n, adj* [C] (evergreen tree with a) round, thick-skinned juicy fruit, green and usually changing to a colour between yellow and red; [U] colour of this fully-ripened fruit.

orange-ade /'brɪndʒ'eɪd/ *US: 'ɔ:(r)-, drink* made of orange juice.

orang-outang /ɔ:ræŋ u:'tæŋ/ *US: ɔ:ræŋ ɔ'tæŋ/ (also -utan, -outan /-'tæn/)* *n* [C] large ape with long arms, of Borneo and Sumatra.

orate /ɔ:'reɪt/ *vi* (formal) speak publicly.

ora-tion /ɔ:'reɪʃn/ *n* 1 [C] formal speech made on a public occasion: *a funeral ~*. 2 [U] (gram) way of speaking: *direct/indirect ~, direct/ reported speech*.

ora-tor /'brɔ:tə(r)/ *US: 'ɔ:(r)-n* [C] person who makes speeches (esp a good speaker).

ora-tori-cal /'brɔ:tərɪkəl/ *US: ɔ:'rɔ:tɔ:(r)-/ adj* (formal) of speech-making and orators.

ora-tory /'brɔ:təri/ *US: 'ɔ:(r)ɔ:tɔ:(r)/* *n* [U] (art of) making speeches.

ora-tory² /'brɔ:təri/ *US: 'ɔ:(r)ɔ:tɔ:(r)/* *n* [C] (pl -ies) small chapel for private worship or prayer.

orb /ɔ:b/ *n* [C] 1 globe, esp the sun, moon or one of the stars. 2 jewelled globe with a cross on top, part of a sovereign's regalia.

or-bit /'ɔ:bit/ *n* [C] path followed by a heavenly body, eg a planet, or by a man-made object, eg a spacecraft, round another body: *the earth's ~ round the sun*. *How many satellites have been put in ~ round the earth?* □ *vt, vi* put into, (cause to) move, in orbit: *When was the first satellite ~ed?*

or-bi-tal /'ɔ:bitl/ *adj*

or-ard /'ɔ:tʃəd/ *n* [C] piece of ground (usually enclosed) with fruit-trees.

or-ches-tra /'ɔ:kɪstrə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) 1 band of persons playing musical instruments (including stringed instruments) together: *a dance ~; a symphony ~*. 2 (also ~ pit) place in a

theatre for an orchestra.

or-ches-tral /ɔ:'kestrəl/ *adj* of, for, by, an orchestra: ~ instruments/performances.

or-ches-trate /'ɔ:kɪstreɪt/ *vt* compose, arrange, score, for orchestral performances.

or-ches-tra-tion /ɔ:kɪ'streɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

or-chid /'ɔ:kɪd/ *n* [C] sorts of plant of which the tropical kinds have flowers of brilliant colours and fantastic shapes.

or-dain /ɔ:'deɪn/ *vt* **1** make (a person) a priest or minister: *He was ~ed priest.* **2** (of God, law, authority) decide; give orders (*that*): *God has ~ed that all men shall die.*

or-deal /ɔ:'di:l/ *n* **1** [U] (in former times) method of deciding a person's guilt or innocence by a physical test, such as passing through fire unharmed or fighting his accuser: *trial by ~; ~ by fire.* **2** [C] any severe test of character or endurance: *suffer terrible ~s.*

or-der¹ /'ɔ:də(r)/ *n* **1** [U] way in which things are placed in relation to one another: *put names in alphabetical ~.* **in order of**, arranged according to: *in ~ of size/importance.* **in reverse order**, ⇨ reverse¹. **2** [U] condition in which everything is carefully arranged; working condition. (**not**) **in order**, (not) as it should be: *Is your passport in ~.* Is it valid?

in good/bad, etc running/working order, (esp of machines) working well/badly: *The engine has been tuned and is now in perfect running ~.* **out of order**, (of a machine, etc) not functioning properly: *The lift/phone is out of ~.* **3** [U] (condition brought about by) good and firm government, obedience to law, rules, authority: *It is the business of the police to keep ~.* ⇨ disorder. **law and order**, ⇨ law(3). **4** [U] rules usual at a public meeting; rules accepted, eg in Parliament, committee meetings, by members and enforced by a president, chairman, or other officer: *Is it in ~ to interrupt?* **on a point of order**, on a point (= question) of procedure. **5** [C] command given with authority: *Soldiers must obey ~s.* **by order of**, according to directions given by proper authority of: *by ~ of the Governor.* **under starters' orders**, ⇨ starter(b). **6** [C] request to supply goods; the goods (to be) supplied: *an ~ worth £50.* **on order**, requested but not yet supplied. **7** [C] written instruction (esp to a bank or post office) to pay money, or giving authority: *a 'postal ~ for thirty new pence.* **8** [U] purpose, intention. **in order to do sth**, with the purpose of, with a view to, doing something: *in ~ (for you) to see clearly.* **in order that**, with the intention that; so that: *in ~ that he can be here in time.* **9** [C] rank or class in society: *the ~ of knights/baronets.* **10** [C] group of people belonging to or appointed to a special class (as an honour or reward): *the O~ of Merit/of the Bath.* **11** [C] badge, sign, etc worn by members of an order(10): *wearing all his ~s and decorations.* **12**

(*pl*) authority given by a bishop to perform church duties. **be in/take (holy) orders**, be/become a priest. **13** [C] class of persons on whom holy orders have been conferred: *the O~ of Deacons/Priests/Bishops.* **14** [C] group of persons living under religious rules, esp a brotherhood of monks: *the monastic ~s.* **15** [C] style of architectural forms, esp of columns (pillars) and capitals, esp the classical orders (*Doric, Ionic, Corinthian*) **16** [C] (*biology*) highest division in the grouping of animals, plants, etc: *The rose and the bean families belong to the same ~.* **17** [C] kind; sort: *intellect of a high ~.* **18** [C] arrangement of military forces: *in open/close ~*, with wide/with only slight spaces between the men, etc.

or-der² /'ɔ:də(r)/ *vt* **1** give an order(5,6,7): *The doctor ~ed me to (stay in) bed. The judge ~ed that the prisoner should be remanded. I've ~ed lunch for 1.30.* **order sb about**, keep on telling him to do things. **2** arrange; direct: *~ one's life according to strict rules.*

or-der-ing, (from 2 above) arrangement: *the ~ing of words in an index.*

or-der-ly /'ɔ:dəli/ *adj* **1** well arranged; in good order; tidy: *an ~ room/desk.* **2** methodical: *a man with an ~ mind.* **3** well behaved; obedient to discipline: *an ~ crowd.* □ *n* [C] (*pl -ies*) (army) officer's messenger; attendant in a (military) hospital.

or-der-li-ness *n* [U]

or-di-nal /'ɔ:dɪnəl/ *adj, n* [C] (number) showing order or position in a series: *first, second, third.* ⇨ cardinal.

or-di-nance /'ɔ:dɪnəns/ *n* [C] order, rule, statute, made by authority or decree: *the ~s of the City Council.*

or-di-nary /'ɔ:dɪnəri/ *US: 'ɔ:dənəri/ adj* normal; usual; average: *an ~ day's work; in ~ dress.* **in the ordinary way**, in the usual or customary way.

or-di-nar-ily /'ɔ:dɪnərəli/ *US: 'ɔ:dənərəli/ adv* in the usual or normal way: *behave quite ordinarily.*

or-di-na-tion /ɔ:dɪ'neɪʃn/ *n* [U] ceremony of ordaining (a priest or minister); [C] instance of this.

ord-nance /'ɔ:dɪnəns/ *n* [U] artillery; munitions.

Ord-nance 'Survey, (the preparation of) accurate and detailed maps of the physical geography of Britain and Ireland.

ore /ɔ:(r)/ *n* [C,U] (kinds of) rock, earth, mineral, from which metal can be mined or extracted: *iron ~.*

or-gan¹ /'ɔ:gən/ *n* [C] **1** any part of an animal body or plant serving an essential purpose: *the ~s of speech, the tongue, teeth, lips, etc; the reproductive ~s.* **2** means of getting work done; organization: *Parliament is the chief ~ of government.* **3** means for making known what people think: *~s of public opinion*, the

press, radio, TV, etc.

or-gan² /'ɔ:gən/ *n* [C] musical instrument from which sounds are produced by air forced through pipes, played by keys pressed with the fingers and pedals pressed with the feet.

'or-gan-ist /-ɪst/, player of an organ.

or-ganic /ɔ:'gænik/ *adj* **1** of an organ or organs of the body: *~ diseases*. **2** (opposite = *inorganic*) having bodily organs: *~ life*. **3** made of related parts; arranged as a system: *an ~ (ie organized) structure*.

or-gani-cally /-kli/ *adv*

or-gan-ism /'ɔ:gənɪzəm/ *n* [C] **1** living being (plant or animal) with parts which work together. **2** any system with parts dependent on each other: *the social ~*.

or-gan-iz-a-tion (also **-isation**) /'ɔ:gənə'raɪzɪʃn *US*: -nɪz-/ *n* [U] act of organizing; condition of being organized: *busy with the ~ of a new committee*. **2** [C] organized body of persons; organized system: *The human body has a very complex ~*.

or-gan-ize (also **-ise**) /'ɔ:gənəɪz/ *vt* put into working order; arrange in a system; make preparations for: *~ an army/a trade union/one's work/oneself*.

or-gan-ized (also **-ised**) *adj* **(a)** having a system or order: *highly ~d forms of life*. **(b)** (of a business, etc) with a recognized trade union representation.

or-gan-izer (also **-iser**), person who organizes things.

or-gi-as-tic /'ɔ:dʒɪ'æstɪk/ *adj* of the nature of an orgy.

orgy /'ɔ:dʒɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** occasion of wild merry-making. **2** (*pl*) drunken or immoral acts for amusement. **3** (*informal*) succession of innocent, pleasant activities: *an ~ of concerts/spending*.

orient¹ /'ɔ:riənt/ *n* **the O~**, (poetic name for) countries east of the Mediterranean, esp the Far East. *adj* (*poetic*) Eastern; (of the sun) rising: *the ~ sun*.

orient² /'ɔ:riənt/ *vt* (*US*) = orientate.

orien-tal /'ɔ:ri'entl/ *adj* of the Orient: *~ civilization/art/rugs*. *n* [C] **O~**, inhabitant of the Orient, esp China and Japan.

orien-tate /'ɔ:ri'entɪt/ (*US* = **orient**) *vt* **1** place (a building, etc) so as to face east; build (a church) with the chancel end facing east. **2** place or exactly determine the position of (something) with regard to the points of the compass. **3** (*fig*) bring into clearly understood relations: *~ oneself*, make oneself familiar with a situation, one's surroundings, etc.

orien-ta-tion /'ɔ:ri'entɪʃn/ *n* [U]

ori-fice /'brɪfɪs *US*: 'ɔ:r-/ *n* [C] outer opening; mouth (of a cave, etc).

ori-gin /'brɪdʒɪn *US*: 'ɔ:r-/ *n* [C,U] starting-point: *the ~ of a quarrel*; *the ~(s) of civilization*; *words of Latin ~*.

orig-i-nal /'ɔ:rɪdʒɪnəl/ *adj* **1** first or earliest: *the*

~ inhabitants of the country. **2** newly created; not copied or imitated: *an ~ design*. **3** able to produce new ideas, etc: *an ~ thinker/mind*. *n* **1** [C] original(2) thing: *This is a copy*; *the ~ is in Madrid*. **2** **the ~**, language in which something was first written: *study Plato in the ~*, in classical Greek.

o,riginal 'sin, tendency to commit sin which, some Christians believe, is inherited.

orig-in-al-ly /-nəli/ *adv* **(a)** in an original(2) manner: *write ~ly*. **(b)** from or in the beginning: *The school was ~ly quite small*.

orig-in-al-ity /'ɔ:rɪdʒɪ'næləti/ *n* [U] state or quality of being original(2): *work that shows no ~ity*.

orig-i-nate /'ɔ:rɪdʒɪneɪt/ *vi, vt* **1** have as a cause or beginning: *With whom did the scheme ~?* **2** be the author or creator of: *~ a new style of dancing*.

orig-in-a-tor /-tə(r)/, person who originates something.

or-na-ment /'ɔ:nəmənt/ *n* **1** [U] adorning or being adorned; that which is added for decoration: *embroidery used as ~*. **2** [C] something designed or used to add beauty or to decorate: *a shelf crowded with ~s*, eg pieces of china. **3** [C] person, act, quality, etc that adds beauty, charm, etc: *He is an ~ to his profession*. *vt* /'ɔ:nəment/ decorate; make beautiful: *~ a dress with lace*.

or-na-men-tal /'ɔ:nə'mentl/ *adj* decorative.

or-nate /'ɔ:nət/ *adj* **1** richly ornamented. **2** (of literary style) not simple in style or vocabulary.

or-nate-ly *adv*

or-ni-tho-logi-cal /'ɔ:nɪθə'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* of ornithology.

or-ni-thol-ogist /'ɔ:nɪθə'lɒdʒɪst/ *n* [C] expert in, student of, ornithology.

or-ni-thol-ogy /'ɔ:nɪθə'lɒdʒɪ/ *n* [U] scientific study of birds.

or-phan /'ɔ:fən/ *n* [C] child who has lost one or both of its parents by death: (used as an *adjective*) *an ~ child*. *vt* cause to be an orphan: *~ed by war*.

'or-phan-age /-ɪdʒ/, home for orphans.

or-tho-dox /'ɔ:θədɒks/ *adj* (having opinions, beliefs, etc which are) generally accepted or approved: *an ~ member of the Church*; *~ behaviour*. ⇨ heterodox.

the Orthodox Church, the Eastern or Greek Church, recognizing the Patriarch of Istanbul (Constantinople) as its head; the national churches of Russia, Rumania, etc.

or-tho-dox-y /'ɔ:θədɒksɪ/ *n* (*pl* -ies) [U] being orthodox; [C] orthodox belief, character, practice.

or-tho-gra-phy /'ɔ:θɒgrəfi/ *n* [U] (system of) spelling; correct or conventional spelling.

or-tho-paedic (also **-pedic**) /'ɔ:θə'pi:dɪk/ *adj* of the curing of deformities and diseases of bones: *~ surgery*.

or-tho-paed-ics (also **-ped-ics**) *n* (used with a *sing verb*) branch of surgery dealing with bone deformities and diseases.

os-cil-late /'ɒsɪleɪt/ *vi, vt* **1** swing backwards and forwards as the pendulum of a clock does.

2 (*fig*) change between extremes of opinion, etc. **3** cause to swing to and fro. **4** (of electric current) undergo high frequency alternations; (of radio receivers) radiate electro-magnetic waves; experience interference (in reception) from this.

os-cil-la-tion /'ɒsɪleɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

os-cil-lator /-tə(r)/, (esp) device for producing electric oscillations.

os-prey /'ɒspreɪ/ *US*: /-prɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) large kind of hawk that preys on fish.

oss-ify /'ɒsɪfaɪ/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** (*formal*) make or become hard like bone; change into bone. **2** (*fig*) make or become rigid, unprogressive.

ossi-fi-ca-tion /'ɒsɪfɪkəʃn/ *n* [U]

os-ten-sible /'ɒstensəbl/ *adj* (*formal*) (of reasons, etc) put forward in an attempt to hide the real reason; seeming to be.

os-ten-sibly /-əblɪ/ *adv* apparently.

os-ten-ta-tion /'ɒstentəʃn/ *n* [U] display (of wealth, learning, skill, etc) made to get admiration or envy.

os-ten-ta-tious /'ɒstentəʃəs/ *adj* showing ostentation: ~ jewellery/manners/people.

os-ten-ta-tious-ly *adv*

os-tra-cize (also **-ise**) /'ɒstrəsaɪz/ *vt* shut out from society: refuse to meet, talk to, etc: *She was ~ed by all her neighbours after her imprisonment.*

os-trich /'ɒstrɪtʃ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) fast-running bird, the largest in existence, unable to fly, bred for its valuable tail feathers.

other /'ʌðə(r)/ *adj, pron* (of) (person or thing) not already named or implied. **1 the ~**, (*sing*) the second of two: *The twins are so much alike that people find it difficult to know (the) one from the ~. The post office is on the ~ side of the street.* **on the 'other hand**, ⇨ *hand*¹(9). **2 the ~s**, (*pl*) (used when the reference is to two or more): *Six of them are mine; the ~s are John's.* **3** (used when one member of a group is compared with other members): *Green is far better as a striker than any ~ member of the team.* ⇨ also another. **each other**, ⇨ *each*(4). **every other**, (a) all the rest: *John is stupid; every ~ boy in the class knows the answer.* (b) alternate: *Write only on every ~ line.* **one after the other / another**, in succession, not together. ... **or other**, (used to suggest absence of certainty or precision): *I shall be coming again some day or ~, one of these days.* **the other day**, a few days ago. **4** different: *I do not wish her to be ~ than she is.* ⇨ *adv* (= otherwise) in a different way: *I can't do it ~ than slowly.*

other-wise /'ʌðəwaɪz/ *adv* **1** in another or

different way: *You evidently think ~.* **2** in other or different respects or conditions: *The rent is high, but ~ the house is satisfactory.* ⇨ *conj* if not; or else: *Do what you've been told; ~ you will be punished.*

ot-ter /'ɒtə(r)/ *n* [C] fur-covered, fish-eating animal with four webbed feet and a flat tail; [U] its fur.

ouch /aʊtʃ/ *int* (used to express sudden pain).

ought /ɔ:t/ *auxiliary verb* (No infinitive, no participles, no inflected forms; *ought not* may be contracted to *oughtn't* /'ɔ:tnt/) **1** (showing duty or obligation): *Such things ~ not to be allowed. You ~ to have done that earlier.* ⇨ *shall*(3). **2** (showing what is advisable, desirable or right): *There ~ to be more buses during the rush hours. You ~ (= I advise you) to see that new film.* **3** (showing probability): *That ~ to be enough fish for three people. Harry ~ to win the race.*

ounce /aʊns/ *n* [C] (abbr **oz**) unit of weight, one sixteenth of a pound avoirdupois or one twelfth of a pound troy.

our /ʊə(r)/ *usual form*: *ɑ:(r)* *strong form*: /'aʊə(r)/ *possessive adj* of or belonging to us; that we are concerned with, etc: *We have done ~ share.*

Our Father, God.

Our Lady, the Virgin Mary.

ours /'aʊəz/ *possessive pron* (the one or ones) belonging to us: *This house is ~. Ours is larger than theirs.*

our-selves /'aʊə'selvz/ *pron* **1** (reflexive): *It's no use worrying ~ about that.* (**all**) **by ourselves**, (a) alone. (b) without help. **2** (used for emphasis): *We've often made that mistake ~.*

-ous /-əs/ *suffix* having the qualities of: *poisonous.*

oust /aʊst/ *vt* cause (a person) to leave (his job, position, etc): ~ *him from being the secretary of the committee.*

out¹ /aʊt/ *adverbial particle* (contrasted with *in*) (For special uses with verbs, eg *go out*, ⇨ the *verb* entries.) **1** away from, not in or at, a place, the usual or normal condition, etc: *walk ~; order him ~; find one's way ~.* **2 be out**: *Mrs White is ~, not at home. The dockers are ~ again, on strike. The book I wanted was ~, was not in the library. The tide is ~, low. The Socialist party was ~, not in power. Short skirts are ~, not fashionable.* **be (out and) about**, ⇨ *about*²(3). **be out to** + *inf*, trying or hoping to: *I'm not ~ (= It is not my aim) to reform the world.* **3** (used in various phrases to show absence from home): *We don't go ~ much. We're dining ~ this evening.* **4** (used to emphasize the idea of distance): *He lives ~ in the country. The fishing boats are all ~ at sea. What are you doing ~ there?* **5** available; free from confinement or restraint; discovered: *The secret is ~, discovered, known. The apple blossom is ~, open. The sun is ~, not*

hidden by cloud. *His new book is ~*, published. **6** exhausted, extinct: *The fire/gas/light is ~*, not burning. *Put that cigarette ~!* **7** to or at an end; completely: *I'm tired/worn ~*. **have it out with sb**, ⇨ have⁴(9). **all out**, ⇨ all²(3). **8** (showing error): *I'm ~ in my calculations*. *We're ten pounds ~ in our accounts*. **a long way/not far out**, badly/not much in error. **9** (showing clearness or loudness): *call/cry/shout ~*. **out loud**, in a loud voice. **straight out**, ⇨ straight²(1). **10** (cricket) (of a batsman) no longer batting; having been bowled, caught, etc: *The captain was ~ for three (runs)*.

out² /aʊt/ prep **out of**, (contrasted with *in* and *into*; ⇨ the noun and verb entries for special uses, eg *out of date*, *out of the way*). **1** (of place): *Fish cannot live ~ of water*. *Mr Green is ~ of town this week*. **out of bounds**, ⇨ bounds. **2** (of movement): *He walked ~ of the shop*. **3** (of motive or cause): *They helped us ~ of pity/kindness*. **4** from among: *It happens in nine cases ~ of ten*. **5** by the use of; from: *The hut was made ~ of old planks*. *Can good ever come ~ of evil?* **6** without: *~ of breath/stock/work/petrol*. **7** (of condition): *~ of fashion/control/order/danger*. ⇨ the noun entries. **8** (of origin or source): *a scene ~ of a play*; *drink ~ of a cup/a bottle*. **9** (of result): *talk him ~ of doing it*, talk to him with the result that he does not do it; *cheat him ~ of his money*; *frighten her ~ of her wits*. **10** at a certain distance from: *The ship struck a mine ten miles ~ of Hull*. **'out of it**, (a) not invited to be a member of a party, etc; sad for this reason: *She felt ~ of it as she watched the others go off to the disco*. (b) not concerned or involved: *It's a dishonest scheme and I'm glad to be ~ of it*.

out³ /aʊt/ n (only in) **the ins and (the) outs**, ⇨ in³.

out-back /'aʊtbæk/ adj, n **the ~**, (eg in Australia) (of) the more distant areas with a small population.

out-bid /aʊt'bid/ vt (-dd-) bid higher than (another person) at an auction, etc.

out-board /'aʊtbɔ:d/ adj placed on or near the outside of a ship or boat.

outboard motor, detachable engine that is at the back and outside a boat.

out-brave /aʊt'breiv/ vt put up with bravely: *~ the storm*.

out-break /'aʊtbrek/ n [C] breaking out: *an ~ of fever/hostilities*.

out-build-ing /'aʊtbɪldɪŋ/ n [C] building, eg a shed or stable, separate from the main building.

out-burst /'aʊtbɜ:st/ n [C] bursting out (of steam, energy, laughter, anger, etc).

out-cast /'aʊtkɑ:st US: -kæst/ n [C], adj (person or animal) sent away from home or society.

out-caste /'aʊtkɑ:st US: -kæst/ n [C], adj (eg in India) (person) having lost, or been expelled from, or not belonging to, a caste.

out-class /aʊt'klas US: -'klæs/ vt be, do, much better than: *He was ~ed from the start of the race*.

out-come /'aʊtkʌm/ n [C] effect or result of an event, or of circumstances.

out-crop /'aʊtkrɒp/ n [C] that part of a layer (of rock, etc) which can be seen above the surface of the ground.

out-cry /'aʊtkraɪ/ n (pl -ies) **1** [C] loud shout or scream (of fear, alarm, etc). **2** [C,U] public protest (against something).

out-dated /aʊt'detɪd/ adj made out-of-date (by the passing of time).

out-dis-tance /aʊt'dɪstəns/ vt travel faster than and leave behind.

out-do /aʊt'du:/ vt (3rd person sing pres -does /-'dʌz/, pt -did /-'dɪd/, pp -done /-'dʌn/) do more or better than: *Not to be outdone he tried again*.

out-door /'aʊtdɔ:(r)/ adj done, existing, used, outside a house or building: *leading an ~ life*; *~ sports*.

out-doors /aʊt'dɔ:z/ adv in the open air; outside: *It's cold ~*. *Let's eat ~*.

outer /'aʊtə(r)/ adj **1** of or for the outside. ⇨ inner. **2** farther from the middle or inside.

'outer space, the universe beyond the earth's atmosphere.

'outer-most /-məʊst/ adj farthest from the inside or centre.

out-fit /'aʊtfɪt/ n [C] all the clothing, equipment, needed for a purpose: *a 'camping ~*, tent, etc. □ vt (-tt-) equip.

out-fitter, shopkeeper, shop, selling clothes: *a school ~ter*.

out-flank /aʊt'flæŋk/ vt go or pass round the side of (the enemy): *an ~ing movement*.

out-fox /aʊt'fɒks/ vt defeat by being cunning.

out-go-ing /'aʊtgəʊɪŋ/ adj going out; leaving: *the ~ tenant/tide*. ⇨ incoming.

out-go-ings n pl expenditure.

out-grow /aʊt'grəʊ/ vt (pt -grew /-'gru:/, pp -grown /-'grəʊn/) **1** grow too large or too tall for, eg one's clothes. **2** grow faster or taller than another person. **3** leave behind, as one grows older (bad habits, childish interests, opinions, etc).

out-growth /'aʊtgroʊθ/ n [C] **1** natural development or product. **2** that which grows out of something: *an ~ on a tree*.

out-house /'aʊthaus/ n [C] (pl ~s /-'haʊzɪz/) small building adjoining the main building (eg a shed, barn or stable).

out-ing /'aʊtɪŋ/ n [C] **1** holiday away from home; pleasure trip: *go for an ~ to the seaside*. **2** practice (eg by a race-horse).

out-jockey /aʊt'dʒɒki/ vt outmanoeuvre.

out-land-ish /aʊt'lændɪʃ/ adj looking or

sounding very odd, strange (esp to shock): ~ *dress/behaviour/ideas*.

out-land-ish-ly *adv*

out-last /'aʊt'lɑːst/ *US*: -'læst/ *vt* last or live longer than.

out-law /'aʊtlɔː/ *n* [C] (in olden times) person punished by being placed outside the protection of the law. □ *vt* make (a person) an outlaw.

out-lay /'aʊtleɪ/ *n* [U] spending; providing money; [C] sum of money that is spent: *a large ~ on/for scientific research*.

out-let /'aʊtlet/ *n* [C] **1** way out for water, steam, etc: *an ~ for water*. **2** (fig) means of or occasion for showing one's feelings, using one's energies, etc.

out-line /'aʊtlaɪn/ *n* [C] **1** line(s) showing shape or boundary: *an ~ map of Great Britain*; *draw it in ~*. **2** statement of the chief facts, points, etc: *an ~ for an essay/a lecture*. □ *vt* draw, give, in outline: *outlining ideas for the stage design/for future activities*.

out-live /'aʊt'lɪv/ *vt* **1** live longer than: ~ *one's wife*. **2** live until something is forgotten: ~ *a disgrace*.

out-look /'aʊtlʊk/ *n* [C] **1** view on which one looks out: *a pleasant ~ over the valley*. **2** what seems likely to happen: *a bright ~ for trade*; *further ~, dry and sunny* (weather forecast). **3** person's way of looking at something: *a narrow ~ on life*. ⇨ narrow(5).

out-lying /'aʊtlaɪɪŋ/ *adj* far from the centre: ~ *villages*.

out-man-oeuvre (*US* = -*ma-neu-ver*) /'aʊtmənuːvə(r)/ *vt* overcome, defeat, by being superior in manoeuvring.

out-match /'aʊtmætʃ/ *vt* be more than equal: *be ~ed in skill and endurance*.

out-moded /'aʊtməʊdɪd/ *adj* out of fashion.

out-most /'aʊtməʊst/ *adj* = outermost.

out-num-ber /'aʊtnʌmbə(r)/ *vt* be greater in number than.

out-of-date /'aʊt əv 'deɪt/ *adj* (hyphens are used when it is used with (usually before) a noun to name a quality) = out of date: *an ~ set of figures*. ⇨ date¹(2).

out-of-the-way /'aʊt əv ðə 'weɪ/ *adj* **1** remote; secluded: *an ~ cottage*. **2** not commonly known: ~ *items of knowledge*.

out-patient /'aʊtpetɪnt/ *n* [C] person visiting a hospital for treatment but not living there.

out-play /'aʊtpleɪ/ *vt* play better than: *The English were ~ed by the Brazilians*.

out-point /'aʊt'pɔɪnt/ *vt* (in boxing, etc) score more points than; defeat on points.

out-post /'aʊtpəʊst/ *n* [C] **1** (soldiers in an) observation post at a distance from the main body of troops. **2** any distant settlement: *an ~ of the Roman Empire*.

out-pour-ing /'aʊtpɔːrɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] pouring

out. **2** (usually *pl*) expression of feeling: ~ *s of sadness at her death*.

out-put /'aʊtpʊt/ *n* [C] **1** quantity of goods, etc produced: *the ~ of a goldmine/a factory*. **2** power, energy, etc produced. **3** information produced from a computer. ⇨ input.

out-rage /'aʊtreɪdʒ/ *n* [C,U] **1** (act of) extreme violence or cruelty: *The use of torture is an ~ against humanity*. **2** act that shocks public opinion: *an ~ on decency*. □ *vt* treat violently or cruelly; shock greatly: ~ *public opinion/one's sense of justice*.

out-rage-ous /'aʊtreɪdʒəs/ *adj* shocking; very cruel, immoral: ~ *behaviour*; *an ~ price/remark*.

out-rage-ous-ly *adv*

out-rider /'aʊtraɪdɪ(r)/ *n* [C] person, eg policeman on a motorcycle, accompanying a vehicle as an attendant or guard.

out-right /'aʊtraɪt/ *adj* **1** thorough; positive: *an ~ denial*; ~ *wickedness*; *an ~ liar*. **2** clear; unmistakable: *On the voting for secretary, Smith was the ~ winner*. □ *adv* **1** openly, with nothing held back: *tell a man ~ what one thinks of his behaviour*. **2** completely; at one time: *buy a house ~*, ie not by instalments; *be killed ~*, quickly, eg by a single blow.

out-rival /'aʊtraɪvl/ *vt* (-ll-, *US* also -l-) be or do better than a rival.

out-run /'aʊt'rʌn/ *vt* (*pt* -ran /-ræn/, *pp* -run) (-nn-) run faster or better than.

out-set /'aʊtset/ *n* **at/from the outset**, at/from the beginning: *I warned you from the ~ that I don't like spiders*.

out-shine /'aʊt'shaɪn/ *vt* (*pt,pp* -shone /-ʃɒn/) **1** shine more brightly than. **2** (fig) be more attractive, successful, than.

out-side /'aʊt'saɪd/ *n* (contrasted with *inside*)

1 [C] the other side or surface; the outer part(s): *The ~ of the house needs painting*. **2 at the (very) outside**, at the most; at the highest reckoning: *There were only fifty people there at the ~*, certainly not more than fifty. □ *adj* **1** of or on, nearer, the outside: ~ *measurements*, eg of a box; *an ~ broadcast*, from a place away from the studios. **2** greatest possible or probable: *an ~ estimate*. **3** not connected with or included in a group, organization, etc: *We shall need ~ help* (= extra workers) *for this job*. **4** unlikely, small; *an ~ chance/possibility*. □ *adv* on or to the outside: *The car is waiting ~*. □ *prep* **1** at or on the outer side of: ~ *the house*. **2** beyond the limits of: *He has no occupation ~ his office work*.

outside broadcast, one not in a studio.

out-sider /'aʊt'saɪdə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who is not, or who is not considered to be, a member of a group, society, etc. **2** horse that is thought to have little chance of winning a race.

out-size /'aʊtsaɪz/ *adj* (esp of clothing, etc) larger than the usual size.

outskirts /'aʊtskɜːts/ *n pl* borders or outlying parts (esp of a town): *on the ~ of Lille.*

out-smart /,aʊt'smɑːt/ *vt* (informal) be cleverer, more cunning, than.

out-spoken /,aʊt'spəʊkən/ *adj* saying freely what one thinks: ~ comments/delegates.

out-spoken-ly *adv*

out-spread /,aʊt'spreɪd/ *adj* spread or stretched out: with ~ arms/arms ~.

out-standing /,aʊt'stændɪŋ/ *adj* **1** in a position to be easily noticed; attracting attention (because so good): *an ~ landmark. The boy who won the scholarship was quite ~.* **2** (of problems, work, payments, etc) still to be attended to: ~ debts; *work that is still ~.* **3** /'aʊtstændɪŋ/ sticking out: *a boy with big, ~ ears.*

out-standing-ly *adv*: ~ly successful.

out-stay /,aʊt'steɪ/ *vt* stay longer than: ~ the other guests. *outstay one's welcome*, stay until one is no longer a welcome guest.

out-stretched /,aʊt'stretʃt/ *adj* stretched or spread out: *lie ~ on the grass; with ~ arms.*

out-strip /,aʊt'strɪp/ *vt* (-pp-) do better than.

out-ward /'aʊtwəd/ *adj* **1** of or on the outside: *the ~ appearance of things.* **2** going out: *during the ~ voyage.* **adv** (also **out-wards**) towards the outside; away from home or the centre: *The two ends must be bent ~s. The ship is ~ bound, sailing away from its home port.*

out-ward-ly *adv* on the surface; apparently: *Though frightened she appeared ~ly calm.*

out-wear /,aʊt'weə(r)/ *vt* (pt -wore /-wɔː(r)/, pp -worn /-wɔːn/) **1** last longer than: *Leather shoes will ~ plastic ones.* **2** (pp): *outworn* (= out-of-date) *practices in industry.*

out-weigh /,aʊt'wei/ *vt* be greater in weight, value or importance than: *Do the disadvantages ~ the advantages?*

out-wit /,aʊt'wɪt/ *vt* (-tt-) defeat by being cleverer or more cunning than.

out-wore /,aʊt'wɔː(r)/, **out-worn** /,aʊt'wɔːn/ ⇨ outwear.

ova /'əʊvə/ *n pl* of ovum.

oval /'əʊvl/ *n* [C], *adj* (shape or outline that is) like an egg or ellipse.

ovary /'əʊvəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (anat) **1** either of the two reproductive organs in which ova are produced in female animals. **2** seed-vessel in a plant. ⇨ ovum.

ova-tion /əʊ'veɪʃn/ *n* [C] enthusiastic expression (clapping, cheering) of welcome or approval: *a standing ~, one showing great pleasure, etc by standing up to clap, etc.*

oven /'ʌvn/ *n* [C] enclosed space (in a cooker) heated for baking, roasting, etc: *Bread is baked in an ~.*

'oven-ready *adj* (on sale) ready to cook: ~ready chickens.

'oven-ware /-weə(r)/ *n* [U] heat-proof dishes for use in an oven.

over¹ /'əʊvə(r)/ *adv* (⇨ the verb entries for special combinations, eg *give over*.) **1** (suggesting movement from an upright position, from one side to the other side, or so that a different side is seen, etc): *Don't knock that vase ~. He turned ~ in bed.* **2** (suggesting motion upwards and outwards): *The milk boiled ~. (fig) He was boiling ~ with rage.* **3** from beginning to end; through: *He should think it ~, consider the matter carefully.* **4** (suggesting repetition). (**all**) **over again**, again completely: *He did it so badly that I had to do it all ~ again myself.* **over and over** (**a**)gain, repeatedly; many times: *I've warned you ~ and ~ again not to do that.* **5** across (a street, an open space, a distance, etc): *Take these letters ~ to the post office. Come ~ and see me some time.* **over there**, ⇨ there¹ (5). **6** remaining; not used after part has been taken or used: *Seven into thirty goes four times and two ~. If there's any meat (left) ~, give it to the dog.* **7** in addition; in excess; more: *children of fourteen and ~; 10 metres and a little ~.* **8** ended; finished; done with: *The meeting/The storm is ~. His sufferings will soon be ~.* **9** more than is right, usual, wise, etc: ~anxious; ~taxed. ⇨ over-below. **10** (suggesting transference or change from one person, party, etc to another): *He has gone ~ to the enemy, joined them.* **11** on the whole surface; in all parts: *He was aching all ~. Paint the old name ~, cover it with paint. That's Smith all ~, It's typical of him!*

over² /'əʊvə(r)/ *prep* **1** resting on the surface of and covering, partly or completely: *He spread his handkerchief ~ his face to keep the flies off. I knocked the man's hat ~ his eyes, so that he couldn't see.* **2** at a level higher than, but not touching: *The sky is ~ our heads. I leant ~ the table.* **over one's head**, ⇨ head¹ (20). **3** (of superiority in rank, authority, etc): *He rules ~ a great tribe. He has no command ~ his students. Mr White is ~ me in the office.* **4** in or across every part of: *Snow is falling ~ the north of England. He has travelled all ~ Europe.* **5** from one side to the other of; to or at the other side of: *He escaped ~ the frontier. She spoke to me ~ her shoulder. Look ~ the hedge.* **6** so as to be over and on the other side of: *climb ~ a wall; jump ~ a brook.* **7** (of time): *Can you stay ~ Sunday, until Monday?* **8** (opposite = under) more than: *He spoke for ~ an hour. He stayed in London (for) ~ a month. The river is ~ fifty miles long. He's ~ fifty years old.* **over and above**, in addition to: *The waiters get good tips ~ and above their wages.* **9** in connection with; while engaged in; concerning: *an argument ~ methods. He went to sleep ~ his work, while doing it. How long will he be ~ it? How long will it take him to do it, get there, etc?*

over³ /'əʊvə(r)/ *n* [C] (cricket) number of balls

bowled in succession by each bowler in turn.

over- /əʊvə(r)/ *prefix* **1** across, above: *overland*; *overhead*. **2** too (much): *over-polite*.

The meanings of the *adjectives* below may be obtained by putting *too* in place of *over*:

over-abundant	over-ex-cited
over-active	over-fa-miliar
over-am-bitious	over-fond
over-anxious	over-full
over-bold	over-l-generous
over-busy	over-l-greedy
over-careful	over-l-hasty
over-cautious	over-jealous
over-confident	over-nervous
over-critical	over-prud
over-curious	over-ripe
over-delicate	over-sensitive
over-eager	over-serious
over-emotional	over-sus-picious
over-enthusiastic	over-zealous

The meanings of the *nouns* below may be obtained by putting *too much* in place of *over*:

over-abundance	over-payment
over-anxiety	over-population
over-confidence	over-pro-duction
over-exposure	over-strain
over-indulgence	over-val-uation

The meaning of the *verbs* below may be obtained by putting *too much* after the *verb* in place of *over*:

over-burden	over-heat
over-cook	over-indulge
over-eat	over-praise
over-emphasize	over-pro-duce
over-estimate	over-simplify
over-exert	over-strain
over-expose	over-value

over-act /əʊvərækt/ *vi, vt* act in an exaggerated way.

over-all /əʊvərɔ:l/ *adj* including everything; containing all: *the ~ measurements of a room*.

over-all /əʊvərɔ:l/ *n* **1** [C] loose-fitting dress that covers other clothes (eg as worn by housewives). **2** (pl) loose-fitting trousers, with the front extended above the waist, worn to protect other clothes.

over-arm /əʊvərɑ:m/ *adv* (in sport, eg cricket) with the arm swung over the shoulder: *bow! ~*; *an ~ bowler*; *~ bowling*.

over-awe /əʊvərɔ:weɪ/ *vt* gain complete reverence, respect, obedience, etc.

over-balance /əʊvərbæləns/ *vt, vi* (cause to) fall over: *He ~d and fell in*.

over-bearing /əʊvərbearɪŋ/ *adj* forcing others to one's will: *an ~ manner*.

over-bearing-ly *adv*

over-bid /əʊvə'bid/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp ~) (-dd-) **1** (at an auction) bid higher than (another person). **2** bid more than the value of (something offered for sale). □ *n* [C, U] act of overbidding.

over-board /əʊvə'bɔ:d/ *adv* over the side of a ship or boat into the water: *fall/jump ~*.

over-burden /əʊvə'bɜ:dn/ *vt* burden too heavily: *~ed with grief*.

over-cast /əʊvə'kɑ:st/ *US*: -'kæst/ *adj* **1** (of the sky) darkened (as) by clouds. **2** (fig) gloomy; sad. □ *n* [C] cloud-covered sky.

over-charge /əʊvə'tʃɑ:dʒ/ *vt, vi* **1** charge too high a price: *We were ~d for the eggs*. **2** fill or load too much: *~ an electric circuit*. □ *n* /əʊvə'tʃɑ:dʒ/ [C] load, price, etc that is too high or great.

over-cloud /əʊvə'klaʊd/ *vt, vi* cover, become covered, with clouds or shadows.

over-coat /əʊvə'kəʊt/ *n* [C] long coat worn over other clothes in cold weather.

over-come /əʊvə'kʌm/ *vt* (pt -came /-keɪm/, pp -come) **1** defeat; be too strong for. *~ the enemy/a bad habit/temptation*. **2** make weak: *be ~ by emotion/tiredness/sadness/whisky/fumes*.

over-crowd /əʊvə'kraʊd/ *vt* crowd too much: *~ed buses and trains*; *the ~ing of large cities*.

over-do /əʊvə'du:/ *vt* (pt -did /-dɪd/, pp -done /-dʌn/) **1** do too much; exaggerate; overact: *He overdid his part in the play*. **over-do it**, (a) work, etc too hard: *You should work hard, but don't ~ it and make yourself ill*. (b) exaggerate; go too far in order to achieve one's aim: *He tried to show sympathy for us, but didn't he ~ it?* **2** cook too much: *overdone beef*.

over-dose /əʊvədəʊs/ *n* [C] amount or dose of a drug that is too much.

over-draft /əʊvədra:ft/ *US*: -dræft/ *n* [C] amount of money by which a bank account is overdrawn.

over-draw /əʊvə'drɔ:/ *vt, vi* (pt -drew /-dru:/, pp -drawn /-drɔ:n/) **1** draw a cheque for a sum that is more than one's credit balance in a bank: *an ~n account*. **2** exaggerate: *The characters in this novel are rather ~n, are not true to life*.

over-dress /əʊvədres/ *vt, vi* dress (oneself, etc) too richly or too formally.

over-due /əʊvə'dju:/ *US*: -du:/ *adj* beyond the time fixed (for arrival, payment, etc): *The train is ~, is late*. *These bills are all ~, ought to have been paid before now*. *The baby is two weeks ~, still not born two weeks after the expected date of birth*.

over-flow /əʊvə'fləʊ/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp ~ed) **1** flow over; flow over the edges or limits; spread beyond the ordinary or usual area: *The river ~ed its banks*. *The crowds were so big that they ~ed into the street*. **2** be more than filled: *a heart ~ing with love*. □ *n* /əʊvə'fləʊ/ [C] flowing over of liquid; that which flows over or is too much for the space, area, etc available: *an ~ meeting*, one held for those unable to find room in the hall, etc where the principal meeting is held.

over-grown /əʊvə'grəʊn/ *adj* **1** having

grown too fast: an *~* boy. **2** covered with something that has grown over: a garden *~* with weeds.

over-growth /'əʊvəgrəʊθ/ *n* [C] **1** that which has grown over: an *~* of weeds. **2** growth that is too fast or too much: weakness due to *~*.

over-hang /'əʊvə'hæŋ/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -hung /-hæŋ/) hang, project, over, like a shelf: The cliffs *~* the stream. The ledge *~s* several feet. □ *n* /'əʊvə'hæŋ/ [C] part that overhangs: the *~* of a roof.

over-haul /'əʊvə'hɔ:l/ *vt* **1** examine thoroughly in order to learn about the condition of: have the engine of a car *~ed*. **2** overtake; catch up with: The fast cruiser soon *~ed* the old cargo boat. □ *n* /'əʊvə'hɔ:l/ [C] examination for the purpose of repairing, cleaning, etc.

over-head /'əʊvə'hed/ *adv* above one's head; in the sky: the people in the room *~*; the stars *~*. □ *adj* /'əʊvə'hed/ raised above the ground: *~* wires/cables.

over-heads /'əʊvə'hedz/ *n pl* those expenses, etc needed for running a business, eg rent, salaries, light, not manufacturing costs.

over-hear /'əʊvə'hɪə(r)/ *vt* (*pt, pp* ~d /-hɜ:d/) **1** hear without the knowledge of the speaker(s). **2** hear what one is not intended to hear, deliberately or by chance.

over-joyed /'əʊvə'dʒɔɪd/ *adj* very delighted (at one's success, etc).

over-kill /'əʊvə'kɪl/ *n* [U] nuclear capacity greatly above what is needed to exterminate the enemy.

over-land *adj* /'əʊvə'lænd/, *adv* /'əʊvə'lænd/ across the land (contrasted with the sea): take the *~* route; travel *~*.

over-lap /'əʊvə'læp/ *vt, vi* (-pp-) **1** partly cover by extending beyond one edge: tiles that *~* one another. **2** (fig) partly coincide; involve duplication: His duties/authority and mine *~*. □ *n* /'əʊvə'læp/ [C, U] (amount of, that which is) overlapping.

over-leaf /'əʊvə'li:f/ *adv* on the other side of the leaf (of a book, etc).

over-load /'əʊvə'ləʊd/ *vt* put too great a load (of electric current, weight) on.

over-look /'əʊvə'lʊk/ *vt* **1** have a view of from above: Our garden is *~ed* from the neighbours' windows. They can look down on to our garden from their windows. **2** fail to see or notice; pay no attention to: His services have been *~ed* by his employers. They have not properly rewarded him. **3** let pass without punishing: *~* a fault.

over-mas-ter /'əʊvə'mɑ:stə(r)/ *US*: -mæs-/ *vt* overcome, overpower: an *~ing* desire.

over-much /'əʊvə'mʌtʃ/ *adj*, *adv* too greatly (ly): an author who is praised *~*.

over-night /'əʊvə'naɪt/ *adv* **1** on the night before: Let's get everything ready *~* so that we can start early the next morning. **2** for, during,

the night: stay *~* at a friend's house, sleep there for the night. □ *adj* /'əʊvə'naɪt/, during or for the night: an *~* journey.

over-pass /'əʊvə'pɑ:s/ *US*: -pæs/ *n* [C] bridge that carries a road over a highway or motorway. ⇨ flyover, underpass.

over-pay /'əʊvə'peɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -paid /-peɪd/) pay too much or too highly: Has Jack been overpaid for his work?

over-power /'əʊvə'paʊə(r)/ *vt* defeat by greater strength or numbers: The criminals were easily *~ed* by the police. He was *~ed* by the heat.

over-power-ing *adj* too strong; very powerful: an *~ing* stink; *~ing* grief.

over-rate /'əʊvə'reɪt/ *vt* put too high a value on: *~* her abilities; an *~* book.

over-reach /'əʊvə'ri:tʃ/ *vt* **overreach oneself**, fail, damage one's own interests, by being too ambitious.

over-ride /'əʊvə'raɪd/ *vt* (*pt* -rode /-rəʊd/, *pp* -ridden /-rɪdn/) refuse to agree with or accept, (a person's) opinions, decisions, wishes, claims, etc): They overrode my wishes.

over-rule /'əʊvə'ru:l/ *vt* decide against (esp by using one's higher authority): The judge *~d* the previous decision.

over-run /'əʊvə'rʌn/ *vt* (*pt* -ran /-ræn/, *pp* ~) **1** spread over and occupy or injure: a country *~* by enemy troops; a garden *~* with weeds. **2** go beyond (a limit): speakers who *~* the time allowed them.

over-seas /'əʊvə'si:z/ *adj* (at, to, from, for, places) across the sea: *~* trade (no 'e stress change). □ *adv*: go/live *~s*, abroad.

over-see /'əʊvə'si:/ *vt* (*pt* -saw /-sɔ:/, *pp* -seen /-si:n/) look after, control (work or workmen).

over-seer /'əʊvə'siə(r)/, person whose duty it is to take charge of work and see that it is properly done.

over-shadow /'əʊvə'ʃædəʊ/ *vt* **1** throw a shade over. **2** (fig) cause to seem less important or obvious.

over-shoe /'əʊvəʃu:/ *n* [C] (also a pair of ~s) rubber shoe worn over an ordinary one in wet weather. ⇨ galoshes.

over-shoot /'əʊvə'ʃu:t/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -shot /-ʃɒt/) **1** shoot or travel over or beyond (a mark or limit): The aircraft overshot the runway. **2** (literary, fig) go too far.

over-sight /'əʊvə'saɪt/ *n* **1** [U] failure to notice; [C] instance of this: Because of a very unfortunate *~*, your letter was left unanswered. **2** [U] supervision: under the *~* of a nurse.

over-sim-ple-fi-ca-tion /'əʊvə ,sɪmplɪ'fɪkəʃn/ *n* [C, U] (instance of) making something (a process, an explanation, etc) seem too easy.

over-sleep /'əʊvə'sli:p/ *vi* (*pt, pp* -slept /-slept/) sleep too long or after the time for waking: He overslept and was late for work.

over-spill /'əʊvəspɪl/ *n* [C] **1** what has overflowed. **2** (fig) surplus population (leaving a town to live elsewhere): *build new towns for London's ~.*

over-state /'əʊvəsteɪt/ *vt* **1** express or state too strongly. **2** state more than is true about: *Don't ~ your case.*

over-state-ment /'əʊvəsteɪtmənt/ *n* [U] exaggeration; [C] exaggerated statement.

over-stay /'əʊvəsteɪ/ *vt* = outstay.

over-step /'əʊvəstep/ *vt* (-pp-) go beyond: *~ one's authority.*

over-stock /'əʊvəstɒk/ *vt* supply, fill, with too much stock.

over-strung /'əʊvəstrʌŋ/ *adj* (of a person, his nerves) intensely nervous; easily excited; too sensitive.

over-sub-scribed /'əʊvəsəb'skraɪbd/ *adj* (finance) (of an issue of shares, etc) with more applications than what is offered.

overt /'əʊvɜ:t/ *US*: 'əʊvɜ:t/ *adj* done or shown openly, publicly: *~ hostility.*

overt-ly *adv*

over-take /'əʊvəteɪk/ *vt* (*pt* -took /-'tʊk/, *pp* -taken /-'teɪkən/) **1** catch up with and pass: *~ other cars on the road.* **2** (of storms, troubles, etc) happen suddenly, by surprise: *be ~n by/with fear/surprise.*

over-tax /'əʊvətæks/ *vt* **1** tax too heavily. **2** put too heavy a burden on or strain on: *~ one's strength/her patience.*

over-throw /'əʊvəθrəʊ/ *vt* (*pt* -threw /-'θru:/, *pp* -thrown /-'θrəʊn/) defeat; put an end to; cause to fall or fail: *~ the government.* *□ n* /'əʊvəθrəʊ/ [C] ruin; defeat; fall.

over-time /'əʊvətəɪm/ *n* [U], *adv* (time spent at work) after the usual hours: *working ~; be on ~; ~ pay.*

over-ture /'əʊvətʃʊə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (often *pl*) approach made (to a person) with the aim of starting discussions: *peace ~s; make ~s to strikers.* **2** (music) composition played as an introduction to an opera, or as a separate item at a concert.

over-turn /'əʊvətɜ:n/ *vt, vi* (cause to) turn over; upset: *He ~ed the boat. The car ~ed.*

over-weight /'əʊvəweɪt/ *n* [U] excess of weight above what is usual or legal. *□ adj* /'əʊvəweɪt/ more than the weight allowed or than is normal: *If your luggage is ~, you'll have to pay extra.*

over-whelm /'əʊvəwelɪm/ *US*: -'hwelm/ *vt* weigh down; cover, completely by pouring down on; crush; cause to feel confused or embarrassed: *be ~ed by the enemy/by superior forces; ~ing sorrow.*

over-work /'əʊvəwɜ:k/ *vt, vi* (cause to) work too hard or too long: *~ a horse. She used to ~.* *□ n* [U] working too much or too long: *ill through ~.*

over-wrought /'əʊvə'rɔ:t/ *adj* tired out by too much work or excitement.

ovi-duct /'əʊvɪdʌkt/ *n* [C] (*anat*) (also called *Fallopian tube*) either of two tubes through which ova pass from the ovary to the uterus.

ovum /'əʊvəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ova /'əʊvə/) cell in female animals, capable of developing into a new individual when fertilized by male sperm.

owe /əʊ/ *vt, vi* **1** be in debt to (a person) (for something): *He ~s his father £50.* **2** be under an obligation to, feel the necessity of gratitude to: *We ~ a great deal to our parents.* **3** be bound to give as a duty: *owing reverence and obedience to my father.* **4** be indebted to as the source of: *He ~s his success more to good luck than to ability. To whom do we ~ the discovery of penicillin?*

owing /'əʊɪŋ/ *adj* still to be paid: *large sums still ~.* **owing to**, *prep* because of: *O ~ to the rain, they could not come.*

owl /əʊl/ *n* [C] bird flying at night that lives on small birds and animals, eg mice.

own¹ /əʊn/ *adj, pron* **1** (used with possessive adjectives) for emphasis in possession, individual, and not another's: *I saw it with my ~ eyes. It's my ~, belongs to me. This fruit has a flavour all its ~. (all) on one's own, (a) alone: I'm (all) on my ~ today. (b) independently of an employer: He's (working) on his ~, is self-employed. (c) without help: I did it on my ~. (d) outstanding; excellent: For craftsmanship, Smith is on his ~, has no equal. come into one's own, receive the credit, fame, etc that is deserved. get one's own back, ⇨ get back. hold one's own, ⇨ hold³(9). **2** done or produced by and for oneself: *She makes all her ~ clothes.**

own² /əʊn/ *vi, vi* **1** possess; have as property: *This house is mine; I ~ it.* **2** agree; confess; recognize: *~ that a claim is justified. own 'up (to sth), confess fully and frankly.*

owner /'əʊnə(r)/ *n* [C] person who owns something: *Who's the ~ of this house?*

own-er-ship /'fɪp/, state of being an owner; right of possession.

ox /ɒks/ *n* [C] (*pl* oxen /'ɒksn/) **1** general name for domestic cattle. **2** (esp) fully grown castrated bullock.

'ox-cart, cart drawn by oxen.

'ox-tail, tail of ox, used for soup, etc.

oxi-dize (also **-ise**) /'ɒksɪdaɪz/ *vt, vi* (cause to) combine with oxygen; make or become rusty.

oxy-acety-lene /'ɒksɪə'setlɪn/ *adj, n* [U] (of a) mixture of oxygen and acetylene: *~ welding, using a hot flame of oxyacetylene.*

oxy-gen /'ɒksɪdʒən/ *n* [U] chemical element (symbol **O**), gas without colour, taste or smell, present in the air and necessary to the existence of all forms of life.

'oxygen mask, mask placed over the nose and mouth to supply oxygen.

'oxygen tent, enclosure to allow a patient to breathe air with a greater oxygen content.

oy-ster /'ɔɪstə(r)/ *n* [C] kinds of shellfish used

as food, usually eaten uncooked.

oyster-bed/-bank, where oysters breed or are bred.

oyster-catcher, wading seabird.

Pp

P, p /pi:/ (pl P's, p's /pi:z/) the 16th letter of the English alphabet. **mind one's P's and Q's**, be careful about what one says or does.

pa /pa:/ n [C] (informal) short for papa.

pace /peɪs/ n [C] **1** (distance covered by the foot in a) single step in walking or running. **2** rate of walking or running: *go at a good ~*, go fast. **set the pace**, ⇨ *set*² (6). **keep pace (with)**, (literary, fig) progress at the same rate: *He finds it hard to keep ~ with all the developments in nuclear physics*. **3** (esp of horses) way of walking, running, etc. ⇨ *vi*, **vt** **1** walk, trot, etc with slow or regular steps: *~ up and down*, (often suggesting restlessness, impatience). **2** move across in this way: *~ing the room*. **3** measure by taking paces: *~ off 30 metres*; *~ out a room*. **4** set the pace (2) for (a rider or runner in a race).

'pace-maker, (a) (also **'pace-setter**) rider, runner, etc who sets the pace for another in a race. (b) electronic device to correct weak or irregular heartbeats.

pa-cific /pə'sɪfɪk/ *adj* peaceful; making or loving peace.

pa-cifi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

paci-fi-ca-tion /pə'sɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ n [U] making or becoming peaceful.

paci-fism /'pæsɪfɪzəm/ n [U] principle that war should and could be abolished.

paci-fist /'pæsɪfɪst/ n [C] believer in pacifism.

pac-ify /'pæsɪfaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) **1** calm (a person's anger, excitement, etc). **2** end violence in (a country).

pack¹ /pæk/ n [C] **1** bundle of things tied or wrapped up together for carrying. **2** number of dogs kept for hunting (a ~ of hounds) or of wild animals that go about together: *Wolves hunt in ~s*. **3** (used contemptuously) number of things or persons: *a ~ of thieves/liars/lies*. **4** complete set (usually 52) of playing-cards. **5** quantity of fish, meat, fruit, etc packed in a season: *this year's ~ of salmon*. ⇨ *pack*² (5). **6** (US) = packet: *a ~ of cigarettes*.

'pack-horse/-animal, one used for carrying packs (1).

'pack-ice, mass of large blocks of ice in the sea.

pack² /pæk/ *vt*, **vi** **1** put things into, fill, a box, bundle, bag, etc; get ready for a journey by doing this: *~ clothes into a trunk*. *Have you ~ed*

(up) your things? You must begin ~ing at once. *Her husband takes a ~ed lunch* (eg sandwiches, etc in a container) *to work every day*.

pack up, (informal) (a) put one's tools, etc away; stop working: *It's time to ~ up*. (b) fail: *One of the aircraft's engines ~ed up*. **2** crush or crowd together (into a place or period of time): *~ing people into a bus*. *She managed to ~ a lot of sightseeing into the short time she had in London*. **3** put soft material into or round (something) to prevent loss or damage: *glass/china ~ed in straw*. **4 pack sb off; send sb packing**, send him away quickly and roughly (because he is troublesome, etc). **5** prepare and put (meat, fruit, etc) in tins for preservation. ⇨ *pack*¹ (5). **6** choose (the members of a committee, etc) so that their decisions are likely to be in one's favour.

pack-age /'pækɪdʒ/ n [C] parcel, bundle of things, packed together. ⇨ *vt* place in, make, a package.

'package 'deal, (informal) several parts of a proposal for discussion together.

'package 'holiday/'tour, (informal) holiday including travel, accommodation, etc arranged in advance by travel agents and sold at a fixed price.

packer /'pækə(r)/ n [C] person or machine that packs (1).

packet /'pækɪt/ n [C] **1** small parcel, carton: *a ~ of 20 cigarettes*. **2** (sl) large sum of money: *cost a ~*. **make a packet**, (informal) earn a lot of money.

'packet-boat, mailboat.

pack-ing /'pækn/ n [U] **1** process of packing (goods): *doing my ~*, putting things in my suitcase. **2** materials used in packing (3), eg for closing a leaking joint.

'packing-case, box of rough boards in which goods are packed for shipment.

pact /pækt/ n [C] agreement: *a Peace P~*.

pad /pæd/ n [C] **1** mass of, container filled with, soft material, used to prevent damage, give comfort or improve the shape of something. **2** number of sheets of writing-paper fastened together along one edge. **3** = launching pad. **4** guard for the leg or other parts of the body (in cricket and other games). **5** (also **'inking-pad**) absorbent material used for inking rubber stamps. **6** soft, fleshy underpart of the foot (of a dog, fox, etc). **7** (sl) bed; room to sleep in. ⇨ *vt* (-dd-) **1** put pads (1) in or on (to prevent injury, to give comfort, or to fill out hollow spaces, etc). **2 pad sth out**, make (a sentence, essay, book, etc) longer by using unnecessary material.

'padded 'cell, one with padded walls (as used in a mental hospital).

pad-ding /'pædn/ n [U] material used for padding (1, 2).

paddle¹ /'pædl/ n [C] **1** short oar with a wide blade at one or at both ends, used (without a

rowlock) to move a canoe through the water. **2** (rowing) act or period of moving a boat with light, easy strokes. **3** instrument shaped like a paddle (eg one used for beating, stirring or mixing things). \square vt, vi use a paddle. **paddle one's own canoe**, depend on oneself alone.

'paddle-steamer, steam vessel moved by paddle-wheels.

'paddle-wheel, one of a pair of wheels which moves a paddle-steamer.

paddle² /'pædl/ vi walk with bare feet in shallow water (as children do at the seaside): *a paddling pool*, shallow pool (eg in a public park) where children paddle. \square n [C] act or period of paddling.

pad-dock /'pædək/ n [C] **1** small grass field, esp one used for exercising horses. **2** (at a race-course) enclosed area where horses are assembled and paraded before a race.

paddy /'pædi/ n [U] rice that is still growing; rice in the husk.

'paddy-field, field where rice is grown.

pad-lock /'pædlɒk/ n [C] detachable lock with a hook put round the object fastened. \square vt fasten with a padlock.

padre /'pædreɪ/ n [C] **1** (army and navy) chaplain. **2** (GB informal) priest; parson.

paedi-at-rics /'pi:di'ætri:k/ \hookrightarrow pediatrics.

pa-gan /'peɪgən/ n [C], adj (person who is) not a believer in any of the chief religions of the world.

page¹ /'peɪdʒ/ n [C] **1** one side of a piece of paper which is part of a book, periodical, etc. **2** whole piece of paper: *Several ~s have been torn out.* \square vt number the pages of.

page² /'peɪdʒ/ n [C] **1** (also ~boy) boy servant, usually in uniform, in a hotel, club, etc. **2** (in the Middle Ages) boy in training for knighthood and living in a knight's household. **3** boy acting as a personal attendant of a person of high rank. \square vt summon or call the name of (a person) in a hotel, club, etc: *paging Mr Green.*

pag-eant /'pædʒənt/ n [C] **1** public entertainment, often outdoors, in which historical events are acted in the costume of the period. **2** public celebration, esp one in which there is a procession of persons in fine costumes (eg a coronation).

pag-eantry /'pædʒəntri/ n [U] rich and splendid ceremony or display.

pa-goda /'pə'gəʊdə/ n [C] (pl ~s) (in India, Ceylon, Burma, China, Japan, etc) religious building, typically a sacred tower shaped like a pyramid (Hindu temple), or of several storeys (Buddhist tower).

paid /peɪd/ \hookrightarrow pay².

pail /peɪl/ n [C] vessel, usually round, of metal or wood, for carrying liquid: *a ~ of milk.*

pail-ful /-fʊl/ n [C] as much as a pail can hold.

pain /peɪn/ n **1** [U] suffering of mind or body: *be in (great) ~; cry with ~; feel some/no/not*

much/a great deal of ~. **2** [C] particular or localized kind of bodily suffering: *a ~ in the knee; stomach ~s.* **a pain in the neck**, (sl) annoying person. \square vt cause pain to: *My foot is still ~ing me.*

'pain-killer, medicine for lessening pain (**1**).

pained adj distressed: *She had a ~ed look.*

pain-ful /-fl/ adj causing pain: *This duty is ~ful to me.*

pain-fully /-fəli/ adv

pain-less adj without, causing no, pain: *~less methods of killing animals.*

pain-less-ly adv

pains /'peɪnz/ n pl trouble; effort: *work hard and get very little for all one's ~.* **be at/take (great) pains to do sth**, make a great effort, work hard, to do it.

pains-taking /'peɪnstekɪŋ/ adj very careful; industrious.

paint /'peɪnt/ n **1** [U] solid colouring matter (to be) mixed with oil or other liquid and used to give colour to a surface: *give the doors two coats of ~.* **2** (pl) collection of tubes or cakes of colouring materials. \square vt, vi **1** coat with paint: *~ a door.* **paint the town red**, \hookrightarrow red (**1**). **2** make a picture (of) with paint: *~ flowers; ~ in oils/in water-colours.* **paint sth in**, add to a picture: *~ in the foreground.* **3** (fig) describe vividly in words. **be not so black as one is painted**, \hookrightarrow black (**1**).

'paint-box, box with a collection of paints (**2**).

'paint-brush, brush for painting.

painter¹ /'peɪntə(r)/ n [C] **1** person who paints pictures. **2** workman who paints wood-work, buildings, ships, etc.

painter² /'peɪntə(r)/ n [C] rope fastened to the bow (front) of a boat by which it may be tied to a ship, pier, etc.

paint-ing /'peɪntɪŋ/ n **1** [U] using paint; occupation of a painter. **2** [C] painted picture.

pair /'peə(r)/ n [C] **1** two things of the same kind (to be) used together: *a ~ of shoes/gloves.* **2** single article with two parts always joined: *a ~ of trousers/tights/scissors/tongs.* **3** two persons closely associated, eg an engaged or married couple: *They make a handsome ~.* look attractive together. **in pairs**, in twos. **4** two animals of opposite sex; two horses harnessed together. **5** (in Parliament) two persons of opposite political parties who are absent from voting by mutual agreement; one member willing to do this: *The member for Lewisham couldn't find a ~.* \square vt, vi **1** form a pair; join, go off, in pairs. **2** (in Parliament) make a pair (**5**).

pa-ja-mas /'pə'dʒɑ:mæz/ n pl \hookrightarrow pyjamas.

pal /pæl/ n [C] (informal) friend. \square vi (-ll-) **pal up (with sb)**, become friendly.

pally /'pæli/ adj (informal) friendly.

pal-ace /'pælɪs/ n [C] **1** official residence of a sovereign, archbishop or bishop. **2** any large and splendid house; large, splendid building

for entertainment. **3** the ~, influential persons at the palace of a sovereign.

pal-at-able /'pælətəbl/ *adj* **1** agreeable to the taste. **2** (fig) pleasing.

pal-ate /'pælət/ *n* [C] **1** roof of the mouth: *the hard/soft ~*, its front/back part. ⇨ cleft palate. **2** sense of taste: *have a good ~ for wines*.

pa-la-tial /'pælɪeɪl/ *adj* of or like a palace: *a ~ residence*.

pale¹ /peɪl/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** (of a person's face) having little colour: *He turned ~ at the news*. **2** (of colours) not bright; faintly coloured: ~ blue. □ *vi* grow pale; lose colour.

pale-ness *n* [U]

pale² /peɪl/ *n* [C] pointed piece of wood used for fences; stake. ⇨ paling.

paleo-lithic (also **palaeo-**) /'pælɪəʊ'lɪθɪk/ *US*: /'peɪl-/ *adj* of the period marked by the use of primitive stone implements.

pale-on-tol-ogist (also **palae-**) /'pælɪən-'tɒlədʒɪst/ *US*: /'peɪl-/ *n* [C] expert in paleontology.

pale-on-tol-ogy (also **palae-**) /'pælɪən-'tɒlədʒɪ/ *US*: /'peɪl-/ *n* [U] study of fossils as a guide to the history of life on earth.

pal-ette /'pæltɪ/ *n* [C] board (with a hole for the thumb) on which an artist mixes his colours.

'palette-knife, wide, flat knife, used (by artists) for mixing (and sometimes spreading) oil colours, by potters for moulding clay and in cookery.

pale-ing /'peɪlɪŋ/ *n* [C,U] fence made of pales².

pal-ish /'peɪlɪʃ/ *adj* a little pale.

pal¹ /pɒl/ *n* [C] **1** heavy cloth spread over a coffin. **2** (fig) any dark, heavy covering: *a ~ of smoke*.

'pall-bearer, person who walks by the side of a coffin at a funeral.

pal² /pɒl/ *vi* become distasteful or boring because done, used, etc for too long a time: *pleasures that ~ after a time*.

pal-let /'pælt/ *n* [C] **1** straw-filled mattress for sleeping on. **2** portable platform for carrying and storing loads.

pal-lid /'pæld/ *adj* pale; looking ill.

pal-lid-ly *adv*

pal-lor /'pælə(r)/ *n* [U] paleness, esp of the face.

pally ⇨ pal.

palm¹ /pɑ:m/ *n* [C] inner surface of the hand between the wrist and the fingers. □ *vt* hide (a coin, card, etc) in the hand when performing a trick. **palm sth off (on sb)**, get him to accept it by fraud, deceit, etc.

palm² /pɑ:m/ *n* [C] **1** sorts of tree growing in warm climates, with no branches and a mass of large wide leaves at the top: *'date-~s*; *'coco-nut ~s*. **2** leaf of a palm as a symbol of victory.

palm-ist /'pɑ:mɪst/ *n* [C] person who claims to tell a person's future by examining the lines on his palm.

palm-is-try /'pɑ:mɪstri/ *n* [U] art of doing this.

pal-pable /'pælpəbl/ *adj* (formal) **1** that can be felt or touched. **2** clear to the senses or mind: *a ~ error*.

pal-pably /-əblɪ/ *adv*

pal-pi-tate /'pælpɪteɪt/ *vi* **1** (of the heart) beat rapidly and irregularly. **2** (of a person, his body) tremble (with terror, etc).

pal-pi-ta-tion /'pælpɪteɪʃn/ *n* [C,U] (instance of) palpitating of the heart (from disease, great efforts, etc).

pal-try /'pɒltri/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) worthless; of no importance; contemptible.

pam-pas /'pæmpəs/ *US*: -əz/ *n* *pl* extensive, treeless plains of S America. (Note: compare: *prairie* in N America and *savannah* in tropical America and W Africa.)

pam-per /'pæmpə(r)/ *vt* indulge too much; be too kind to: *a ~ed child/dog*.

pamph-let /'pæmfli:t/ *n* [C] small paper-covered book, esp on a topic of current interest.

pamph-let-eer /'pæmfli:tə(r)/ *n* [C] writer of pamphlets.

pan¹ /pæn/ *n* [C] **1** flat dish, usually shallow and without a cover, used for cooking and other domestic purposes. **2** receptacle with various uses: *the ~ (= bowl) of a lavatory*; *a 'bed~*. **3** (natural or artificial) depression in the ground: *a 'salt-~*, where salt water evaporates. **4** either of the dishes on a pair of scales. **5** open dish for washing gravel, etc to separate gold ore or other metals. □ *vt, vi* (-nn-) **1** wash (gold-bearing gravel, etc) in a pan. **pan out**, (a) yield gold. (b) (fig) succeed; turn out: *How did things ~ out?* **2** (informal) criticize harshly: *His play was ~ned severely*.

'pan-cake, (a) batter fried on both sides until brown. (b) **pancake landing**, emergency landing in which the aircraft drops flat to the ground. (c) cosmetic face-powder pressed into a flat cake, used without a foundation cream.

pan² /pæn/ *vi, vt* (in cinema and TV) turn a camera right or left to follow a moving object or get a panoramic effect. ⇨ zoom(2).

pan- *prefix* all, throughout: *Pan-African*.

pana-cea /'pænə'siə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) remedy for all troubles, diseases, etc.

pa-nache /'pæ'næʃ/ *US*: pə-/ *n* [U] (air of) confidence: *He does everything with ~*.

pana-tella /'pænə'telə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) long, thin cigar.

pan-chro-matic /'pænkroʊ'mætɪk/ *adj* (in photography) equally sensitive to all colours: ~ film.

pan-creas /'pæŋkriəs/ *n* [C] gland near the stomach, discharging a juice which helps digestion.

pan-cre-atic /'pæŋkri:tɪk/ *adj* of the pancreas.

panda /'pændə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) mammal like a bear, of Tibet and China, with black legs and a black and white body.

'Panda car, (*GB*) police patrol car.

pan-de-mo-nium /,pændɪ'məʊniəm/ *n* [C, U] (*pl* ~s) (scene of) wild and noisy disorder.

pan-der /'pændə(r)/ *vi* give help or encouragement (*to*): *newspapers that ~ to the public interest in crime; ~ to low tastes.*

pane /peɪn/ *n* [C] sheet of glass in (a division of) a window.

panel /'pænl/ *n* [C] **1** separate part of the surface of a door, wall, ceiling, etc raised above or sunk below the surrounding area. **2** large piece of material of a different kind or colour inserted in a dress. **3** board or other surface for controls and instruments: *the instrument ~*, of an aircraft or motor-vehicle; *the control ~*, on a radio or TV set. **4** list of names, eg of doctors who (in GB) have agreed to attend persons under the National Health Service. **5** group of speakers, esp one chosen to speak, answer questions, take part in a game, before an audience, eg of listeners to a broadcast: (as an *adjective*) *a ~ discussion/game*. □ *vt* (-ll-, US -l-) furnish or decorate with panels (1,2): *a ~led room/skirt.*

pan-el-ling, series of panels on a wall, etc.

pang /pæŋ/ *n* [C] sudden, sharp feeling of pain, guilt, etc.

panic /'pænik/ *n* [C, U] uncontrolled, quickly spreading, fear: *There is always danger of (a) ~ when a building catches fire.* □ *vi* (-ck-) be affected with panic: *Stop ~king!*

pan-icky /'pænikɪ/ *adj* (*informal*) easily affected by, in a state of, panic.

'panic-stricken *adj* terrified; overcome by panic.

pan-nier /'pæniə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** one of a pair of baskets placed across the back of a horse or ass. **2** one of a pair of bags on either side of the back of a (motor-)bike.

pan-or-ama /,pænə'ræmə US: /'ræmə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) wide, uninterrupted view; constantly changing scene: *the ~ of London life.*

pan-or-amic /,pænə'ræmɪk/ *adj*

pan-pipes /'pænpaɪps/ *n pl* musical instrument made of a series of reeds or pipes, played by blowing across the open ends.

pansy /'pænzɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) flowering herbaceous plant.

pant /pænt/ *vi, vt* **1** take short, quick breaths; gasp: *The dog ~ed along behind its master's horse.* **2** say while panting: *He ~ed out his message.* □ *n* [C] short, quick breath (as when exhausted).

pan-ta-loon /,pæntə'lun/ *n* **1** [C] (in pantomime) foolish character on whom the clown plays tricks. **2** (*pl*) (*old use*) = pants (2).

pan-tech-ni-con /pænteknikən/ *n* [C] (*GB*) large van for removing furniture.

pan-the-ism /'pænthɪzəm/ *n* [U] belief that

God is in everything and that everything is God; belief in and worship of all gods.

pan-the-ist /-ɪst/, believer in pantheism.

pan-the-is-tic /,pænthɪ'ɪstɪk/ *adj.*

pan-ther /'pænθə(r)/ *n* [C] leopard; (*US*) puma.

pan-ties /'pæntɪz/ *n pl* (*informal*) (woman's or girl's) close-fitting short knickers.

panto /'pæntəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) (*informal*) (abbr of) pantomime.

pan-to-mime /'pæntəmaɪm/ *n* [C, U] **1** (example of a) kind of English drama based on a fairytale or traditional story, with music, dancing and clowning. **2** acting without words.

pan-try /'pæntri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** room (in a large house, hotel, ship, etc) in which silver, glass, etc are kept. **2** larder; room (in a house) in which food is kept.

pants /pænts/ *n pl* **1** (esp *US*) trousers. **2** underpants; knickers.

panty-hose /'pænthəʊz/ *n* [U] (used with a *pl verb*) tights fitting below the waistline.

papa /pə'pɑ: US: /'pɑ:pə/ *n* [C] (child's word for) father.

pa-pacy /'peɪpəsi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) position, authority of, the Pope; system of government by Popes.

pa-pal /'peɪpl/ *adj* of the Pope or a papacy.

pa-paw (also **paw-paw**) /pə'pɔ: US: /'pɔ:pɔ:/ *n* [C] **1** tropical tree like a palm; its large edible fruit with a yellow pulp inside. **2** small N American evergreen tree with small fleshy edible fruit (also called *custard apple*).

pap-aya /pə'paɪə/ = papaw.

pa-per /'peɪpə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] substance in the form of sheets, used for writing, printing, drawing, wrapping, packing, etc: *a sheet of ~*; *a ~ bag.* (**be**) **good on paper**, (**be**) good when judged from written or printed evidence: *It's a good scheme on ~* (but has not yet been tested). **2** [C] = newspaper: *the evening ~s.* **3** (*pl*) documents showing who a person or thing is, what authority he or it has, etc: *identification ~s*; *ship's ~s.* **4** [C] set of printed examination questions on a given subject: *The biology ~ was difficult.* **5** [C] essay, esp one to be read to a learned society: *a ~ on currency reform.* □ *vt* paste wallpaper on: *~ the dining-room.* **paper over**, (*fig*) hide (faults) using a weak disguise.

'paper-back, book in paper covers.

'paper-clip, ☞ clip¹.

'paper-mill, factory where paper is made.

'paper 'tiger, person, group of persons, etc which seems to be, but is not, powerful.

'paper-work, written work (in an office, etc, eg filling in forms, correspondence, contrasted with practical affairs, dealing with people): *He's good at ~work.*

pa-poose /pə'pu:s US: /pə'pu:s/ *n* [C] **1** (word used by Indians of N America for a)

baby. **2** framed bag (like a rucksack) for carrying a young baby on one's back.

pap-rika /'pæprɪkə/ *US*: /pə'prɪkə/ *n* [U] sweet red pepper used in cooking.

pa-py-rus /pə'paɪərəs/ *n* **1** [U] (kind of paper made in ancient Egypt from) tall water plant or reed. **2** [C] (*pl* papyrus /pə'paɪərəs/) manuscript written on this paper.

par /pɑː(r)/ *n* [U] **1** average, normal amount, degree, value, etc. **above/below/at par**, (of shares, bonds, etc), above/below/at the original price or face value. **on a par with**, of the same (high) standard as: *intelligence on a ~ with Einstein*. **2** (golf) number of strokes considered necessary for a player to complete a hole or course.

par-able /'pærəbl/ *n* [C] simple story designed to teach a moral lesson.

par-ab-ola /pə'ræbələ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) flat curve formed by cutting a cone along a line parallel to its side.

para-bolic /pə'ræbɒlɪk/ *adj*

para-chute /'pærəʃu:t/ *n* [C] apparatus used for a jump from an aircraft or for dropping supplies, etc. □ *vt, vi* drop, descend, from an aircraft by means of a parachute.

para-chut-ist /-ɪst/, person who jumps with a parachute.

par-ade /pə'reɪd/ *vt, vi* **1** (of troops) (cause to) gather together for drilling, inspection, etc. **2** march in procession: *clowns parading in the circus-ring*. **3** make a display of; try to attract attention to: *parading wild animals*; ~ *one's wealth*. □ *n* **1** [U] parading of troops: *be on ~*; [C] instance of this: *a circus ~*. **2** [C] display or exhibition: *a 'fashion ~*. **3** wide, pavement on a seafront.

pa-rade-ground, area on which parades (1) are held.

para-dise /'pærədaɪs/ *n* **1** the Garden of Eden, home of Adam and Eve. **2** Heaven. **3** (with *a, an*) any place of perfect happiness; [U] condition of perfect happiness. ⇨ fool's paradise.

para-dox /'pærədɒks/ *n* [C] statement that seems to say something opposite to common sense or the truth, but which may contain a truth (eg 'More haste, less speed' if you hurry too much, you may find you take longer).

para-doxi-cal /pə'rædɒksɪkəl/ *adj*

para-doxi-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

par-af-fin /'pærəfɪn/ *n* [U] **1** (GB) oil obtained from petroleum, coal, etc used as a fuel (*US* = kerosene). **2** substance like wax used for making candles. **3** odourless, tasteless form of paraffin used as a laxative.

para-gon /'pærəɡɒn/ *US*: -ɡɒn/ *n* [C] model (of excellence); apparently perfect person or thing: *a ~ of virtue*.

para-graph /'pærəɡrɑːf/ *US*: -græf/ *n* [C] **1** division (usually a group of several sentences dealing with one main idea) of a piece of writ-

ing, started on a new line. **2** small item of news in a newspaper. □ *vt* divide into paragraphs.

para-keet /'pærəkɪt/ *n* [C] small, long-tailed parrot of various kinds.

par-al-lel /'pærələ/ *adj* **1** (of lines) always at the same distance from one another. **2** (of one line) having this relation (*to* or *with* another): *in a ~ direction (with/to...)*. **3** (fig) similar; corresponding: *a ~ job in another company*. □ *n* [C] **1 in parallel**, (of the components of an electrical circuit) with the supply of current taken to each component independently. ⇨ series. **2** person, event, etc precisely similar: *a brilliant career without (a) ~ in modern times*. **3** comparison: *draw a ~ between...* □ *vt* (-l- or (GB) -ll-) **1** quote, produce or mention a comparison. **2** be the same as: *His experiences ~ mine in many instances*.

par-al-lelo-gram /pə'rælələɡræm/ *n* [C] four-sided plane figure whose opposite sides are parallel.

para-lyse (*US* = -lyze) /'pærəlaɪz/ *vt* **1** affect with paralysis. **2** (fig) make helpless: *paralysed with fear*.

par-al-ysis /pə'rælɪsɪs/ *n* [U] **1** loss of feeling or power to move in any or every part of the body. **2** (fig) state of total powerlessness.

para-lyt-ic /pə'rælɪtɪk/ *adj* (a) suffering from paralysis (1). (b) (fig) helpless: *paralytic laughter*. (c) (informal) very drunk. □ *n* [C] paralytic person.

para-meter /pə'ræmɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] variable factor in an analysis or experiment.

para-mili-tary /pə'ræmɪlɪtəri/ *US*: -teri/ *adj* having duties like but not with the same status as regular military forces.

para-mount /'pærəmaʊnt/ *adj* (formal) **1** supreme, superior in power: ~ *chiefs*. **2** pre-eminent, superior: *of ~ importance*.

para-noia /pə'rænɔɪə/ *n* [U] mental disorder marked by fixed delusions, eg of persecution or grandeur.

para-noid /'pærənɔɪd/ *n* [C], *adj* (person) suffering from paranoia.

para-pet /'pærəpɪt/ *n* [C] **1** protective wall at the edge of a flat roof, side of a bridge, etc. **2** defensive bank of earth, stone, etc along the front edge of a trench (in war).

para-pher-nalia /pə'ræfə'neɪliə/ *n* [U] numerous small possessions, tools, instruments, etc.

para-phrase /'pærəfreɪz/ *vt, n* [C] (give a) statement of a piece of writing in other (usually fewer) words.

para-ple-gia /pə'ræplɪ'dʒiə/ *n* [U] paralysis of the lower part of the body, including both legs, caused by injury to the spinal cord.

para-plegic /pə'ræplɪ'dʒɪk/ *n* [C], *adj* (person) suffering from paraplegia.

para-site /'pærəsɪt/ *n* [C] **1** animal (eg louse, hookworm) or plant (eg mistletoe) living on or in another and getting its food from it. **2** (fig)

person supported by another and giving him nothing in return.

para-sitic /ˌpærə'sɪtɪk/ **para-siti-cal** /ˌpærə'sɪtɪkəl/ *adj*

para-sol /ˌpærəsəl/ *US*: -sɒl/ *n* [C] umbrella used to give shade from the sun.

para-troops /ˌpærətruːps/ *n pl* troops trained for being dropped by parachute.

para-trooper /ˌpærətruːpə(r)/ *n* [C] one of these.

par-boil /ˌpɑːbɔɪl/ *vt* boil (food) until partially cooked.

par-cel /ˌpɑːsl/ *n* [C] thing or things wrapped and tied up for carrying, sending by post, etc.

part and parcel of, an essential part of. □ *vt* (-ll-, *US* also -l-) **1** divide into portions: ~ out the food. **2** make into a parcel: ~ up the books.

parch /ˌpɑːtʃ/ *vt* (of heat, the sun, etc) make hot and dry: the ~ed deserts of N Africa.

parch-ment /ˌpɑːtʃmənt/ *n* **1** [C, U] (manuscript on) writing material prepared from the skin of a sheep or goat. **2** [U] kind of paper like parchment.

par-don /ˌpɑːdn/ *n* **1** [U] forgiveness: ask for ~; [C] instance of this. **2** **I beg your pardon**, (used to show politeness, eg when disagreeing with somebody, or when not hearing or understanding somebody). **3** freeing from legal punishment: a general ~, for groups of offenders, not individuals. □ *vt* forgive; excuse: ~ her for doing wrong.

par-don-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be forgiven.

pare /peə(r)/ *vt* **1** cut away the outer part, edge or skin of: ~ the claws of an animal. **2** (fig) reduce little by little: ~ down one's expenses.

par-ent /ˌpeərənt/ *n* [C] **1** father or mother; ancestor. **2** (fig) source, origin: ~s of evil.

'par-ent-age /-ɪdʒ/ *n* [U] fatherhood or motherhood; origin.

par-ental /pə'rentl/ *adj* of a parent: showing ~al care.

'parent-hood, motherhood or fatherhood.

par-enth-esis /pə'renθəsis/ *n* [C] (*pl* -eses /-əsɪz/) **1** sentence or phrase within another sentence, marked off by commas, dashes or brackets. **2** (*sing* or *pl*) round brackets () for this: a comment in ~.

par-en-thetic /ˌpærən'tetɪk/, also

par-entheti-cal /-ɪkl/ *adj*

par-en-theti-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

par-ish /ˌpærɪʃ/ *n* [C] **1** division of a county with its own church and clergymen. **2** (*civil* ~) (*GB*) division of a county for local government: the ~ council.

par-ish-ioner /pə'rɪʃənə(r)/ *n* [C] inhabitant of a parish.

par-ity /ˌpærəti/ *n* [U] equality; being equal; being at par: The two currencies have now reached ~, are equivalent.

park /pɑːk/ *n* [C] **1** public garden or public recreation ground in a town. **2** area of grassland, trees, etc round a large country house or

mansion. ⇨ also car park, national park. □ *vt, vi* **1** place or leave (a motor-vehicle) in a car park, a drive¹ (2), etc: Where can we ~ (the car)? **2** (*informal*) put (a person or thing) somewhere: Where can I ~ this suitcase?

parka /ˌpɑːkə/ *n* [C] = anorak.

parking /ˌpɑːkɪŋ/ *n* [U] (area for the) parking of motor-vehicles: No ~.

'parking lot, (*US*) = car park.

'parking meter, coin-operated meter for parking a car in a public place, eg a street.

Parkinson's disease /ˌpɑːkɪnsns dɪziːz/ *n* [U] chronic progressive disease of old people, with muscular tremors, muscular rigidity and general weakness.

par-li-a-ment /ˌpɑːləmənt/ *n* [C] (in countries with representative government) supreme law-making council or assembly (in *GB* the House of Commons and the House of Lords): enter *P* ~; Members of '*P* ~.

par-li-a-men-tar-ian /ˌpɑːləmənt'etəriən/, person skilled in the rules and procedures of parliament.

par-li-a-men-tary /ˌpɑːlə'mentri/ *adj*

par-lour (*US* = -lor) /ˌpɑːlə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (*dated*) ordinary sitting-room for the family in a private house (now called a *sitting-room* or *living-room*). **2** private sitting-room at an inn; room for the reception of visitors. **3** (*esp US*) room for customers and clients: a *beauty* ~.

par-ochial /pə'rəʊkiəl/ *adj* **1** of a parish. **2** (fig) limited, narrow: a ~ mind/attitude.

par-ochi-ally /-kiəl/ *adv*

par-ody /ˌpærədi/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [C, U] (piece of) writing intended to amuse by imitating the style of writing used by somebody else. **2** [C] feeble imitation: a ~ of justice. □ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) make a parody of.

pa-role /pə'rəʊl/ *n* [U] prisoner's solemn promise, on being given certain privileges, that he will not try to escape or repeat a crime. **on parole**, freed after making such a promise. □ *vt* set (a prisoner) free on parole.

par-o-quet /ˌpærəkiːt/ *n* = parakeet.

par-ox-ysm /ˌpærəksɪzəm/ *n* [C] sudden attack or outburst (of pain, anger, laughter, etc).

par-quet /ˌpɑːkeɪ/ *US*: pɑː'keɪ/ *n* [C] flooring of wooden blocks fitted together to make a pattern.

par-ri-cide /ˌpærɪsaɪd/ *n* [C, U] (person guilty of the) murder of one's father or near relation.

par-rot /ˌpærət/ *n* [C] **1** sorts of bird with a short, hooked bill and (often) brightly coloured feathers of which some kinds can be trained to imitate human speech. **2** person who repeats, often without understanding, what others say.

parry /ˌpærɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** turn aside, avoid (a blow). **2** (fig) evade (a question). □ *n* [C] act of parrying.

parse /pɑːz/ *US*: pɑːrs/ *vt* **1** describe (a word) grammatically. **2** point out how the words of a

sentence are related.

Par-see /pɑː'siː/ *n* [C] supporter of a religious system in India, the members being descended from Persians who settled in India in the 7th and 8th centuries.

par-si-mo-ni-ous /pɑːsɪ'məʊniəs/ *adj* (formal) too economical; mean¹ (6).

pars-ley /pɑːsli/ *n* [U] plant with aromatic leaves, used in seasoning and sauces.

pars-nip /pɑːsnɪp/ *n* [C] long, white or pale-yellow root, cooked as a vegetable.

par-son /pɑːsn/ *n* [C] parish priest; clergyman.

par-son's 'nose, (informal) tail-end of a cooked fowl.

par-son-age /-ɪdʒ/, parson's house.

part¹ /pɑːt/ *n* [C] 1 (often *sing* without *a*, *an*) some but not all of a thing or a number of things; something less than the whole: *We spent (a) ~ of our holiday in France. P~s of the book are interesting. for the 'most part*, ⇨ *most¹ (1).* **in part**, to some extent or degree. **2** (pl) region; district: *in these/those ~s*. **3** any one of a number of equal divisions: *A minute is the sixtieth ~ of an hour.* **4** person's share in some activity; his duty or responsibility; what an actor in a play, film, etc says and does: *a man with an important ~ in a play/in a conference.* **play one's part**, be involved, do what is expected. **take part (in)**, have a share (in); help: *Are you going to take ~ in the discussion?* Do you intend to speak? **5** side in a dispute, transaction, agreement, mutual arrangement, etc. **take sb's part**, support him: *He always takes his brother's ~.* **for my part**, as far as I am concerned: *For my ~ I am quite happy about the division of the money.* **6 take sth in good part**, not be offended by it. **7** each issue of a work published in instalments: *a new encyclopaedia to be issued in monthly ~s*. **8** essential piece or section (eg *a spare ~*), extra piece, etc to be used when needed, when something breaks or wears: *When can I get a ~ for my pump?* **9** (music) each of the melodies that make up a harmony; the melody for a particular voice or instrument. □ *adv* partly: *made ~ of iron and ~ of wood.*

part of 'speech, one of the classes of words, eg *noun, verb, adjective*.

part-time *adj, adv* for only a part of the working day or week: *be employed ~time; ~time teaching*. Hence, **part-timer** *n* [C]

part² /pɑːt/ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) separate or divide: *We tried to ~ the two fighters. Let's ~ friends.* **part company (with)**, ⇨ *company (1)*. **2** give up, give away: *He hates to ~ with his money.* **3** divide one's hair by combing it in opposite ways.

part-ing *n* (a) [C] line where the hair is combed in opposite ways. (b) [C,U] departure. **at the parting of the ways**, (fig) at the point when one has to choose between courses of

action.

par-take /pɑːteɪk/ *vi, vt* (pt *-took* /-tʊk/, *pp* *-taken* /-teɪkən/) (formal) **1** take a share in: *They partook (of) our simple meal.* **2** have some of (the nature or characteristics of): *His manner ~s of insolence.*

par-tial /pɑːʃl/ *adj* **1** forming only a part; not complete: *a ~ success; a ~ eclipse of the sun.* **2** showing too much favour to one person or side: *examiners who are ~ towards pretty female students.* **3** having a liking for: *~ to French wines.*

par-tially /pɑːʃəli/ *adv* (a) partly; not completely. (b) in a partial (2) manner.

par-ti-al-ity /pɑːʃiələti/ *n* (a) [U] being partial (2) in treatment of people, etc. (b) [C] fondness: *a ~ity for chocolate cake.*

par-tici-pant /pɑːtɪsɪpənt/ *n* [C] person who takes part in something.

par-tici-pate /pɑːtɪsɪpeɪt/ *vi* have a share, be involved: *~ in a plot.*

par-ti-ciple /pɑːtɪsɪpl/ *n* [C] (verbal adjective qualifying nouns but retaining some characteristics of a verb, eg: *'Hurrying' and 'hurried' are the present and past ~s of 'hurry'.* (Note: *past participle* is marked *pp* in this dictionary.)

par-ti-cip-ial /pɑːtɪsɪpiəl/ *adj*

par-ticle /pɑːtɪkl/ *n* [C] **1** very small bit: *~s of dust.* **2** (gram) minor part of speech, eg an article (*a, an, the*), or an affix (*un-, in-, -ness*).

par-ticu-lar /pɑːtɪkjələ(r)/ *adj* **1** relating to one as distinct from others: *in ~ case.* **2** special; worth notice; outstanding: *for no ~ reason. He took ~ trouble to get it right.* **in particular**, especially: *I remember the colour in ~.* **3** very exact: *a full and ~ account of what we saw.* **4** difficult to satisfy: *She's very ~ about what she wears.* □ *n* [C] detail. **go into particulars**, give details.

par-ticu-lar-ly *adv* especially: *He was ~ly noticeable.*

part-ing /pɑːtɪŋ/ ⇨ *part²*.

par-ti-san /pɑːtɪzən/ *US: 'pɑːtɪzən* *n* [C] **1** person devoted to a political party, group or cause. **2** (esp) member of an armed resistance movement in a country occupied by enemy forces: *~ troops.* □ *adj* uncritically devoted to a cause: *His loyalties are too ~.*

par-ti-tion /pɑː'tɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] division into parts: *the ~ of India in 1947.* **2** [C] that which divides, eg a thin wall between rooms. **3** [C] part formed by dividing; section. □ *vi* divide into sections, eg using a partition (2): *~ off a room.*

par-ti-tive /pɑːtɪtɪv/ *n* [C], *adj* (gram) (word) denoting part of a collective whole: *'Some' and 'any' are ~s.*

part-ly /pɑːtli/ *adv* to some extent: *I ~ agree with you. It's ~ green in daylight.*

part-ner /pɑːtnə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who takes part with another or others in some activity,

esp one of the owners of a business: *~s in crime*; 'business ~s. ⇨ sleeping partner. **2** one of two persons dancing together, playing tennis, cards, etc together. **3** husband or wife. □ *vi* **1** be a partner to. **2** bring (people) together as partners.

'**part-ner-ship** /-ʃɪp/. (a) [U] state of being a partner. (b) [C] joint business: *enter/go into ~ship (with her)*.

par-took /pɑ:'tʊk/ ⇨ partake.

par-tridge /'pɑ:trɪdʒ/ *n* [C] sorts of bird of the same family as the pheasant; [U] its flesh eaten as food.

party /'pɑ:ti/ (*n* *pl* -ies) **1** [C] group of persons united in policy and opinion, in support of a cause, esp in politics: *the Conservative, Labour and Liberal parties*. **2** [U] (esp used as an adjective) government based on political parties: *~ politics*, politics of and within a political party; *Our best men put public interest before ~*. **fol-low the party line**, ⇨ line¹ (11). **3** [C] person taking part in a legal agreement or dispute. **4** [C] group of persons travelling or working together, or on duty together: *a ~ of tourists*; *a 'firing-~, of soldiers*, at a military funeral or execution. **5** [C] gathering of persons, by invitation, for pleasure: *a 'dinner/ 'birthday ~*. **6** [C] person taking part in and approving of or being aware of what is going on: *be ~ to a decision*.

'**party line**, (a) telephone line shared by two or more persons. (b) agreed or established policy of a political party.

party-wall, one that divides two properties and is the responsibility of both owners.

pass¹ /pɑ:s/ US: pæs/ *n* **1** [C] act of passing. **2** [C] success in an examination, esp (in university degree examinations) success in satisfying the examiners but without distinction or honours¹ (7): *get a ~ in History*; *a ~ degree*. **3** (*sing* only) **bring to pass**, accomplish, carry out. **come to pass**, happen. **come to/ reach (such) a fine/sad/pretty pass**, reach such a state or condition. **4** [C] (paper, ticket, etc giving) permission or authority to travel, enter a building, have a seat in a cinema, etc: *No admittance without a ~*. **5** [C] act of kicking, throwing, or hitting the ball from one player to another player (of the same team). **6** [C] narrow way over or through mountains; such a way viewed as the entrance to a country. **7 make a pass at (a woman)**, (*sf*) make (possibly unwelcome) friendly or amorous approach. **8** [C] (in card-games) act of passing (16).

'**pass-key**, (a) private key to a gate, etc. (b) key which opens a number of locks.

'**pass-mark**, minimum mark needed to pass an examination.

'**pass-word**, secret word or phrase which enables a person to be recognized as a friend and not an enemy.

pass² /pɑ:s/ US: pæs/ *vi, vt* (Compare *past*¹) (For special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 19 below.) **1** move towards and beyond, proceed (*along, through, down*, etc): *~ through a village. Please let me ~. The road was too narrow for cars to ~. The two ships ~ed by/~ed each other during the night*. **2** leave (a person, place, object, etc) on one side or behind as one goes forward: *Turn right after ~ing the post office. I ~ed Miss Green in the street*. **3** go through, across, over or between: *The ship ~ed the channel. No complaints ~ed her lips*. **4** give by handing: *Please ~ (me) the butter. The letter was ~ed on/round to all the members of the family*. **5** (of time) go by; be spent: *Six months ~ed and still we had no news of them*. **6** spend (time): *How shall we ~ the evening?* **pass the time**, ⇨ time¹ (5).

7 change from one state of things to another; change into another state of things: *Water ~es from a liquid to a solid state when it freezes. (Note: change is the usual word.)* **8** say (something): *~ a remark. pass the time of day (with sb)*. ⇨ time¹ (3). **9** (cause to) circulate: *He was imprisoned for ~ing forged banknotes*. **10** be known by or recognised as: *He can easily ~ for an officer. She ~es under the name of Mrs Green*. **11** examine and accept; be examined and accepted: *Parliament ~ed the Bill. The Bill ~ed and became law. The examiners ~ed most of the candidates. The candidates ~ed (the examination)*. *We have to ~ the Customs before we leave*. **12** take place; be said or done (between persons): *Tell me everything that ~ed between you*. **13** be beyond the range of: *a story that ~es belief. It ~es my comprehension*. **14** give (an opinion, judgement, etc): *~ sentence on an accused man. I can't ~ an opinion on your work without seeing it*. **15** be accepted without criticism or blame: *His rude remarks ~ed without comment. I don't like it, but I'll let it ~, will not make objections, etc*. **16** (card-games) let one's turn go by without playing a card or making a bid. **17** move; cause to go: *He ~ed his fingers through his hair. pass an eye over*, look quickly at. **pass water**, urinate. **18** (in football, hockey, etc) kick, throw, hit (the ball) to a player of one's own side.

19 (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

pass away, die: *He ~ed away peacefully/in his sleep*.

pass between, be exchanged by: *Don't tell anyone about what has ~ed between us, about what we have discussed*.

pass sb/sth by, pay no attention to: *I can't ~ the matter by without a protest*.

pass down, = hand down.

pass for sb/sth, be accepted as: *Do I speak French well enough to ~ for a Frenchman?*

pass off, (a) (of events) take place, be car-

ried through: *The meeting of the strikers ~ed off quietly.* (b) (of pain, a crisis) end gradually: *Has your toothache ~ed off yet?* **pass sth off**, turn attention from (to avoid embarrassment): *~ off an awkward situation.* **pass sth/sb off as**, represent falsely to be: *He tried to ~ himself off as a qualified doctor.*

pass on, (of a person) die. **pass sth on (to)**, hand or give it (to another person or others).

pass out, (informal) = faint. **pass out (of)**, leave (a military) college, etc having passed one's examinations.

pass over, fail to notice or include: *~ over an important mistake and hope it will not be noticed.* **pass sb over**, fail to consider for promotion, etc: *They ~ed me over in favour of a younger man.*

pass through, experience; suffer: *~ through a difficult period after a divorce.*

pass sth up, (informal) not take advantage of something: *~ up an opportunity.*

passable /'pasəbl/ US: 'pæs-/ **adj** 1 (of roads, etc) that can be passed over or crossed: *Are the Alpine roads ~ yet?* 2 that can be accepted as fairly good but not excellent: *a ~ knowledge of German.*

passably /-əbli/ **adv**

pas-sage /'pæsidʒ/ **n** 1 [U] passing; act of going past, through or across; right to go through: *the ~ of time.* 2 [C] journey from point to point by sea or air: *book one's ~ to New York.* **work one's passage**, ⇨ **work**²(4). 3 [C] way through: *force a ~ through a crowd.* 4 [C] corridor in a building: *She has to keep her bicycle in the ~.* 5 [C] short extract from a speech or piece of writing, quoted or considered separately. 6 [U] (in Parliament) passing of a Bill so that it becomes law. 7 (pl) what passes between two persons in conversation: *have angry ~s with an opponent during a debate.*

'pass-age-way, = **passage**(4).

pas-sen-ger /'pæsiŋdʒə(r)/ **n** [C] 1 person being conveyed by bus, taxi, tram, train, ship, aircraft, etc. 2 (informal) member of a team, crew, etc who does no effective work.

passer-by /'pɑ:sə 'baɪ/ US: 'pæsər/ **n** [C] (pl passers-by) person who passes a person or a thing by chance.

pass-ing /'pɑ:siŋ/ US: 'pæs-/ **adj** going by; not lasting: *the ~ years.* □ **n** [U] the act of going by: *the ~ of the old year, ie on New Year's Eve.*

passion /'pæfn/ **n** 1 [C,U] strong feeling or enthusiasm, esp of love, hate or anger. 2 (with *a*, *an*) outburst of strong feeling: *be in a ~ about the news.*

the Passion, the suffering and death of Jesus.

'Passion play, drama about the Passion.

'Passion Sunday, the fifth Sunday in Lent.

'Passion Week, the week between Passion Sunday and Palm Sunday.

passion-less **adj**

passion-ate /'pæʃənət/ **adj** filled with, showing, love or anger: *a ~ nature; ~ language.*

passion-ate-ly **adv**

pass-ive /'pæsiv/ **adj** 1 acted on but not acting; not offering active resistance: *In spite of my efforts the boy remained ~, showed no signs of interest, activity, etc.* 2 (gram) in the passive voice. □ **n** [U] = **passive voice**.

the passive (voice), (gram) form of a sentence, etc describing an action done to the subject, eg 'The car was driven by him.' ⇨ **active voice**.

pass-ive-ly **adv**

pass-key ⇨ **pass**¹.

Pass-over /'pɑ:səʊvə(r)/ US: 'pæs-/ **n** Jewish religious festival commemorating the liberation of the Jews from slavery in Egypt.

pass-port /'pas:spɔ:t/ US: 'pæs-/ **n** [C] 1 official document to be carried by a traveller abroad, certifying identity and citizenship. 2 (fig) something that enables one to win or obtain something: *Is flattery a ~ to success with that teacher?*

pass-word ⇨ **pass**¹.

past¹ /pa:st/ US: pæst/ **adj** of the time before the present; gone by in time: *during the ~ week; in times ~; ~ generations.* (Note: compare **passed** in **pass**².) □ **n** 1 (with *the*) past time: *We cannot change the ~.* *In the ~ trains were pulled by steam-engines.* 2 person's past life or experiences: *We know nothing of his ~.*

past participle, (gram) ⇨ **participle**.

(**the**) **past tense**, (gram) verb form showing action in the past, eg 'He went/hurried/walked' (marked *pt* in this dictionary).

past² /pa:st/ US: pæst/ **prep** 1 beyond in time; after: *half ~ two; a woman ~ middle age.* 2 beyond in space; up to and farther than: *He walked ~ the house.* 3 beyond the limits, power or range of: *The old man is ~ work, is too old, weak, etc.* *The pain was almost ~ bearing, too severe to be endured.* **be past caring**, ⇨ **care**²(1). **would not put sth past sb**, consider him capable of doing something disreputable, unusual, etc: *I wouldn't put it ~ him to run off with the money.*

□ **adv** (in the sense of 2 above: *go/run/hurry ~*).

pasta /'pæstə/ **n** [U] (*It*) (paste prepared from) flour, eggs and water mixed and dried, eg macaroni, spaghetti, ravioli.

paste /peɪst/ **n** [U] 1 soft mixture of flour, fat, etc as for making pastry. 2 preparation of fish, meat, etc made into a soft, moist mass: 'fish-~'. 3 mixture used for sticking things together, eg paper on walls. 4 substance like glass used in making artificial diamonds, etc. □ **vi** stick with **paste**(3).

pas-tel /'pæstl/ US: pæ'stel/ **n** [C] 1 (picture

drawn with) dried paste made into coloured crayons. **2** (used as an *adjective*) soft, light, delicate shades of colour.

pas-tern /'pæstn/ *n* [C] part of a horse's foot between the fetlock and the hoof.

pas-teur-ize (also **-ise**) /'pæstʃəraɪz/ *vt* rid (milk, etc) of disease-producing bacteria by heating.

pas-teur-iz-ation (also **-isation**) /'pæstʃəraɪzɪʃn/ *US*: -rɪz-/ *n* [U]

pas-tille /'pæstɪl/ *US*: 'pæstɪl/ *n* [C] small flavoured tablet to be sucked, eg one containing medicine for the throat.

pas-time /'pɑːstaɪm/ *US*: 'pæs-/ *n* [C] anything done to pass time pleasantly: *Flirting was her favourite ~.*

pas-tor /'pɑːstə(r)/ *US*: 'pæs-/ *n* [C] minister(3), esp of a nonconformist church.

pas-toral /'pɑːstərəl/ *US*: 'pæs-/ *adj* **1** of shepherds and country life: ~ *poetry*. **2** of a pastor; (esp) of a bishop: *a ~ letter*, one to the members of a bishop's diocese. **3** of (duties towards) the spiritual welfare of Christians: ~ *care/responsibilities*. □ *n* [C] pastoral(1) poem, play, letter, etc.

pas-try /'peɪstri/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] paste of flour, fat, etc baked in an oven. **2** [C] article of food made wholly or partly of this, eg a pie or tart.

pas-ture /'pɑːstʃə(r)/ *US*: 'pæs-/ *n* [U] grass-land for cattle; grass on such land; [C] piece of land of this kind. ⇨ meadow. □ *vt, vi* **1** (of persons) put (cattle, sheep, etc) to graze. **2** (of cattle, etc) eat grass.

pasty /'peɪsti/ *adj* like paste(1): *a ~ complexion*, white and unhealthy.

pasty /'peɪsti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) meat or jam, etc enclosed in pastry and baked without a dish: *a Cornish ~.*

pat /pæt/ *vt, vi* (-tt-) **1** tap gently with the open hand or with something flat: ~ *a dog*. **pat sb/oneself on the back**, (fig) show approval, congratulate, etc. **2** carry out the action of patting. □ *n* [C] **1** tap with the open hand, eg as a caress or to show sympathy. **2** small mass of something, eg butter, formed by patting. **3** light sound made by hitting something with a flat object.

patch¹ /pætʃ/ *n* [C] **1** small piece of material put over a hole or a damaged or worn piece: *a coat with ~es on the elbows*; *a ~ on the inner tube of a tyre*. **2** piece of plaster put over a cut or wound. **3** pad worn to protect an injured eye. **4** small, irregular, differently coloured part of a surface: *a dog with a white ~ on its neck*. **5** small area: *a ~ of ground*; ~ *es of fog*.

not a patch on, not nearly so good as. **a bad patch**, a period of bad luck, difficulty, unhappiness, behaviour.

patch² /pætʃ/ *vt* put a patch on; (of material) serve as a patch for. **patch up**, repair; make roughly ready for use. **patch up a quarrel**,

end it.

patchy *adj* (-ier, -iest) made up of patches; uneven in quality: ~ *y work/fog*.

patch-work /'pætʃwɜːk/ *n* [U] **1** piece of material made up of bits of cloth of various sizes, shapes and colours: (as an *adjective*) *a ~ quilt*. **2** (fig) piece of work made up of odds and ends.

pâté /'pæteɪ/ *US*: 'paːteɪ/ *n* [U] **1** small pie. **2** paste(2).

pa-tel-la /pə'telə/ *n* [C] (*anat*) = kneecap.

pat-ent¹ /'peɪtənt/ *US*: 'pætənt/ *adj* **1** evident, easily seen: *It was ~ to everyone that he disliked the idea*. **2** protected by a patent(1): ~ *medicines*, made by one firm or person only.

patent leather, leather with a smooth, shiny surface.

pa-tent-ly *adv* clearly; obviously.

pat-ent² /'peɪtənt/ *US*: 'pætənt/ *n* [C] **1** government authority giving exclusive right to make or sell a new invention. **2** that which is protected by a patent; invention or process. □ *vt* obtain a patent for (an invention or process).

Patent (usually /'pætənt/) **Office**, government department which issues patents.

pa-ter-nal /pə'tɜːnəl/ *adj* **1** of or like a father: ~ *care*. **2** related through the father: *my ~ grandfather*.

pa-ter-nal-ism /-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] (practice of) governing or controlling people in a paternal way (limiting their freedom or responsibility by well-intentioned rules).

pa-ter-nally /-nəli/ *adv*

pa-ter-nity /pə'tɜːnəti/ *n* [U] **1** fatherhood; being a father; origin on the father's side: ~ *unknown*. **2** (fig) source; authorship.

pater-nos-ter /'pætə'nɒstə(r)/ *n* [C] (*Latin* for 'Our Father') **1** (recital of) the Lord's Prayer. **2** bead in a rosary at which the Lord's Prayer is repeated. **3** lift(2) with a series of doorless cars(3) moving on a continuous belt so that passengers can step on or off at each floor.

path /pɑːθ/ *US*: 'pæθ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s /pɑːðz/ *US*: 'pæðz/x008 way made (across fields, through woods, etc) by people walking: *Keep to the ~ or you may lose your way*. ⇨ *footpath*. **2** line along which something or somebody moves: *the ~ of a spacecraft*. **3** = track(4) (the usual word).

'path-finder, explorer; person sent in advance to find a route, etc.

'path-way, = path(1).

pa-thetic /pə'θetɪk/ *adj* **1** sad; pitiful: *a ~ sight*; ~ *ignorance*. **2** of the emotions.

pa-theti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

patho-logi-cal /'pæθə'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* of the nature of disease.

patho-logi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

path-ol-ogist /pə'θɒlədʒɪst/ *n* [C] student of, expert in, pathology.

pa-thol-ogy /pəˈθɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] science of diseases.

pa-thos /ˈpeɪθɒs/ *n* [U] quality in speech, writing, etc which produces a feeling of pity, sympathy or tenderness.

pa-tience /ˈpeɪʃns/ *n* [U] **1** (power of) putting up with trouble, suffering, inconvenience, without complaining: *She has no ~ with people who are always grumbling.* **2** ability to wait for results, to deal with problems, calmly and without haste. **3** (GB) kind of card-game, usually for one player (US = solitaire).

pa-tient¹ /ˈpeɪʃnt/ *adj* having, showing, patience: *be ~ with a child.*

pa-tient-ly *adv*

pa-tient² /ˈpeɪʃnt/ *n* [C] person who has received, is receiving or is on a doctor's list for, medical treatment: *an old ~ of mine.*

patio /ˈpætiəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** courtyard, open to the sky, within the walls of a Spanish or Spanish American house. **2** (modern use) paved area near a house, used for eating outside, etc.

pa-tis-serie /pəˈtiːsəri/ *n* [C] (Fr) shop, bakery, specializing in (French) pastry and cakes.

pa-trial /ˈpeɪtriəl/ *n* [C], *adj* (person) having the right to be considered legally a British citizen, eg an Asian in E Africa who has a British passport.

pa-tri-arch /ˈpeɪtriːk/ *US*: /ˈpæt-/ *n* [C] **1** venerable old man. **2** male head of a family or tribe. **3** bishop among the early Christians; (in the RC Church) high-ranking bishop; (in Eastern Churches) bishop of highest honour: *the P ~ of Antioch/Jerusalem.*

pa-tri-archal /ˈpeɪtriːkəl/ *US*: /ˈpæt-/ *adj*

pat-ri-cide /ˈpætriːsaɪd/ *n* [U] killing of one's own father; [C] instance of this; [C] person guilty of this.

pat-ri-mony /ˈpætrɪməni/ *US*: /-məʊni/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** property inherited from one's father or ancestors. **2** endowment of a church, etc.

pat-ri-mo-nial /ˈpætriːməniəl/ *adj*

pa-triot /ˈpætriət/ *US*: /ˈpeɪ-/ *n* [C] person who loves and is ready to defend his country.

pa-tri-otic /ˈpætriːɒtɪk/ *US*: /ˈpeɪ-/ *adj* having, showing, the qualities of a patriot.

pa-tri-oti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

'pa-tri-ot-ism /-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] the feelings and qualities of a patriot.

pa-trol /ˈpəʊtrəl/ *vt, vi* (-ll-) go round (a camp, town, the streets, etc) to see that all is well, to look out (for persons doing wrong, in need of help, etc). □ **n** **1** [U] the act of patrolling: *soldiers on ~*; (used as an adjective) *a police ~ car*, eg on a motorway. **2** [C] person(s), ship(s) or aircraft on patrol.

pa-trol-man /-mən/, policeman who patrols an area.

pa-tron /ˈpeɪtrən/ *n* [C] **1** person who gives encouragement, moral or financial support,

to a person, cause, the arts, etc: *Modern artists have difficulty in finding wealthy ~s.* **2** regular customer at a shop.

'patron /ˈsaɪnt, saint regarded as the special protector (of a church, town, travellers, etc). **'pa-tron-ess** /-ɪs/ *n* [C] woman patron (1).

pa-tron-age /ˈpætrənɪdʒ/ *US*: /ˈpeɪ-/ *n* [C] **1** support given by a patron: *with/under the ~ of the Duke of X.* **2** right of appointing a person to an office, to grant privileges, etc: *He's an influential man, with a great deal of ~ in his hands.* **3** customer's support (to a shop-keeper, etc): *take away one's ~ because of poor service and high prices.* **4** patronizing manner. ⇨ patronize (2).

pa-tron-ize (also -ise) /ˈpætrənaɪz/ *US*: /ˈpeɪ-/ *vt* **1** act as patron towards: *a young musician/the corner shop.* **2** treat (a person in need, etc) as if he were an inferior person.

pat-ron-iz-ing (also -ising) *adj*

pat-ron-iz-ing-ly (also -isingly) *adv*

pat-ter¹ /ˈpætə(r)/ *n* [U] **1** kind of talk used by a particular class of people: *thieves' ~.* **2** rapid talk of a conjuror or comedian. □ *vt, vi* recite, say, repeat very quickly or in a mechanical way.

pat-ter² /ˈpætə(r)/ *n* [U] sound of quick, light taps or footsteps: *the ~ of rain on a roof*; *the ~ of tiny feet.* □ *vi* make this sound.

pat-tern /ˈpætən/ *n* [C] **1** excellent example: *She's a ~ of all the virtues.* **2** something used as a model, eg shape of a dress cut out in paper and used as a guide in dressmaking, etc; model for a cast from which a mould is made (in a foundry, etc). **3** sample, esp a small piece of cloth: *~s from the tailor.* **4** ornamental design, eg on a carpet, on wallpaper or cloth: *a ~ of roses*; *geometrical ~s.* **5** way in which something happens, develops, is arranged, etc: *new ~s of family life.* *It's the usual ~, the expected behaviour, result, procedure, etc.* □ *vt* **1** model: *He ~s himself on his father.* **2** decorate with a pattern (4).

pau-city /ˈpəʊsəti/ *n* [U] (formal) smallness of number or quantity.

paunch /ˈpɒntʃ/ *n* [C] belly, esp if fat: *He was getting quite a ~, getting wide round the waist.*

paunchy *adj* having a large paunch.

pau-per /ˈpɒːpə(r)/ *n* [C] very poor person,

esp one who is supported by charity.

pause /pəʊz/ *n* [C] **1** short interval or stop (while doing or saying something): *during a ~ in the conversation.* **2** (music) sign (∞ or ∪) over or under a note or rest to show that it is to be lengthened. □ *vi* stop for a short time: *~ to look round.*

pave /peɪv/ *vt* put flat stones, bricks, etc on (a path, etc): *a path ~d with brick.* **pave the way** for, ⇨ way (1).

pave-ment /ˈpeɪvmənt/ *n* [C] (GB) paved way at the side of a street for people on foot (US = sidewalk).

pav-ing /'peɪvɪŋ/ *n* [U] (material for a) paved area.

'paving-stone, slab of stone for paving.

pa-vil-ion /pə'vɪlən/ *n* [C] **1** building on a sports ground for the use of players, spectators, etc. **2** ornamental building for concerts, dancing, etc. **3** large tent, eg as used for an exhibition.

paw /pɔː/ *n* [C] animal's foot that has claws or nails. □ **vt** **1** (of animals) feel or scratch with the paw(s); (of a horse) strike (the ground) with a hoof. **2** (of persons) touch with the hands, awkwardly, rudely or with improper familiarity: *No girl likes being ~ed (about) by men.*

pawn¹ /pɔːn/ *n* [C] **1** (chess) least valuable piece. **2** person made use of by others for their own advantage.

pawn² /pɔːn/ *vt* deposit (clothing, jewellery, etc) as security for money borrowed: *The medical student ~ed his microscope to pay his rent.* □ *n* [U] state of being pawned: *This is in ~.*

'pawn-broker, person licensed to lend money at interest on pawned goods.

'pawn-shop, pawnbroker's place of business.

paw-paw /pə'pɔː/ *US*: /pɔːpɔː/ *n* = papaw.

pay /peɪ/ *n* [U] money paid for regular work or services, esp in the armed forces: *get an increase in ~*. **in the pay of**, employed by (often of the suggestion of dishonour, eg *in the ~ of the enemy*).

'pay-day, (a) day on which wages, salaries, etc are (to be) paid. (b) day (on the Stock Exchange) on which transfer of stock has to be paid for.

'pay load, (a) that part of the load (of a ship, aircraft, etc) for which payment is received, eg passengers and cargo, but not fuel. (b) war-head of a missile.

'pay-master, official responsible for paying troops, workers, etc.

'pay-master 'general, officer at the head of a department of the Treasury.

'pay-off, (informal) (time of) full and final settlement of accounts or of revenge.

'pay-packet, packet containing pay.

'pay-phone, (US) coin-operated telephone.

'pay-roll/-sheet, (a) list of persons to be paid and the amounts due to each. (b) total amount of wages, salaries, etc to be paid.

'pay-slip, piece of paper showing how pay has been calculated, showing deductions.

pay² /peɪ/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp paid)/peɪd/ (For special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 5 below.) **1** give (a person) money for goods, services, etc: *You must ~ me what you owe. I paid you the money last week. He paid £600 for that car.* **2** give (a person) reward or recompense: *He says that sheep farming doesn't ~, that it isn't profitable.* **3** settle (debts, etc): *Have you paid all your taxes?* **put**

'paid to sth. (informal) settle; end it so that it gives no more trouble. **4** give, eg attention, respect, etc to: *Please ~ more attention to your work. He seldom ~s his wife any compliments.* **pay one's way**, not get into debt. **pay through the nose**, ⇨ nose¹(1). **pay a visit**, visit: *~ a visit to the dentist.*

5 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

pay sth back, return (money, etc) that has been borrowed. **pay sb back (for sth)**, punish him; have one's revenge: *I've paid him back for the trick he played on me.*

pay for, (a) give money owed: *~ for the use of the room.* (b) suffer pain or punishment for: *He'll be made to ~ for his stupidity.*

pay in/into, deposit (money) with a bank, to one's own or another's account: *Please ~ this sum into my/my wife's account.*

pay off, (a) pay a person his wages and discharge him. (b) pay in full and no longer owe: *~ off one's debts.* ⇨ **pay-off**.

pay sth out, (a) give money, eg in settlement of expenses: *~ing out (money) on rent.* (b) allow (rope) to move freely; make (rope) loose so that it moves freely.

pay up, pay in full what is owing: *If you don't ~ up, I'll take legal action.*

pay-able /'peɪəbl/ *adj* which must or may be paid.

payee /'peɪiː/ *n* [C] person to whom something is (to be) paid.

payer /'peɪə(r)/ *n* [C] person who pays or is to pay.

pay-ment /'peɪmənt/ *n* **1** [U] paying or being paid: *demand immediate ~; a cheque in ~ for services given.* **2** [C] sum of money (to be) paid: *ten monthly ~s of £5.* **3** [C, U] (fig) reward; punishment.

pea /piː/ *n* [C] plant with seeds in pods, used for food. **as like as two peas (in a pod)**, exactly alike.

'pea-'green adj, *n* [U] (of) bright light-green colour as of young peas.

peace /piːs/ *n* [U] (not used in *pl*, but see examples for uses with *a, an*) **1** state of freedom from war: *be at ~ with neighbouring countries.*

After a brief ~ (= a brief period of peace) war broke out again. **2** (often **P~**) treaty of peace: *P~ / A P~ was signed between the two countries.* **3** freedom from civil disorder. **keep the peace**, obey the laws. **a breach of the peace**, ⇨ breach(1). ⇨ also Justice of the Peace. **4** rest; quiet; calm: *the ~ of the countryside.* **at peace (with)**, in a state of friendship or harmony: *He's never at ~ with himself*, is always restless. **in peace**, peacefully: *live in ~ with one's neighbours.* **make one's peace (with sb)**, settle a quarrel.

peace of mind, calm, contented mental state.

'peace-maker, person who restores friendly

relations.

peace-offering, something offered to show that one is willing to make peace.

peace-ful /'pi:sl/ *adj* **1** loving peace: ~ nations. **2** calm; quiet: *a ~ evening*.

peace-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

peace-ful-ness *n* [U]

peach /pitʃ/ *n* [C] **1** (tree with) juicy, round fruit with yellowish-red skin and a large, rough seed; yellowish-red colour. **2** (sf) person or thing greatly admired, eg a very attractive girl: *Isn't she! it a ~!*

peacock /'pi:kɒk/ *n* [C] large male bird noted for its fine tail feathers.

peacock-blue *adj*, *n* [U] bright blue (colour).

peafowl /'pi:faʊl/ *n* [C] peacock or peahen.

pea-hen /'pi:hen/ *n* [C] female of the peacock.

peak /pi:k/ *n* [C] **1** pointed top of a mountain. **2** pointed front part of a cap; projecting brim (to shade the eyes). **3** highest point in a record of figures that fluctuate: ~ hours of traffic, times when the traffic is heaviest; *the ~ period of selling as shown on this graph*. **off-peak**, when traffic, electricity consumption is lightest. **4** point of a beard.

peaked *adj* having a peak: *a ~ed cap/roof*.

peal /pi:l/ *n* [C] **1** loud ringing of a bell or of a set of bells with different notes; changes rung on a set of bells; set of bells tuned to each other. **2** loud echoing noise: *a ~ of thunder*; ~s of laughter. □ *vi, vt* (cause to) ring or sound loudly.

peanut /'pi:nʌt/ *n* **1** [C] kind of fruit in a thin shell (in pairs) growing underground. **2** (pl) (sf) small amount of money.

peanut butter, paste of roasted ground peanuts.

pear /peə(r)/ *n* [C] (tree with) sweet, juicy fruit, usually narrower towards the stalk.

pearl /pɜ:l/ *n* [C] **1** silvery-white or bluish-white round deposit found inside the shells of some oysters, valued as a gem: *a necklace of ~s*; *a ~ necklace*; similar artificial one. **2** small round fragment of various substances such as barley. **3** something that looks like a pearl, eg a dew drop. **4** very precious person or thing: ~s of wisdom. *She's a ~ among women*. □ *vi* fish for pearls: *go ~ing*.

peasant /'peznʌt/ *n* [C] (not current in GB, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, US) man working on the land, either for wages or on a very small farm which he either rents or owns.

peasantry /'pezntrɪ/ *n* [U] (usually with *the*) the peasants of a country.

peat /pi:t/ *n* [U] plant material partly decomposed by the action of water, used as a fuel and fertilizer: *a ~ bog*, a marshy place where peat is found.

peaty *adj* of, like, smelling of, peat.

pebble /'pebl/ *n* [C] small stone made smooth

and round by water, eg in a stream.

pebbly /'pebəli/ *adj* having pebbles: *a pebbly beach*.

peck ¹ /pek/ *n* [C] (before metricalization) measure for grain or fruit (= 2 gallons).

peck ² /pek/ *vi, vt* **1** (try to) get, make, strike with the beak: *hens ~ing at the corn/each other*; ~ing a hole in the sack. **2** **peck (at)**, (informal) (of a person) eat only small amounts: ~ at one's food. **3** (informal) kiss (a person) hurriedly from habit or a sense of duty. □ *n* [C] **1** strike with the beak; mark made by this. **2** (informal) hurried kiss.

'peck-ing order, (a) order (within a flock of poultry) in which a bird is dominated by stronger birds and itself dominates weaker birds. (b) any similar arrangement in a group of human beings: *Poor Tom! He's at the bottom of the ~ing order*.

'peck-ish /-ɪʃ/ *adj* (informal) hungry.

pec-toral /'pektərəl/ *adj* of, for, the chest or breast: *a ~ muscle/fin*.

pe-cu-liar /pɪ'kju:liə(r)/ *adj* **1** owned, used, adopted, practised, only by: *customs ~ to these tribes*. **2** strange; unusual; odd: *I can smell something ~ in the bathroom*. **3** particular; special: *a matter of ~ interest*.

pe-cu-liar-ly *adv* in a strange or special way: *behaving ~ly*.

pe-cu-liar-ity /pɪ'kju:li'ærəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] the quality of being peculiar. **2** [C] something distinctive or characteristic. **3** [C] something odd or strange.

pe-cuni-ary /pɪ'kju:nəri/ *US: -iəri* *adj* (formal) of money: ~ reward.

peda-gogic /,pedə'gɒdʒɪk/ (also **peda-gogi-cal** /-ɪkl/) *adj* of pedagogy.

peda-gogue (US also -gog) /'pedəgɒg/ *n* [C] pedantic teacher.

peda-gogy /'pedəgɒdʒi/ *n* [U] (formal) science of teaching.

pedal /'pedl/ *n* [C] lever (eg on a bicycle, sewing-machine, organ or piano) worked by the foot or feet. □ *vi, vt* (-ll-, US also -l-) use, work by using, a pedal or pedals (for playing an organ, riding a bicycle, etc).

ped-ant /'pedənt/ *n* [C] person who values book-learning, technical knowledge, formal rules, too highly.

pe-dan-tic /prɪ'dæntɪk/ *adj* of or like a pedant.

pe-danti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

ped-antry /'pedəntri/ *n* [U] tiresome and unnecessary display of knowledge; too much insistence on formality; [C] instance of this.

peddle /'pedl/ *vi, vt* **1** go from house to house trying to sell small articles. **2** (fig) give out in small quantities: *She loves to ~ gossip round the village*.

ped-estal /'pedɪstl/ *n* [C] base of a column, for a statue or for other works of art. **put/set sb on a pedestal**, treat him as very important or special.

pe-des-trian /pi'destriən/ *n* [C] person walking in a street, etc: ~s killed in traffic accidents. □ *adj* **1** connected with walking. **2** (of writing, a person's way of making speeches, etc) uninteresting, ordinary.

pedestrian 'crossing, place marked on a road where pedestrians may walk across.

pedia-tric-ian /pi:diə'tri:ən/ *n* [C] physician who specializes in pediatrics.

pedi-at-rics /pi:di'ætri:kz/ *n pl* (used with a *sing verb*) branch of medicine concerned with children and their illness.

pedi-cure /'pedikjʊə(r)/ *n* [C] treatment of the feet, toe-nails, corns, bunions, etc.

pedi-gree /'pedigri:/ *n* [C] line of ancestors: proud of their long ~s; [U] ancestry, esp ancient descent. □ *adj* having a known line of descent: ~ cattle/dogs.

ped-lar /'pedlə(r)/ *n* [C] person who goes from house to house selling small articles.

pee /pi:/ *vi*, *n* [C, U] (sl) (pass) urine.

peek /pi:k/ *vi* **peek at**, peep at. □ *n* [C] quick look: have a ~ at the answers before doing the exercises.

peel /pi:l/ *vt, vi* **1** take the skin off (fruit, etc): ~ a banana; ~ potatoes. **2** come off in strips or flakes: The wallpaper is ~ing off. After a day in the hot sun my skin began to ~/my face ~ed. □ *n* [U] skin of fruit, some vegetables, etc.

peeler, device used for peeling fruit and vegetables: a potato ~er.

peep ¹ /pi:p/ *n* [C] short, quick look, often secret or cautious: have a ~ at her through the keyhole. □ *vi* take a peep (at): neighbours ~ing at us from behind the curtains.

'Peeping Tom, man who enjoys secretly watching a woman undress.

peep ² /pi:p/ *n* [C] weak, shrill sound made by mice, birds, etc. □ *vi* make this sound.

peer ¹ /piə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person equal in rank, merit or quality: It will not be very easy to find his ~. **2** (in GB) member of one of the nobility, eg duke, marquis, earl, viscount.

'peer of the realm, person with the right to sit in the House of Lords.

'life peer, one elected to the House of Lords for life only.

peer-ess /'piəri:s/, (a) woman peer(2). (b) wife of a peer(2).

peer ² /piə(r)/ *vi* look closely, as if unable to see well: ~ into dark corners; ~ing at her over his spectacles.

peer-age /'piəri:dʒ/ *n* [C, U] **1** the whole body of peers; rank of peer(2). **2** book containing a list of peers with their ancestry.

pee-wit /'pi:wɪt/ *n* = pewit.

peg ¹ /peg/ *n* [C] **1** wooden or metal pin or bolt, used to fasten parts of woodwork together. **a square peg in a round hole**, a person unsuited to the work he is doing. **2** pin driven into the ground to hold a rope (a 'tent-~); hook fastened to a wall or door. (**buy**

sth) off the peg. (informal) (buy clothes) ready-made. ⇨ clothes-peg. **3** wooden screw for tightening or loosening the string of a violin, etc. **'take sb 'down a peg (or two)**, make him feel less important. **4** piece of wood for stopping the hole in a cask, etc. **5** (fig) theme, excuse: a ~ on which to hang a sermon.

peg ² /peg/ *vt, vi* (-gg-) **1** fasten with pegs: ~ a tent down. **peg sb down**, (fig) make him keep to a certain line of action, to the rules, etc. **2** mark, eg by using pegs fixed in the ground. **3** (commerce) keep (prices, wages, etc) unchanged: ~ing prices for six months. **4 peg away at**, (informal) keep on working at. **5 peg out**, (informal) die.

pe-jor-at-ive /pi'dʒɔ:rəti:v/ *US*: -'dʒɔ:r- *adj* having or giving an idea of being unimportant or valueless; discrediting.

pe-jor-at-ive-ly *adv*

pe-kin-ese /pi:kɪ'ni:z/ *n* [C] small breed of Chinese dog with long, silky hair.

pelican /'pelikən/ *n* [C] large waterbird with a large bill under which hangs a pouch for storing food.

pel-let /'pelɪt/ *n* [C] **1** small ball of something soft, eg wet paper, bread, made, for example, by rolling between the fingers. **2** type of small shot, used for a gun.

pel-met /'pelmt/ *n* [C] ornamental strip above a window or door to hide a curtain rod.

pelt ¹ /pelɪt/ *n* [C] animal's skin with the fur or hair on it.

pelt ² /pelɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** attack by throwing things at: ~ them with stones/snowballs/mud. **2** (of rain, etc) fall heavily: It was ~ing with rain. The rain was ~ing down. □ *n* [C] pelting. **at full pelt**, (running) as fast as possible.

pel-vic /'pelvɪk/ *adj* of the pelvis.

pel-vis /'pelvɪs/ *n* [C] (*pl* pelves /'pelvi:z/) (*anat*) bony frame with the hip-bones and the lower part of the backbone, holding the kidneys, colon, bladder, etc.

pen ¹ /pen/ *n* [C] **1** instrument for writing with ink. ⇨ ballpoint(-pen) and fountain-pen. **2** (formerly) quill, pointed and split at the end, for writing with ink. **3** (style of) writing: make a living with one's ~. □ *vt* (-nn-) write (a letter, etc).

pen-and-link *adj* drawn with these: a ~ and-link sketch.

'pen-friend, person (eg in another country) with whom one has a friendship through exchanges of letters.

'pen-knife, small knife with one or more folding blades.

'pen-name, name used by a writer instead of his real name.

pen ² /pen/ *n* [C] **1** small enclosure, eg for cattle, sheep, poultry, etc. **2** = play-pen. □ *vt* (-nn-) **pen up/in**, shut up (as) in a pen.

penal /'pi:nəl/ *adj* connected with punishment: ~ laws; a ~ offence, one for which there is

legal punishment.

penal servitude, imprisonment with hard labour.

pen-al-ize (also **-ise**) /'pi:nəlaɪz/ *vt* **1** declare to be punishable by law. **2** give a penalty (3) to (a player, competitor, etc).

pen-alty /'penlti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] punishment for doing wrong, for failure to obey rules or to keep an agreement; [C] what is imposed (imprisonment, payment of a fine, etc) as punishment: *forbidden under ~ of death*. **2** (*fig*) disadvantage, suffering, caused by a person to himself or others: *The ~ for not working will be failing the exams*. **3** (in sport, competitions, etc) disadvantage to a player or team for breaking a rule: *The referee awarded a ~*. **4** handicap imposed on a player or team for winning a previous contest.

'penalty area, (*football*) area in front of the goal where a free kick at goal is given as a penalty if a defender breaks a rule.

'penalty kick, (*football*) free kick at goal by the attackers as a penalty against the opposing team.

'penalty spot, (*football*) mark in the penalty area where a penalty kick is taken.

pen-ance /'penəns/ *n* [U] punishment which one imposes on oneself to show repentance.

pence /pens/ *n pl* ⇨ penny.

pen-cil /'pensl/ *n* [C] instrument for drawing or writing, esp of graphite or coloured chalk in wood or fixed in a metal holder. □ *vi* (-ll-, US also -l-) write, draw, mark, with a pencil: *~led sketches* [eyebrows].

pen-dant /'pendənt/ *n* [C] **1** ornament which hangs down, esp one attached to a necklace, bracelet, etc. **2** (*naut*) pennant.

pend-ing /'pendɪŋ/ *adj* waiting to be decided or settled: *The lawsuit was still ~*. □ *prep* **1** during: *~ these discussions*. **2** until: *~ his acceptance of the offer*.

pen-du-lous /'pendʒələs/ *adj* (*formal*) (of nests, breasts, etc) hanging down loosely so as to swing freely.

pen-du-lum /'pendʒələm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) weighted rod hung from a fixed point so that it swings freely, esp to regulate the movement of a clock. **the swing of the pendulum**, (*fig*) the movement of opinion from one extreme to the other.

pen-et-rable /'penetrəbl/ *adj* (*formal*) that can be penetrated.

pen-et-rate /'penitreɪt/ *vi, vi* **1** make a way into or through: *The cat's sharp claws ~d my skin*. *The smell ~d (into) the room*. **2** (*fig*) see into or through: *Our eyes could not ~ the darkness*.

pen-et-rat-ing *adj* (a) (of a person, his mind) able to see and understand quickly and well. (b) (voices, cries, etc) loud and clear.

pen-et-rat-ing-ly *adv*

pen-et-ra-tion /'penetreɪʃn/ *n* [U] **1** pen-

etrating. **2** ability to grasp ideas quickly and well.

pen-friend /'pen frend/ ⇨ pen¹.

pen-guin /'pengwɪn/ *n* [C] seabird of the Antarctic with wings like flippers used for swimming.

peni-cil-lin /'penɪ'sɪlɪn/ *n* [U] antibiotic drug that, by changing the chemical environment of germs, prevents them from surviving or multiplying.

pen-in-sula /'pə'nɪnsjələ/ *US*: -sələ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) area of land, eg Italy, almost surrounded by water or projecting into the sea.

pen-in-su-lar /-lə(r)/ *adj*

pe-nis /'pi:nɪs/ *n* [C] organ of copulation of a male animal.

peni-tence /'penɪtəns/ *n* [U] sorrow and regret (for doing wrong, sin).

peni-tent /'penɪtənt/ *adj* feeling or showing deep regret.

peni-tent-ly *adv*

peni-ten-ti-ary /'penɪ'tenʃəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) prison for persons guilty of serious crimes, esp one in which reform of the prisoners is the main aim. □ *adj* of reformatory treatment.

pen-knife /'pen naɪf/ ⇨ pen¹.

pen-name /'pen neɪm/ ⇨ pen¹.

pen-nant /'penənt/ *n* [C] flag (usually long and narrow) used on a ship for signalling, identification, etc.

pen-ni-less /'penɪlɪs/ *adj* without any money: *I'm ~ until pay-day*.

pen-non /'penən/ *n* [C] **1** long, narrow (usually triangular) flag, as used by a knight, by soldiers and on ships, eg in signalling. **2** (US) flag of this shape as a school or team banner.

penn'orth /'penəθ/ *n* = pennyworth.

penny /'penɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* pence /pens/ when combined with numbers, as in 'sixpence', 'ten-pence', 'eighteen pence'; *pl* pennies /'penɪz/ when used of individual coins: *Please give me ten pennies for this tenpence piece*.) **1** (since 1971) British bronze coin (abbr **p**) worth one hundredth of an English pound: *These cigarettes are 80 pence/80p* [pi:] *a packet*. (**cost**) **a pretty penny**, a lot of money. **spend a penny**, (*informal*) use a toilet. **the penny (has) dropped**, the desired result was achieved, the meaning of a remark was understood, etc. **2** (until 1971) British coin worth one-twelfth of a shilling. **3** coin of the US and Canada, the cent.

'penny pinching *adj* (*informal*) spending as little as possible.

'penny-weight, 24 grains, one-twentieth of an ounce Troy.

'penny-worth (also **penn'orth** /'penəθ/), as much as can be bought for a penny.

pen-sion /'penʃn/ *n* [C] regular payment made by the State to a person who is old (*re-tirement* ~), disabled (eg *war* ~) or widowed, or by a former employer to an employee after

long service: *retire on a ~*. **draw one's pension**, obtain it: *go to the post office to draw one's ~*. □ *vt* **pension sb off**, grant or pay a pension to; dismiss or allow to retire with a pension.

pen-sion-able /-əbl/ *adj* (of services, posts, age, work, etc) entitling one to a pension.

pen-sioner, person receiving a pension.

pen-sion² /'pɒnsɪn/ *n* [C] boarding-house at which fixed rates are charged (by the week or month).

pen-sive /'pensɪv/ *adj* seriously thoughtful: *~ looks; looking ~*.

pen-sive-ly *adv*

pen-ta-gon /'pentəɡɒn/ *n* [C] plane figure with five sides and five angles.

the Pentagon, building in Arlington, Virginia, headquarters of the US Armed Forces.

pen-tath-lon /pen'tæθlən/ *n* [C] (modern Olympic Games) contest in which each competitor takes part in five events (running, horseback riding, swimming, fencing and shooting with a pistol).

Pente-cost /'pentkɒst/ *US*: -kɔːst/ *n* 1 Jewish harvest festival, fifty days after the Passover. 2 (esp US) Whitsunday, the seventh Sunday after Easter.

pent-house /'penthaʊs/ *n* [C] 1 sloping roof supported against a wall, esp one for a shelter or shed. 2 apartment or flat built on the roof of a tall building.

pent-in /'pentɪn/ *adj* closely confined: *feel ~ on a crowded train*.

pent-up /'pentʌp/ *adj* shut-in; not expressed: *~ feelings/anger*.

pen-ul-ti-mate /pen'altɪmət/ *n* [C] *adj* (word, event, etc which is) last but one.

pen-ury /'penjuəri/ *n* [U] (formal) poverty: *living in ~*.

peony /'piːəni/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) garden plant with large round pink, red or white flowers.

people /'piːpl/ *n* (1 to 4 below collective, never *pl* in form but used with a *pl verb*. For one human being use *man, woman, boy, girl* and not *person*, which, although useful in dictionary definitions, often seems too formal.) 1 persons in general: *streets crowded with ~*. 2 those persons belonging to a place, or forming a social class: *The ~ in the village like the new doctor*. 3 all the persons forming a State: *government of the ~, by the ~, for the ~*. 4 those persons who are not nobles, not high in rank, position, etc: *He's the ~'s choice*. 5 (used with a *sing* or *pl verb* and in *pl*) race, tribe, nation: *the ~s of Asia; a brave and intelligent ~*. □ *vt* fill with people: *a thickly ~d district* (populated is more usual).

pep /'pep/ *n* [U] (*sf*) strength; energy; spirit. □ *vt* (-pp-) give energy or life to.

'pep pill, one that stimulates the nervous system.

'pep talk, one intended to fill the listener(s)

with encouragement and energy: *giving the team a ~ talk before the match*.

pep-per /'pepə(r)/ *n* 1 [U] hot-tasting powder made from the dried berries of certain plants, used to season food. 2 [C] (garden plant with a) red or green seed-pod which is used as a vegetable: *stuffed ~s*. □ *vt* put pepper(1) on (food).

pep-ery *adj* (a) tasting of pepper. (b) (fig) hot-tempered: *a ~y old colonel*.

'pep-per-corn, (a) the dried, black berry of the pepper(1) plant. (b) (fig) of small size or value: *a ~corn rent*.

'pepper-mill, small device for grinding pepper.

'pep-per-mint, (a) kind of mint grown for its oil, used in medicine and confectionery. (b) sweet of boiled sugar with this flavour.

per /pəː(r)/ *prep* for each: *~ pound; 15 rounds of ammunition ~ man; 30 miles ~ gallon*, (abbr *mpg*). **as per**, according to: *as ~ instructions*. **per usual**, (informal) as usual.

per annum /'ænəm/, for each year.

per cent, (abbr %) for, in, each hundred: *40% income tax*.

per-am-bu-lator /pə'ræmbjuleɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] (more usually **pram**) four-wheeled carriage, pushed by hand, for a baby.

per-ceive /pə'siːv/ *vt* (formal) become aware of, esp through the eyes or the mind.

per-cen-tage /pə'sentɪdʒ/ *n* [C] 1 rate or number per cent (= for each hundred). 2 proportion: *What ~ of his income is paid in income tax?*

per-cep-tible /pə'septəbl/ *adj* (formal) that can be seen or noticed.

per-cep-tibly /-əblɪ/ *adv*

per-cep-tion /pə'sepʃn/ *n* [U] (formal) process, act, by which we become aware of changes (through seeing, hearing, etc).

per-cep-tive /pə'septɪv/ *adj* (formal) 1 having, connected with, perception. 2 showing that one has seen or noticed: *~ remarks*.

per-cep-tive-ly *adv*

perch¹ /pɜːtʃ/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) kinds of freshwater fish with spiny fins.

perch² /pɜːtʃ/ *n* [C] 1 bird's resting-place, eg a branch, bar or rod. 2 (informal) high position occupied by a person: *come off your ~*, stop being so superior (in manner, etc). 3 (also *pole, rod*) measure of length, esp for land, 5 and a half yards. □ *vi, vt* 1 settle: *The birds ~ed on the television aerial*. 2 (of a person) sit on a tall seat: *~ed on stools at the bar*. 3 (chiefly in *pp*) (of buildings) be situated high up: *a castle ~ed on a rock*.

per-co-late /'pɜːkəleɪt/ *vi, vt* 1 (of liquid) (cause to) pass slowly (through): *Has the water ~d through the coffee yet?* 2 (fig) filter (2): *Has the news ~d through?*

per-co-lator /-tə(r)/, (esp) kind of coffee-pot in which hot water percolates through coffee.

per-cus-sion /pə'kʌʃn/ *n* [U] **1** the striking together of two (usually hard) objects; sound or shock produced by this. **2** the ~, musical instruments played by percussion, eg drums, cymbals: *the ~ section*.

per-cus-sion-ist /-ɪst/, player of a percussion instrument.

per-emp-tory /pə'remptəri *US*: 'peremptɔ:ri/ *adj* (formal) **1** (of commands) not to be disobeyed or questioned. **2** (of a person, his manner) (too) commanding; insisting on obedience.

per-emp-tor-ily /-trəli *US*: -tɔ:rəli/ *adv*

per-en-nial /pə'reniəl/ *adj* **1** continuing throughout the whole year. **2** lasting for a very long time. **3** (of plants) living for more than two years. □ *n* [C] perennial plant.

per-en-nially /-niəli/ *adv*

per-fect¹ /pə'fɪkt/ *adj* **1** complete with everything needed. **2** without fault; excellent: *a ~ wife*. **3** exact; accurate: *a ~ circle/fit*. **4** having reached the highest point in training, skill, etc: *a ~ shot*. **5** complete: *a ~ stranger/fool*; ~ *nonsense*.

(the) **perfect tense**, (gram) verb form using the finites of *have* and a *past participle*, eg 'He has/had/will have written the letter.'

per-fect-ly *adv* completely: ~ *ly happy*.

per-fect² /pə'fekt/ *vt* make perfect: ~ *oneself in a foreign language*; ~ *ing my French*.

per-fect-ible /-əbl/ *adj* that can be perfected.

per-fec-tion /pə'fekʃn/ *n* [U] **1** perfecting or being perfected: *busy with the ~ of detail*. **2** perfect quality or example: *It was the very ~ of beauty*. **3** best possible state or quality: *beef roasted/done to ~*.

per-fec-tion-ist /-ɪst/ *n* [C] (a) person who believes that it is possible to live without sinning. (b) (informal) person who is satisfied with nothing less than what he thinks to be perfect.

per-fidi-ous /pə'fɪdiəs/ *adj* (formal) treacherous; faithless (to).

per-fidi-ous-ly *adv*

per-for-ate /pə'fɔ:reit/ *vt, vi* make a hole or holes in; make rows of tiny holes (in paper) so that part may be torn off easily: *a ~d sheet of postage stamps*.

per-for-ation /pə'fɔ:reitʃn/ *n* [C, U]

per-form /pə'fɔ:m/ *vt, vi* **1** (formal) do (a piece of work, something one is ordered or has promised to do): ~ *a task*. **2** act (a play); play (music); sing, do tricks, etc before an audience: ~ 'Hamlet'. *Do you enjoy seeing ~ing animals?*

per-former, person who performs, esp at a concert or other entertainment.

per-form-ance /pə'fɔ:məns/ *n* **1** [U] performing: *faithful in the ~ of his duties*. **2** [C] notable action; achievement: *The orchestral musicians gave a fine ~*. **3** [C] performing of a play at the theatre; public exhibition; concert:

two ~s a day. **4** [C] (fig) bad, action, etc: *What a ~! What bad behaviour!*

per-fume /pə'fju:m/ *n* [C, U] (kinds of prepared liquid with a sweet smell, esp from an essence of flowers. □ *vt* /pə'fju:m/ give a perfume to; put perfume on.

per-func-tory /pə'fʌŋktəri/ *adj* (formal) **1** done as a duty or routine but without care, sincerity or interest: *a ~ inspection*. **2** (of persons) doing things in this way.

per-func-tor-ily /-trəli *US*: -tɔ:rəli/ *adv*

per-haps /pə'hæps/ *adv* possibly; it may be or have been: *P ~ it will rain. There were three men, or ~ four*.

peril /pə'rel/ *n* **1** [U] serious danger: *in ~ of one's life. do sth at one's peril*, at one's own risk. **2** [C] something that causes danger: *the ~s of the ocean*, storms etc.

peril-ous /pə'reləs/ *adj* dangerous: *a ~ous journey*.

peril-ous-ly *adv*: ~ously close to death.

per-im-eter /pə'rɪmɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] (length of the) outer boundary of a closed figure or area, eg an airfield, etc.

period /pɪəriəd/ *n* [C] **1** length or portion of time, eg hours, days, months and years: ~ *s of sunny weather*; *the ~ when the disease is contagious*; *20 teaching ~s a week*. **2** portion of time in the life of a person, a nation, a stage of civilization, etc; division of geological time: *the ~ of the French Revolution. The actors will wear costumes of the ~/~ costumes*, ie of the time when the events of the play took place. **3** (esp *US*) full pause at the end of a sentence; full stop (.) marking this in writing and print. **4** (astron) time taken to make one revolution. **5** (informal) occurrence of menstruation.

peri-odic /pɪəri'ɒdɪk/ *adj* occurring or appearing at regular intervals: ~ *headaches*.

periodic table, (chem) chart of the elements (1) according to their atomic weights.

peri-od-ical /-kl/ *adj* = periodic. □ *n* [C] magazine or other publication which appears at regular intervals, eg monthly, quarterly.

peri-od-ically /-klɪ/ *adv* (a) at regular intervals. (b) occasionally.

peri-pa-tetic /pɪrɪpə'tetɪk/ *adj* going about from place to place; wandering: *the ~ religious teachers of India*.

pe-riph-eral /pə'rɪfərəl/ *adj* of, on, forming, a periphery.

pe-riph-ery /pə'rɪfəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) external boundary or surface.

peri-scope /pɪrɪskəʊp/ *n* [C] instrument, as used in submarines, with mirrors and lenses arranged to reflect a view down a tube, etc so that the user may see things which are at a level above normal eyesight.

per-ish /pə'rɪʃ/ *vi, vt* **1** be destroyed, come to an end, die: *Hundreds of people ~ed in the earthquake*. **2** (of cold or exposure) reduce to distress or inefficiency: *We were ~ed with*

cold/hunger. **3** (esp of rubber) (cause to) lose natural qualities; decay: *Oil on your car tyres will ~ them.*

per-ish-able /-əbl/ *adj* (esp of food) quickly or easily going bad.

per-ish-ables *n pl* (esp) goods that go bad if delayed in transit, eg fish, fresh fruit.

per-ito-ni-tis /peritə'naitis/ *n* [U] inflammation of the membrane lining the walls of the abdomen.

per-jure /'pɜ:dʒə(r)/ *vt* (reflex) **perjure oneself**, knowingly make a false statement after taking an oath to tell the truth.

per-jurer /'pɜ:dʒərə(r)/, person who has perjured himself.

per-jury /'pɜ:dʒəri/ *n* [C, U]

perk /pɜ:k/ *vi, vt* **1** **perk up**, (of a person) become lively and active (after depression, illness, etc). **2** **perk sb/sth up**, show interest, liveliness: *The horse ~ed up its head, lifted its head as a sign of interest.*

perky *adj* (-ier, -iest) lively; showing interest or confidence.

perks /pɜ:ks/ *n pl* (informal) perquisites: *an executive's salary with the usual ~.*

perm /pɜ:m/ *n* [C] (informal abbr for) permanent wave: *go to the hairdresser's for a ~.* □ *vt* give a perm to.

per-ma-nence /'pɜ:mənəns/ *n* [U] state of being permanent.

per-ma-nent /'pɜ:mənənt/ *adj* not expected to change; going on for a long time; intended to last: *my ~ address.* ⇨ temporary.

permanent 'secretary, senior civil servant.

permanent (wave), artificial curls put in the hair so that they last several months.

per-ma-nent-ly *adv*

per-meate /'pɜ:miət/ *vt, vi* pass, flow or spread into every part of: *water permeating (through) the soil; new ideas that have ~d (through/among) the people.*

per-me-ation /pɜ:mi'eɪʃn/ *n* [U]

per-mis-sible /pɜ:'misəbl/ *adj* that may be permitted.

per-mis-sibly /-əbl/ *adv*

per-mis-sion /pɜ:'mɪʃn/ *n* [U] act of allowing or permitting; consent: *with your ~, if you will allow me. Has he given you ~ to leave?*

per-miss-ive /pɜ:'mɪsɪv/ *adj* giving permission.

the per-missive so-ci-ety, (in GB, 1967 onwards) term used for social changes, including greater sexual freedom, homosexual law reform, abolition of censorship in the theatre, frank discussion of taboo subjects, use of slang words, increased drug-taking, etc.

per-miss-ive-ness *n* [U]

per-mit ¹ /'pɜ:mit/ *n* [C] written authority to go somewhere, do something, etc: *You won't get in without a ~.*

per-mit ² /pɜ:'mit/ *vt, vi* (-tt) **1** allow: *We'll*

play football, weather ~ting. Smoking is not ~ted in this cinema. **2** (formal) admit (of): *The situation does not ~ of any delay. There must be no delay.*

per-mu-ta-tion /pɜ:mju'teɪʃn/ *n* [C] (maths) change in the order of a set of things arranged in a group; any one such arrangement: *The ~s of x, y and z are xyz, xzy, yxz, yzx, zxy, zyx.*

per-mute /pɜ:'mjut/ *vt* (formal) change the order of.

per-ni-cious /pɜ:'nɪʃəs/ *adj* (formal) harmful, causing distress: *~ gossip.*

per-ni-cious-ly *adv*

per-ox-ide /pɜ:'rɒksaɪd/ *n* [U] (esp) ~ of hydrogen, (H₂O₂) colourless liquid used as an antiseptic and to bleach hair.

per-pen-dicu-lar /pɜ:pən'dɪkjulə(r)/ *adj* **1** at an angle of 90° (to another line or surface). **2** upright; crossing the horizontal at an angle of 90°. □ *n* [C] perpendicular line. ⇨ horizontal; vertical.

per-pe-trate /'pɜ:ptreɪt/ *vt* commit (a crime, an error): *Several violations of human rights are being ~ed.*

per-pe-tra-tor /-tə(r)/, person who commits a crime, etc.

per-pe-tration /pɜ:pɪ'treɪʃn/ *n* [U]

per-pet-ual /pɜ:'petʃuəl/ *adj* going on for a long time or without stopping.

perpetual 'motion, the motion of a machine, if it could be invented, which would go on for ever without a continuing source of energy.

per-pet-u-ally /-ʃuəli/ *adv*

per-petu-ate /pɜ:'petʃueɪt/ *vt* preserve from being forgotten or from going out of use: *~ his memory by erecting a statue of him.*

per-petu-ation /pɜ:pɪ'teɪʃn/ *n* [U]

per-petu-ity /pɜ:pɪ'tju:əti/ *US: -tju:-/ n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] state of being perpetual. **in per-petu-ity**, for ever (which is more usual). **2** [C] (legal) perpetual possession.

per-plex /pɜ:'pleks/ *vt* puzzle; bewilder; confuse: *~ her with questions.*

per-plexed *adj* confused; complicated.

per-plex-ity /-ætɪ/ *n* (pl -ies) (formal) (a) [U] state of being confused, eg because of doubt: *He looked at us in ~ity.* (b) [C] perplexing thing.

per-qui-site /'pɜ:kwɪzɪt/ *n* [C] (formal) profit, allowance, etc given or looked on as one's right, in addition to regular wages or salary: *The salesman's ~s include the use of his firm's car out of business hours.* ⇨ perks.

per-se-cute /'pɜ:sɪkjut/ *vt* **1** punish, treat cruelly, esp because of religious beliefs. **2** cause repeated trouble to: *~ a man with questions.*

per-se-cu-tion /pɜ:sɪ'kju:ʃn/ *n* [C, U]

per-se-cu-tor /-tə(r)/, person who persecutes.

per-se-ver-ance /pɜːsɪˈvɛərəns/ *n* [U] constant effort to achieve something.

per-se-vere /pɜːsɪˈvɛə(r)/ *vi* continue with, doing, (esp something difficult or tiring): ~ with/in one's studies.

per-se-ver-ing *adj*

per-sist /pɜːsɪst/ *vi* 1 refuse, in spite of argument, opposition, failure, etc to make any change in (what one is doing, one's beliefs, etc): *She ~s in wearing that old coat.* 2 **per-sist with**, continue to work hard at. 3 continue to exist: *The fog is likely to ~ in most areas.*

per-sist-ence /-əns/ *n* [U]

per-sist-ent /-ənt/ *adj* continuing (to refuse); occurring again and again: ~ent denials/attacks of malaria.

per-sist-ent-ly *adv*

per-son /'pɜːsn/ *n* [C] (Note: *people* is the usual plural, not *persons*.) 1 man, woman (the usual words): *Who is this ~?* 2 living body of a human being. **in person**, physically present: *He'll collect his certificate in ~, will be there himself.* 3 (gram) each of three classes of personal pronouns: *the first ~ (I, we), the second ~ (you) and the third ~ (he, she, it, they).*

per-son-able /'pɜːsnəbl/ *adj* good-looking and pleasant.

per-son-age /'pɜːsənɪdʒ/ *n* [C] (important) person.

per-son-al /'pɜːsənl/ *adj* 1 private; individual; of a particular person: *my ~ affairs/needs/opinions; your ~ rights.* 2 done or made by a person himself: *The Prime Minister made a ~ appearance at the meeting.* 3 done or made for a particular person: *give him one's ~ attention.* *He did me a ~ favour, one directed to me and by him.* 4 of the body: *P ~ cleanliness is important to health.* 5 of the nature of a human being: *Do you believe in a ~ God?* 6 of or about a person in a critical or hostile way: *I object to such ~ remarks.*

personal as/sistant, one who helps an official, eg by making travel arrangements, organizing meetings, etc.

personal column, one (in a newspaper, etc) in which private messages or advertisements appear.

personal pronoun, ⇨ *person* (3).

per-son-ally /-əli/ *adv* (a) in person, not through a representative: *He showed me round the exhibition ~.* (b) speaking for oneself: *P ~ly I have no objection to your joining us.*

per-son-al-ize (also **-ise**) /'pɜːsnəlaɪz/ *vt* have (something) printed with one's address (~d stationery) or sewn with one's initials (~d handkerchiefs).

per-son-al-ity /'pɜːsəˈnæləti/ *n* (pl -ies) 1 [U] state of being a person; existence as an individual: *respect the ~ of a child.* 2 [C,U] qualities that make up a person's character: *a man with little ~; a woman with a strong ~.* 3 [C]

(modern use) person who is well known in a particular context: *a TV ~, known to television viewers.* 4 (pl) impolite remarks about a person's looks, habits, etc: *Let's avoid personalities, avoid such remarks.*

per-son-ify /pɜːsənɪfaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) 1 regard or represent (something) as a person: ~ the sun and moon, by using 'he' and 'she'. 2 be an example of (a quality): *That man is greed personified.*

per-soni-fi-ca-tion /pɜːsənɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/ *n* (a) [U] personifying or being personified; [C] instance of this. (b) (usually *sing* with *the*) excellent example of a quality: *He's the personification of every virtue.*

per-son-nel /pɜːsəˈnel/ *n* [U] (used with a *sing* or *pl* verb) staff, esp in large companies and the armed forces: *Five airline ~ died in the plane crash.*

personnel manager/officer, one employed to deal with staff, their salaries, training, etc.

per-spec-tive /pɜːspektɪv/ *n* 1 [U] the art of drawing solid objects on a flat surface so as to give the right impression of their relative height, width, depth, distance, etc; [C] drawing so made. 2 [U] apparent relation between different aspects of a problem: *He sees things in their right ~.* 3 [C] (literary, fig) view; prospect: ~s of Britain's history.

per-spex /'pɜːspeks/ *n* [U] (P) tough plastic material used as a substitute for glass.

per-spi-ca-cious /pɜːspɪˈkeɪʃəs/ *adj* (formal) quick to judge and understand.

per-spi-cac-ity /pɜːspɪˈkæəsəti/ *n* [U]

per-spire /pɜːˈspaɪə(r)/ *vi* sweat (which is less formal).

per-spiration /pɜːˈspəreɪʃn/ *n* [U] sweat; sweating.

per-suade /pɜːsweɪd/ *vt* 1 convince (a person): *How can I ~ you of my sincerity|that I am sincere?* 2 cause (a person) by reasoning (not) (to do something): *We ~d him|He was ~d to try again. Can you ~ her out of her foolish plans?*

per-suad-able /-əbl/ *adj*

per-sua-sion /pɜːˈswɛɪʒn/ *n* 1 [U] persuading or being persuaded; power of persuading. 2 [U] belief (the usual word): *It is my ~ that...* 3 [C] group of people holding a particular belief: *various political ~s.*

per-sua-sive /pɜːˈswɛɪsɪv/ *adj* able to persuade: *She has a ~ manner|voice.*

per-sua-sive-ly *adv*

pert /pɜːt/ *adj* cheeky; not showing proper respect: *a ~ child|answer.*

pert-ly *adv*

per-tain /pɜːˈteɪn/ *vi* (formal) belong as a part or accessory; have reference; be appropriate: *the farm and the lands ~ing to it.*

per-ti-na-cious /pɜːˈtɪˌneɪʃəs/ *adj* (formal) determined.

per-ti-na-cious-ly *adv*
per-ti-nac-ity /pɜːtɪˈnæsəti/ *n* [U] (formal) determination.
per-ti-nent /ˈpɜːtɪnənt/ *adj* (formal) referring directly; relevant: *a ~ reply*.
per-ti-nent-ly *adv*
per-turb /pɜːtɜːb/ *vt* (formal) cause concern to; make anxious: *~ing rumours; a man who is never ~ed*.
per-turb-able *adj*
per-tur-ba-tion /ˌpɜːtɜːbeɪʃn/ *n* [U]
pe-rusal /pɜːruːzl/ *n* [C,U] act of reading carefully.
pe-ruse /pɜːruːz/ *vt* (formal) read carefully.
per-veid /pɜːveɪd/ *vt* (formal) spread through every part of: *The ideas that ~ all these periodicals may do great harm*.
per-va-sion /pɜːveɪʃn/ *n* [U]
per-va-sive /pɜːveɪsɪv/ *adj* tending to pervade: *~ influences*.
per-va-sive-ly *adv*
per-verse /pɜːvɜːs/ *adj* **1** (of persons) deliberately continuing in doing wrong. **2** (of circumstances) contrary (to one's wishes). **3** (of behaviour) unreasonable.
per-verse-ly *adv*
per-verse-ness *n* [U]
per-ver-sion /pɜːvɜːʃn/ *US: -ʒn* **n** **1** [U] perverting or being perverted. **2** [C] turning from right to wrong; change to something abnormal, unnatural, etc: *a ~ of justice; sexual ~s*.
per-ver-sity /pɜːvɜːsəti/ *n* (pl -ies) [U] being perverse; [C] perverse act.
per-vert¹ /pɜːvɜːt/ *n* [C] person whose (sexual) behaviour is abnormal.
per-vert² /pɜːvɜːt/ *vt* **1** turn (something) to a wrong use. **2** cause (a person, his mind) to turn away from right behaviour, beliefs, etc: *~ (the mind of) a child*.
pes-si-mism /ˈpesɪmɪzəm/ *n* [U] tendency to believe that the worst thing is most likely to happen, that everything is basically evil.
pes-si-mist /-ɪst/, believer in pessimism.
pes-si-mis-tic /ˈpesɪmɪstɪk/ *adj*
pes-si-mis-tically /-kli/ *adv*
pest /pest/ *n* [C] **1** troublesome or destructive thing, animal, etc: *garden ~s*, eg insects, mice, snails; *~ control*, the use of various methods to get rid of pests. **2** (informal) child who is a nuisance: *You little ~!*
pes-ter /ˈpestə(r)/ *vt* annoy; trouble: *be ~ed with flies/by requests for help*.
pes-ti-cide /ˈpestɪsaɪd/ *n* [C,U] substance used to destroy pests.
pes-ti-lence /ˈpestɪləns/ *n* [C,U] (any kind of) fatal epidemic disease, esp bubonic plague.
pestle /pestl/ *n* [C] stick with a thick end used in a mortar for pounding or crushing things. □ *vt* crush in (or as in) a mortar.
pet /pet/ **n** **1** (often as an adjective) animal, etc kept as a companion, treated with care and affection, eg a cat or a dog: *~ food/shops*. **2** per-

son treated as a favourite: *Mary is the teacher's ~*. **3** person specially loved or lovable: *make a ~ of a child*. □ *vt* (-tt-) **1** treat with affection. **2** kiss and caress.

pet aversion, person or thing disliked most: *Cowboy films are her ~ aversion*.

'pet name, name other than the real name, used affectionately.

petal /ˈpetl/ *n* [C] one of the (usually colourful) divisions of a flower: *rose ~s*.

peter /ˈpi:tə(r)/ *vi* **peter out**, (of supplies, etc) come gradually to an end.

pe-ti-tion /pɪˈtɪʃn/ *n* [C] **1** prayer; earnest request; appeal (esp a written document signed by a large number of people). **2** formal application made to a court of law. □ *vt, vi* **1** make an appeal to, eg the authorities: *~ Parliament to stop unemployment*. **2** **petition for**, ask earnestly or humbly: *~ for a retrial*.

pe-ti-tioner, one who petitions, esp the plaintiff in a divorce suit.

pet-rel /ˈpetrəl/ *n* [C] long-winged black and white seabird.

pet-rify /ˈpetrɪfaɪ/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp -ied) **1** (cause to) change into stone. **2** (fig) take away power to think, feel, act, etc (through fear, surprise, etc).

pet-rol /ˈpetrəl/ *n* [U] refined petroleum used as a fuel in internal combustion engines (*US = gasoline*): *fill up with ~*.

'petrol station, place where motor-vehicles can be filled with petrol.

pe-tro-leum /pɪˈtrəʊliəm/ *n* [U] mineral oil found underground and used in various forms (petrol, paraffin, etc) for lighting, heating and driving machines.

petroleum 'jelly *n* [U] semi-solid substance obtained from petroleum, used as a lubricant and in ointments.

pet-ti-coat /ˈpetɪkəʊt/ *n* [C] woman's underskirt.

petty /ˈpeti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** small; unimportant: *~ regulations enforced by ~ officials*. **2** on a small scale: *~ farmers/shopkeepers*. **3** having or showing no generosity or sympathy: *~ spite*.

petty cash, (business) money for or from small payments.

petty larceny, theft of articles of little value.
'petty officer, naval officer below commissioned rank.

pet-tily /ˈpetəli/ *adv*

pet-ti-ness *n* [U]

petu-lance /ˈpetʃələns/ *n* [U] (formal) petulant behaviour.

petu-lant /ˈpetʃələnt/ *adj* (formal) unreasonably impatient or irritable.

petu-lant-ly *adv*

pe-tu-nia /pɪˈtjuːniə/ *US: -tuː-/* *n* [C] (pl ~s) garden plant with funnel-shaped flowers of various colours.

pew /pjuː/ *n* [C] bench with a back in a church.

pe-wit, pee-wit /'pi:wɪt/ *n* [C] lapwing.

pew-ter /'pju:tə(r)/ *n* [U] (objects made of a) grey alloy of lead and tin.

phal-anx /'fælæŋks/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es or phallanges /fə'lændʒɪz/) **1** (in ancient Greece) body of soldiers in close formation for fighting. **2** number of persons banded together for a common purpose. **3** (*anat*) bone in a finger or toe.

phal-lic /'fælɪk/ *adj* of a phallus: ~ *symbols/emoles*.

phal-lus /'fæləs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or phalli /'fælai/) image of the penis, as a symbol of fertility.

phan-tasy /'fæntəsi/ *n* = fantasy.

phan-tom /'fæntəm/ *n* [C] ghost; something seen as in a dream or vision: (used as an *adjective*) ~ *ships*.

Phari-see /'færɪsi:/ *n* [C] **1** member of an ancient Jewish sect known for strict obedience to written laws and for claiming reverence. **2** (small *p*) hypocritical and self-righteous person.

phar-ma-ceu-ti-cal /'fɑ:mə'sju:tɪkl/ *US*: -sju: / *adj* of, engaged in, pharmacy; of the use or sale of medicinal drugs.

phar-ma-cist /'fɑ:mə'stɪ/ *n* [C] person skilled in preparing medicines. ⇨ chemist, druggist.

phar-ma-col-ogist /'fɑ:mə'kɒlədʒɪst/ *n* [C] expert in, student of, pharmacology.

phar-ma-col-ogy /'fɑ:mə'kɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] science of pharmacy.

phar-macy /'fɑ:məsi/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] preparation and dispensing of medicines and drugs. **2** [C] (part of a) shop where medical goods are sold. (*US* = *drugstore*).

phar-yn-gi-tis /'færɪn'dʒaɪtɪs/ *n* [U] inflammation of the mucous membrane of the pharynx.

phar-ynx /'færɪŋks/ *n* [C] cavity (with the muscles, etc that enclose it) at the back of the mouth, where the passages to the nose, mouth and larynx begin.

phase /feɪz/ *n* [C] **1** stage of development: *the critical ~ of an illness*. **2** (of the moon) amount of bright surface visible from the earth (new moon, full moon, etc). □ *vt* plan, carry out, by phases: *a well-~d withdrawal*, one made by careful stages. **phase in/out**, introduce/withdraw one stage at a time.

pheasant /'feznt/ *n* [C] long-tailed game bird; [U] its flesh as food.

phe-nom-enal /'fə'nɒmɪnl/ *adj* **1** that is known only through the senses. **2** concerned with phenomena. **3** enormous; extraordinary.

phe-nom-enally /-nəli/ *adv*

phe-nom-enon /'fə'nɒmɪnən/ *US*: -nɒn/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ena /-ɪnə/) **1** thing that is known to exist by the senses: *the phenomena of nature*. **2** unusual, extraordinary, person, thing, happening, etc.

phew /fju:/ *int* (suggesting astonishment, impatience, discomfort, disgust, etc according to context).

phial /'fiəl/ *n* [C] small bottle, esp one for liquid medicine.

phil-an-thropic /'fɪlən'thrɒpɪk/ *adj* kind and helpful.

phil-an-thro-pi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

phil-an-thro-pist /'fɪlənθrəpɪst/ *n* [C] person who helps others, esp those who are poor or in trouble.

phil-an-thropy /'fɪlənθrəpi/ *n* [U] love of mankind; practical sympathy and benevolence.

phil-at-ely /'fɪlətəli/ *n* [U] collecting stamps.

Phi-lis-tine /'fɪlɪstɪn/ *US*: -stɪn/ *n* **1** (*Biblical*) one of the warlike peoples in Palestine who were the enemies of the Israelites. **2** (small *p*) (*modern use*) uncultured person; person whose interests are only material and are ordinary or dull.

phil-o-logi-cal /'fɪlə'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* of philology.

phil-o-logist /'fɪlə'lɒdʒɪst/ *n* [C] student of, expert in, philology.

phil-o-logy /'fɪlə'lɒdʒi/ *n* [U] study of the development of language, or of particular languages. ⇨ linguistics.

phil-os-opher /'fɪləsəfə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person studying or teaching philosophy, or having a system of philosophy. **2** (*informal*) person whose mind is untroubled by stormy feelings or hardships; person who lets reason govern his life.

phil-o-sophi-cal /'fɪləsəfɪkl/ *adj* **1** of, devoted to, guided by, philosophy. **2** (*informal*) (of a person, his behaviour) guided by reason and not feelings: *take a ~ view of a personal situation*.

phil-o-sophi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

phil-os-ophize (also -ise) /'fɪləsəfaɪz/ *vi* think, discuss, like a philosopher.

phil-os-ophy /'fɪləsəfi/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] the search for knowledge, esp the nature and meaning of existence. **2** [C] system of thought resulting from such a search for knowledge: *a man with a practical ~*. **3** [U] calm, quiet attitude towards life, even in the face of unhappiness, danger, difficulty, etc.

phleb-it-itis /'flɪ'bæɪtɪs/ *n* [U] inflammation of a vein.

phlegm /flem/ *n* [U] **1** thick, semi-fluid substance forming on the skin of the throat and in the nose, and expelled by coughing. **2** quality of being phlegmatic.

phleg-matic /fleg'mætɪk/ *adj* being slow to act or to show feeling or interest.

phleg-mati-cally /-kli/ *adv*

pho-bia /'fəʊbiə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) unhealthy, strong, fear or dislike.

phone¹ /'fəʊn/ *n*, *vt*, *vi* (*informal* abbr for) telephone.

'phone-booth/-box, telephone kiosk; call-box.
'phone-in, radio or television programme in which the public take part on the telephone.
phone² /fəʊn/ *n* [C] (*linguistics*) single speech-sound (vowel or consonant).
pho-neme /'fəʊni:m/ *n* [C] (*linguistics*) unit of the system of sounds that distinguish words of a language as represented ideally by single letters of the alphabet.
pho-nemic /fə'ni:mik/ *adj*
pho-netic /fə'netik/ *adj* **1** concerned with the sounds of human speech. **2** (of transcriptions) providing a symbol for each phoneme of the language transcribed. **3** (of a language) having a system of spelling close to the sounds represented by the letters: *Spanish spelling is ~*.
pho-neti-cally /-kli/ *adv*
pho-net-ics *n* (used with a *sing verb*) (a) study and science of speech sounds, their production, and the signs used to represent them. (b) sound-system of a language.
pho-neti-cian /,fəʊni'tʃi:n/ *n* [C] expert in phonetics.
pho-ney, phony /'fəʊni/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (*sl*) fake; not genuine. □ *n* [C] phony person: *He's a complete ~*.
pho-nic /'fəʊnik/ *adj* (of vocal) sounds.
pho-nol-ogy /fə'nɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] (*linguistics*) scientific study of the organization of speech sounds (including phonemes), esp in particular languages.
phooey /'fʊ: / *int* (used to show disgust, disbelief, etc).
phos-pho-rescence /,fɒsfə'rens/ *n* [U] the giving out of light without burning or heat that can be felt.
phos-pho-rescent /-snt/ *adj*
phos-phorus /'fɒsfərəs/ *n* [U] yellow, non-metallic, poisonous element like wax (symbol **P**) which catches fire easily and gives out a faint light in the dark.
photo /'fəʊtəʊ/ *n* [C] (*informal abbr* for) photograph.
photo- /'fəʊtəʊ/ *prefix* **1** of light: *photo-electric*. **2** of photography: *photogenic*.
photo-copy /'fəʊtəkəpi/ *vt* (*pt, pp -ied*) make a copy of (a document, etc) by a photographic method. □ *n* [C] (*pl -ies*) such a copy.
photo-electric /,fəʊtəʊ'lektɹik/ *adj*: ~ cell, device which gives out an electric current when light falls on it, used for many purposes, eg to cause a door to open when someone approaches it.
photo-finish /,fəʊtəʊ'fiɪnɪʃ/ *n* [C] finish of a horse-race so close that a photograph is needed to decide the winner.
photo-fit /'fəʊtəʊfɪt/ *n* [C,U] (example of a) method of combining facial features to provide the police, etc with an idea of what a suspect looks like.
photo-genic /,fəʊtə'dʒenik/ *adj* (of a per-

son) looking attractive in photographs.

photo-graph /'fəʊtəgrɑ:f/ *US*: -græf/ *n* [C] picture recorded by means of the chemical action of light on a specially prepared film in a camera, etc which is transferred to specially prepared paper. □ *vi* take a photograph of.
pho-togra-pher /fə'tɒgrəfə(r)/ *n* [C] person (esp professional) who takes photographs.
pho-to-graphic /,fəʊtə'græfik/ *adj* of, related to, used in, taking photographs.
photo-graphi-cally /-kli/ *adv*
pho-togra-phy /fə'tɒgrəfi/ *n* [U] art or process of taking photographs.
photo-stat /'fəʊtəstæt/ *n* = photocopy.
phrasal /'freɪz/ *adj* in the form of a phrase.
phrasal verb, idiomatic use of a verb with an adverb and/or a preposition, eg *pick up* (→ the end section of the verb *pick*).
phrase /freɪz/ *n* [C] **1** group of words forming part of a sentence, eg *in the garden, in order to*. **2** short, clever expression. **3** (*music*) short, independent passage forming part of a longer passage. □ *vt* express in words: *a neatly ~d compliment*.
'phrase book, one listing expressions with equivalents in another language, eg for tourists.
phras-eol-ogy /,freɪzi'blədʒi/ *n* [U] choice of words; wording.
phren-etic /'fri:netik/ *adj* (*formal*) frantic; fanatic.
physi-cal /'fizɪkl/ *adj* **1** of things that are known through the senses (contrasted with moral and spiritual things): *the ~ world*. **2** of the body: ~ exercise, eg running. **3** of the laws of nature: ~ impossibility. **4** of the natural features of the world: ~ geography.
'physical science, eg physics, chemistry.
physi-cally /-kli/ *adv*
physi-cian /'fiziʃi:n/ *n* [C] doctor of medicine and surgery.
physi-cist /'fizɪsɪst/ *n* [C] student of, expert in, physics.
phys-ics /'fizɪks/ *n pl* (used with a *sing verb*) group of sciences dealing with matter and energy (eg heat, light, sound), but usually excluding chemistry and biology.
physi(o)- /'fizi(ə), etc/ *prefix* of the body or living things: *physiology*.
physio-logi-cal /,fiziə'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* of physiology.
physi-ol-ogist /,fizi'blədʒɪst/ *n* [C] expert in, student of, physiology.
physi-ol-ogy /,fizi'blədʒi/ *n* [U] science of the normal functions of living things, esp animals.
physio-thera-pist /,fiziə'θerəpɪst/ *n* [C] person trained to give physiotherapy.
physio-ther-apy /,fiziə'θerəpi/ *n* [U] treatment of disease by means of exercise, massage, the use of light, heat, electricity and other natural forces.

phy-sique /fɪ'zɪk/ *n* [U] structure and development of the body: *a strong ~*.

pia-nist /'piənɪst/ *n* [C] person who plays the piano.

pi-ano /pɪ'ænəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) musical instrument in which metal strings are struck by hammers operated from a keyboard.

grand piano, one with horizontal strings.

upright piano, one with vertical strings.

piano-forte /pɪ'ænəʊ'fɔ:t/ US: pɪ'ænəʊ'fɔ:rt/ *n* [C] (*formal*) piano.

pica-dor /'pɪkədɔ:(r)/ *n* [C] man (on a horse) who uses a lance to anger and weaken bulls in the sport of bull-fighting.

pic-ca-lilli /'pɪkə'lɪli/ *n* [U] kind of hot-tasting pickle made of chopped vegetables, spices, mustard, vinegar, etc.

pic-colo /'pɪkələʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) small flute.

pick¹ /pɪk/ *n* [C] picking; selection. **the pick of the bunch**, (*fig*) the best of all of them.

pick² /pɪk/ *n* [C] **1** (also '**pick** (-axe)'), heavy tool with an iron head having two pointed ends, used for breaking up hard surfaces (eg roads, brickwork). **2** small, sharp-pointed instrument: *a 'tooth*~.

pick³ /pɪk/ *vt, vi* (For special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*, ⇨ 7 below.) **1** take up, remove, pull away, with the fingers: ~ *flowers/fruit*; ~ *one's nose*, remove bits of dried mucus from the nostrils. **pick sb's brains**, ⇨ *brain* (4). **pick sb's pocket**, ⇨ *pocket* (1). **2** tear or separate; use a pointed instrument to clean, etc: ~ *one's teeth*, get bits of food from the spaces between them, etc by using a '*tooth*~. **pick a lock**, use a pointed tool, a piece of wire, etc to unlock it without a key. **have a 'bone to pick with sb**, ⇨ *bone*. **3** choose; select: ~ *a team*, choose players; ~ *the winning horse* ~ *the winner*, make a successful guess at the winner (before the race). **pick a quarrel with sb**, ⇨ *quarrel* (2). **4** make by picking. **pick holes in**, ⇨ *hole* (1). **5** (of birds) take up (grain, etc) in the bill; (of persons) eat (food, etc) in small amounts: *She only ~ed at her food*. **6** (US) pluck (the strings of): ~ *a banjo*.

7 (special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*):

pick at sb, (*informal*) find fault with: *Why are you always ~ing at the poor child?*

pick on sb, select for punishment, criticism, etc: *You're always ~ing on me*.

pick sb/sth out, (a) choose. (b) distinguish from surrounding persons, objects, etc: ~ *out a friend in a crowd*.

pick sth over, examine and make a selection from: ~ *over a basket of grapes*, eg to throw out any that are bad.

pick sth up, (a) take hold of and lift: ~ *up one's hat/parcels*. (b) gain; get: ~ *up a foreign language*, learn it without taking lessons or studying; ~ *up bits of information*; ~ *up a bar-*

gain at a sale. (c) succeed in seeing or hearing (by means of apparatus): *enemy planes were ~ed up by our searchlights/radar*. (d) recover (health); regain: *You'll soon ~ up when you get to the seaside*. **pick sb up**, (a) make the acquaintance of casually: *a girl he ~ed up in the street*. (b) take (persons) along with one: *He stopped the car to ~ up a young girl who was hitch-hiking across Europe*. *The escaped prisoner was ~ed up (= seen and arrested) by the police at Hull*. **pick oneself up**, raise (oneself) after a fall: *She slipped and fell, but quickly ~ed herself up again*.

picker /'pɪkə(r)/ *n* [C] person or thing that picks (chiefly in compounds): *'hop*~s.

picket /'pɪkɪt/ *n* [C] **1** pointed stick, etc set upright in the ground (as part of a fence, etc).

2 small group of men on police duty, or sent out to watch the enemy. **3** worker, or group of workers, stationed at the gates of a factory, dockyard, etc during a strike, to try to persuade others not to go to work. □ *vt, vi* **1** put pickets (1) round. **2** station (men) as pickets (2). **3** place/be a picket (3) at: ~ *a factory*.

pick ings /'pɪkɪŋz/ *n pl* odds and ends left over from which profits may be made; these profits.

pickle /'pɪkl/ *n* [U] salt water, vinegar, etc for keeping meat, vegetables, etc in good condition. **2** (often *pl*) vegetables kept in pickle: *onion* ~s. **3 in a (sad/sorry) pickle**, in a sad, disorganized, etc condition. □ *vt* preserve in pickle: ~ *d onions*.

pickled adj (*sf*) very drunk.

pick-me-up /'pɪk mɪ ʌp/ *n* [C] drink, etc that gives new strength, cheerfulness.

pick-pocket /'pɪk pɒkɪt/ *n* [C] person who steals from pockets. ⇨ *pocket* (1).

pick-up /'pɪk ʌp/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** that part of a record-player that holds the stylus. **2** small general-purpose van or truck, open and with low sides. **3** (*sf*) person of the opposite sex who a person meets deliberately, eg at a party, in the street. **4** acceleration: *an engine/car with a good ~up*.

pic-nic /'pɪknɪk/ *n* [C] **1** pleasure trip on which food is carried to be eaten outdoors. **2** (*informal*) something easy and enjoyable: *It's no ~*, is not an easy job. □ *vi* (-*ck*-) take part in a picnic: ~ *king in the woods*.

pic-tor-ial /'pɪktɔ:riəl/ *adj* of, having, represented in, pictures: *a ~ record of the wedding*. □ *n* [C] periodical of which pictures are the main feature.

pic-ture /'pɪktʃə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** painting, drawing, sketch, photograph, esp as a work of art. **2** beautiful scene, object, person, etc. **3** type or example. **be the picture of health**, appear to be very healthy. **4** (*fig*) account or description that enables somebody to see in his mind an event, etc. **be/put sb in the picture**, be/cause him to be aware of all the facts of a

situation. **5** film (to be) shown in a cinema. **6** what is seen on a television screen. □ *vt* **1** make a picture of; paint. **2** imagine: *P ~ me upon your knee.*

the pictures, (*dated informal*) the cinema.

'picture-book, book with many illustrations, esp one for children.

'picture-card, (*playing-cards*) one with a king, queen or jack on it.

pic-tur-es-que /pɪktʃə'resk/ *adj* **1** having the quality of being like, or of being fit to be, the subject of a painting: *a ~ village*. **2** vivid; graphic: *~ language*. **3** (of a person, his character) attractive; original.

piddle /'pɪdl/ *vi*, *n* [C, U] (*sl*) (pass) urine.

pid-dling /'pɪdlɪŋ/ *adj* (*informal*) insignificant; unimportant: *~ jobs*.

pidgin /'pɪdʒɪn/ *n* [C] **1** any of several languages resulting from contact between European traders and local peoples, eg in West Africa and the Far East, containing elements of the local language(s) and English, French or Dutch. **2** (*informal*) (only in) (*not*) *one's pidgin*, not one's job or concern.

pie /paɪ/ *n* [C, U] meat or fruit covered with pastry and baked in a dish. **have a finger in every 'pie**, be (too) concerned in all that is going on. **as easy as pie**, (*sl*) very easy. **pie in the sky**, unrealistic hopes.

piece¹ /pi:s/ *n* [C] **1** part or bit of a solid substance (complete in itself, but broken, separated or made from a larger portion): *a ~ of paper/string*. *Will you have another ~ (= slice) of cake?* *The vase is in ~s.* *The teapot fell and was broken to ~s.* **come/take (sth) to pieces**, divide (it) into the parts which make it up: *Does this machine come/take to ~s?* **fall to pieces**, break into pieces: *It just fell to ~s in my hands.* **go (all) to pieces**, (*informal*) (of a person) break up physically, mentally or morally. **a piece of cake**, ⇨ *cake*(1). **2** separate instance or example: *a ~ of news/luck/advice/information/furniture*. **give sb a piece of one's mind**, criticize him strongly. **a nasty piece of work**, a horrible person. **3** single composition (in art, music, etc): *a fine ~ of work/music/poetry*. **4** single thing out of a set: *a dinner service of 50 ~s*. **5** one of the objects moved on a board in such games as chess. **6** coin: *a tenpence ~*.

piece² /pi:s/ *vt* put (parts, etc) together; make by joining or adding (pieces) together: *piecing together odds and ends of cloth*.

piece-meal /'pi:smɪl/ *adv* one (part) at a time: *work done ~*. □ *adj* arriving in parts, not all at the same time.

pier /pɪə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** structure of wood, iron, etc built out into the sea as a landing-stage; similar structure for walking on for pleasure (often with a pavilion, restaurant, etc). **2** pillar supporting a span of a bridge, etc.

pierce /piəs/ *vt, vi* **1** (of sharp-pointed instru-

ments) go into or through; make (a hole) by doing this: *The arrow ~d his shoulder*. **2** (*fig*) (of cold, pain, sounds, etc) force a way into or through: *Her screams ~d the air*. **3** go (*through, into, etc*): *Our forces ~d through the enemy's lines*.

pierc-ing *adj* (esp of cold, voices) sharp: *a piercing wind*.

pierc-ing-ly *adv*: *a piercingly cold wind*.

piety /'paɪəti/ *n* (*pl -ies*) (*formal*) **1** [U] devotion to God and good actions. **2** [C] act, etc that shows piety.

pig /pɪɡ/ *n* **1** [C] domestic and wild animal without fur that does not chew grass; [U] its flesh as meat. ⇨ *bacon, ham, pork*. **pigs might 'fly**, the impossible might happen. **2** (*informal*) dirty, greedy or ill-mannered person. **make a pig of oneself**, eat or drink too much.

'pig-headed *adj* stubborn.

'pig-skin, [U] (leather made of a) pig's skin.

'pig-sty /-staɪ/, (**a**) small building for pigs.

(**b**) (*informal*) dirty home.

'pig-tail, plait of hair hanging down over the back of the neck and shoulders.

'pig-gish /-ɪʃ/ *adj* dirty; greedy.

piggy /'pɪɡi/ *n* [C] (*pl -ies*) little pig. □ *adj* (*informal*) greedy.

'piggy bank, model of a pig used by a child for saving coin money.

pigeon /'pɪdʒɪn/ *n* [C] bird, wild or tame, of the dove family. ⇨ *stool-pigeon*.

'pigeon-breasted *adj* (of a human being) having a large, round chest.

'pigeon-hole *n* [C] one of a number of small open boxes (eg above a desk) for keeping papers in. □ *vt* put (papers, etc) in a pigeonhole and ignore or forget them; postpone consideration of: *The scheme was ~holed*.

'pigeon-toed *adj* having the toes turned inwards.

pig-let /'pɪɡlɪt/ *n* [C] young pig.

pig-ment /'pɪgmənt/ *n* **1** [U] colouring matter for making dyes, paint, etc; [C] particular substance used for this. **2** [U] the natural colouring matter in the skin, hair, etc of living beings.

pigmy /'pɪɡmi/ *n* [C] = pygmy.

pike¹ /paɪk/ *n* [C] long wooden shaft with a spearhead, formerly used by soldiers fighting on foot.

pike² /paɪk/ *n* [C] large, fierce, freshwater fish.

pil-chard /'pɪltʃəd/ *n* [C] small sea fish resembling the herring.

pile¹ /paɪl/ *n* [C] **1** number of things lying one on another: *a ~ of books*. **2** **'funeral pile**, heap of wood, etc on which a corpse is burnt. **3** (*informal*) large amount of money. **make a/one's pile**, earn a lot of money.

pile² /paɪl/ *n* [C] heavy beam of timber, steel, concrete, etc in the ground, as a foundation for a building a support for a bridge, etc.

'pile-driver, machine for driving piles into the ground.

pile³ /paɪl/ *n* [U] soft, thick, surface like hair as on velvet, carpets, etc.

pile⁴ /paɪl/ *vt, vi* **1** make into a pile(1); put on or in a pile(1): *piling up dishes on a table*; ~ *more coal on the fire*. **pile it 'on**, (informal) exaggerate. **2 pile up**, (a) accumulate: *My work keeps piling up*. There is more and more for me to do. (b) (of a number of vehicles) crash into each other. Hence, **'pile-up** *n*: *another bad ~-up on the motorway*. **3 pile into/out of sth**, enter/leave in a disorderly way: *They all ~d into/out of the car/cinema*.

piles /paɪlz/ *n* [U] hemorrhoids.

pile-fer /'pɪlfə(r)/ *vt, vi* steal, esp in small quantities.

pile-ferer, person who pilfers.

pil-grim /'pɪlgrɪm/ *n* [C] person who travels to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion: ~s to Mecca.

the Pilgrim Fathers, English Puritans who went to America in 1620 and founded the colony of Plymouth, Massachusetts.

'pil-grim-age /-ɪdʒ/, journey of a pilgrim.

pill /pɪl/ *n* [C] **1** small ball or tablet of medicine for swallowing whole. **2 the ~**, oral contraceptive. **be/go on the pill**, be taking/start to take such pills regularly.

pil-lar /'pɪlə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** upright column, of stone, wood, metal, etc as a support or ornament. (**driven**) **from pillar to post**, (fig) (forced to go) from one place to another. **2 pillar of**, (fig) strong supporter: *a ~ of the Church*. **3** something in the shape of a pillar, eg a column of fire, smoke.

'pillar-box, cylindrical container (in GB, red) in which letters are posted.

pil-lion /'pɪliən/ *n* [C] **1** saddle for a passenger behind the driver of a motorbike: *a ~ passenger*. **2** seat for a second rider behind the rider of a horse.

pil-low /'pɪləʊ/ *n* [C] soft cushion for the head, esp when lying in bed. □ *vt* rest, support, on or as on a pillow.

'pillow-case/-slip, washable cover for a pillow.

pi-lot /'paɪlət/ *n* [C] **1** person trained and licensed to take ships into or out of a harbour, along a river, through a canal, etc. **2** person trained to operate the controls of an aircraft. **3** (used as an adjective) experimental; used to test how something will work, how it may be improved, etc: *a ~ census/survey/scheme*. □ *vt* act as a pilot.

'pilot fish, small fish which often swims with larger fish, eg sharks, or sometimes ships.

'pilot light, small flame in a gas-cooker, which lights large burners, etc when the gas is turned on.

pi-mento /prɪ'mentəʊ/ *n* (pl ~s) **1** [U] dried aromatic berries of a West Indian tree, also

called *Jamaica pepper* and *allspice*. **2** [C] tree that produces the berries.

pimp /pɪmp/ *n* [C] man who solicits for a prostitute. □ *vt* act as a pimp.

pimple /'pɪmpl/ *n* [C] small, hard, inflamed spot on the skin.

pimpled *adj* having pimples.

pim-ply /'pɪmplɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest)

pin¹ /pɪn/ *n* [C] **1** short, thin piece of stiff wire with a sharp point and a round head, used for fastening together parts of a dress, papers, etc. **2** similar piece of wire with an ornamental head for special purposes: *a 'hat-~*. ◇ **safety pin**. **3** peg of wood or metal for various purposes. ◇ drawing pin, hairpin, ninepins, rolling pin. **4** each of the pegs round which the strings of a musical instrument are fastened.

'pins and 'needles, tingling sensation in a part of the body caused by blood flowing again when its circulation has been slowed down.

'pin-cushion, pad for pins(1).

'pin-money, money earned by a woman to buy small personal necessities, etc.

'pin-point *n* [C] something very small. □ *vt* (fig) find, hit, a target with the required accuracy: *Our planes ~pointed the target*.

'pin-prick, (fig) small act, remark, etc causing annoyance.

'pin-stripe, (of cloth, clothes) with many very narrow stripes: *a ~striped 'suit*.

pin² /pɪn/ *vt* (-nn-) **1** fasten with a pin or pins: ~ *papers together*; ~ *up a notice*, eg with drawing-pins on a notice board. **pin sth on sb**, make him appear responsible or deserving blame. **pin one's hopes on**, rely completely on a person, a decision, etc. **2** make unable to move: *He was ~ned under the wrecked car*. *He ~ned me against the wall*, held me there and prevented me from moving. **pin sb down**, (fig) get him to commit himself, to decide, etc.

pin-a-fore /'pɪnəfə(r)/ *n* [C] loose article of clothing worn over a dress to keep it clean.

pin-cers /'pɪnsəz/ *n* pl (also a pair of ~s) **1** instrument for gripping things, pulling nails out of wood, etc. **2** pincer-shaped claws of certain shellfish.

pinch /pɪntʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** squeeze between the thumb and finger; have in a tight grip between two hard things which are pressed together: *He ~ed the boy's cheek*. **2** be too tight; hurt by being too tight: *These shoes ~ (me)*. **3** (informal) take without permission: *Who's ~ed my dictionary?* **4** live economically: ~ and scrape in order to save money. **5** (sl) (of the police) arrest: *be ~ed for stealing*. □ *n* [C] **1** painful squeeze: *He gave her a spiteful ~*. **2** (fig) stress: *feel the ~ of poverty*. **3** amount which can be taken up with the thumb and finger: *a ~ of tobacco*. **take sth with a pinch of salt**, ◇ salt. **4** at a pinch, if there is need and if there is no other way: *We can get six people round*

the dining-table tomorrow at a ~.

pine¹ /paɪn/ *n* [C] kinds of evergreen tree with needle-shaped leaves ('pine-needles') and cones ('pine-cones'); [U] the wood of this tree.

pine² /paɪn/ *vi* **1** waste away through sorrow or illness: *piring from hunger*. **2** *pine for sth/to do sth*, have a strong desire: *exiles pining for home/to return home*.

pine-apple /ˈpaɪnæpl/ *n* [C] (tropical plant with spiny leaves above a) sweet, juicy fruit; [U] this as food: ~ juice; tinned ~.

ping /pɪŋ/ *n* [C] short, sharp, ringing sound as of a small bell being hit. □ *vi* make this sound.

ping-pong /ˈpɪŋpɒŋ/ *n* [C] = table tennis.

pin-ion¹ /ˈpɪniən/ *n* [C] bird's wing, esp the outer joint; flight-feather of a bird. □ *vi* **1** cut off a pinion (of a bird) to prevent flight. **2** bind the arms of (a person).

pin-ion² /ˈpɪniən/ *n* [C] small cog-wheel with teeth fitting into those of a larger cog-wheel.

pink¹ /pɪŋk/ *n* **1** [U] pale red colour of various kinds (*rose* ~, *salmon* ~). **2** [C] garden plant with sweet-smelling white, pink, crimson or variegated flowers. **3** *in the pink*, (informal) very well. □ *adj* of, with a pale red colour.

pink-ish /-ɪʃ/ *adj* rather pink.

pink² /pɪŋk/ *vi* **1** pierce with a sword. **2** decorate (leather, cloth) with small holes, etc.

'pink-ing scissors/shears, sewing scissors with serrated edges, used to prevent edges of cloth from fraying.

pin-money /ˈpɪn mʌni/ *n* ⇨ *pin*¹.

pin-nacle /ˈpɪnəkl/ *n* [C] **1** tall, pointed part of buttress. **2** high, slender mountain peak. **3** (fig) highest point: *at the ~ of his fame*. □ *vi* put (as) on a pinnacle.

pinny /ˈpɪni/ *n* [C] (*pl*-ies) (child's name for a) pinafore.

pin-point /ˈpɪnpɔɪnt/ ⇨ *pin*¹.

pin-prick /ˈpɪn prɪk/ ⇨ *pin*¹.

pint /paɪnt/ *n* [C] unit of measure for liquids and certain dry goods, one-eighth of a gallon or about .57 of a litre: *a ~ of milk/beer*.

pin-up /ˈpɪn ʌp/ *n* [C] picture of an attractive person, esp a woman.

pioneer /ˈpaɪəniə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who goes into a new or undeveloped country to settle or work there. **2** first person to begin a new branch of study, method etc; explorer. **3** (*mil*) one of an advance party of soldiers (eg clearing or making roads). □ *vi*, *vt* act as a pioneer: ~ing work in the field of learner's dictionaries.

pi-ous /ˈpaɪəs/ *adj* having, showing, deep devotion to religion.

pi-ous-ly *adv*

pip¹ /pɪp/ *n* [C] seed, esp of a lemon, orange, apple or pear.

pip² /pɪp/ *n* **1** the ~, disease of poultry. **2** *give one the pip*, (*sl*) make one angry, etc.

pip³ /pɪp/ *n* [C] note of a time-signal on the

telephone or radio.

pip⁴ /pɪp/ *n* [C] **1** each spot on playing-cards, dice and dominoes. **2** (*GB informal*) star on an army officer's shoulder-strap.

pipe¹ /paɪp/ *n* [C] **1** tube through which liquids or gases can flow: *'water-~s'*; *'gas-~s'*; *'drain-~s'*. **2** musical wind-instrument (a single tube with holes stopped by the fingers); each of the tubes from which sound is produced in an organ; (*pl*) = bagpipes. **3** (sound of the) whistle used by a sailor. **4** song or note of some birds. **5** tubular organ in the body: *the 'wind-~'*. **6** (also *to'bacco* ~), tube with a bowl, used for smoking tobacco; quantity of tobacco held in the bowl. **Put 'that in your pipe and smoke it'**, (*informal*) Think about that and accept it whether you want to or not.

'pipe-dream, plan, idea, etc that is impracticable.

'pipe-line, (esp) pipes, often underground, for conveying petroleum to distant places. **in the pipeline**, (*modern use*) (of any kind of goods or proposals) on the way; about to be delivered or to receive attention.

'pipe-rack, for tobacco pipes.

'pipe-ful /-fʊl/, as much as a pipe(6) can hold.

pipe² /paɪp/ *vi*, *vt* **1** convey (water, etc) through pipes: ~ water into a house. **2** play as on a pipe. **pipe down**, (*informal*) be less noisy. **3** (*naut*) summon (sailors), welcome on board, with a pipe: *piring the captain on board*. **4** trim (a dress), ornament (a cake, etc) with piping. ⇨ *pip*ing(2).

pipe-line /ˈpaɪplaɪn/ *n* ⇨ *pipe*¹.

piper /ˈpaɪpə(r)/ *n* [C] person who plays on a pipe or bagpipes.

pip-ette /pɪˈpet/ *n* [C] thin tube for transferring small quantities of liquid, esp used in chemistry.

pip-ing /ˈpaɪpɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** length of pipe(1), esp for water and drains: *ten metres of lead ~*.

2 narrow cord used to decorate the edges of clothes; lines of icing sugar used to decorate cakes, etc. **3** action of playing on a pipe; sound produced from a pipe. □ *adj* like the sound from a pipe(2): *in a ~ voice*. □ *adv* **pip-ing** 'hot', (of liquids, food) very hot.

pi-quancy /ˈpi:kənəsi/ *n* [U] the quality of being piquant.

pi-quant /ˈpi:kənt/ *adj* pleasantly sharp or hot to the taste: *a ~ sauce*.

pi-que /pi:k/ *vi* hurt the pride, self-respect, of. □ *n* [U] resentment: *resign in a fit of ~*.

pi-qué /ˈpi:kɛɪ/ *US*: *piˈkeɪ* *n* [U] stiff cotton cloth.

pi-racy /ˈpaɪərəsi/ *n* (*pl*-ies) **1** [U] robbery on the high seas. **2** [U] pirating of books, etc. **3** [C] instance of either of these.

pi-ranha /ˈpiːrɑːnjə/ *n* [C] (kind of) tropical American freshwater fish, noted for attacking and eating live animals.

pi-rate /'paɪrət/ *n* [C] **1** person who commits piracy(1). **2** person who uses something, eg another's copyright, without authorization. □ *vt* use, reproduce (a book, a recording, etc) without authority.

pi-rati-cal /'paɪrə'tɪkəl/ *adj*

pir-ou-ette /'piʁu'et/ *n* [C] ballet-dancer's rapid turn on the ball or the toe of the foot. □ *vi* dance a pirouette.

Pis-ces /'paɪsɪz/ *n* the fish, twelfth sign of the zodiac.

piss /pɪs/ *vt, vi* Δ (*vulgar sl*) pass urine. □ *n* [U] urine.

pissed *adj* Δ (*vulgar sl*) very drunk.

pis-ta-chio /'pi'stɑ:tʃiəʊ *US*: -tæʃiəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) (tree with) nut with a green edible kernel; colour of this kernel.

pis-til /'pɪstl/ *n* [C] seed-producing part of a flower.

pis-tol /'pɪstl/ *n* [C] small firearm held and fired in one hand.

pis-ton /'pɪstən/ *n* [C] round plate or short cylinder fitting closely inside another cylinder or tube in which it moves, used in engines, pumps, etc to pass on motion.

pit¹ /pɪt/ *n* [C] **1** large hole in the earth, esp one from which material is dug out (*a* 'coal-~) or for industrial purposes (*a* 'saw-~). **2** covered hole as a trap for wild animals, etc. **3** hollow in an animal or plant body, esp *the ~ of the stomach*, the depression in the belly between the ribs. ⇨ also armpit. **4** scar left on the body after smallpox. **5** (*GB*) (people in the) seats on the ground floor of a theatre. **6** hole in the floor (of a garage, workshop) from which the underside of a motor-vehicle can be examined and repaired. **7** place at which cars stop (at race-courses) for fuel, new tyres, etc. □ *vt* (-tt-) mark with pits(4) or with hollows in the ground: *The moon is ~ted with craters.*

'**pit-fall**, (*fig*) unsuspected trap or danger.

'**pit-head**, entrance of a coalmine.

'**pit pony**, pony kept underground in coal-mines for pulling wagons.

'**pit-prop**, prop used to support the roof of a gallery in a mine.

pit² /pɪt/ *n* [C] (*US*) hard seed like a stone (of such fruits as cherries, plums, peaches, etc). □ *vt* (-tt-) (*US*) remove pits from.

pit-a-pat /'pɪt ə 'pæt/ *adv* with (the sound of) light, quick taps or steps: *Her heart/feet/The rain went ~.*

pitch¹ /pɪtʃ/ *n* [C] **1** place where a person (esp a street trader) usually does business. **queer sb's pitch**, upset his plans. **2** area for playing football, etc. **3** (*cricket*) part of the ground between the wickets; manner in which the ball is delivered in bowling. **4** act of pitching or throwing anything. **5** (in music and speech) degree of highness or lowness: *the ~ of a voice*. **6** degree: *the noise reached such a ~ that...* ⇨ fever pitch. **7** amount of slope (esp of a roof).

8 (of a ship) process of pitching(5).

pitch² /pɪtʃ/ *n* [U] black substance made from coal-tar, turpentine or petroleum, sticky and semi-liquid when hot, hard when cold, used eg between planks forming a floor, to make roofs waterproof, etc.

'**pitch-black**/'**pitch-dark** *adj* very black or dark.

pitch³ /pɪtʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** set up, erect (a tent, camp).

2 throw (a ball, etc). **3** (*music*) set in a certain key: *This song is ~ed too low for me*. **4** (cause to) fall heavily forwards or outwards: *The boat overturned and the passengers were ~ed out*.

5 (of a ship) move up and down as the bows rise and fall. ⇨ roll²(6). **6** **pitch in**, set to work with energy.

'**pitch into**, (*a*) attack violently. (*b*) get busy with: *We ~ed into the work/the food*.

7 (*cricket*) (cause the ball to) strike the ground near or around the wicket. **8** (*baseball*) throw (the ball) to the batter. □ *vi* **1** lift or move with a fork. **2** (*fig*) force (a person) (*into* a job, etc).

'**pitch-fork**, long-handled fork with sharp prongs for lifting hay, etc.

pitcher¹ /'pɪtʃə(r)/ *n* [C] large jug.

pitcher² /'pɪtʃə(r)/ *n* [C] (*baseball*) player who throws the ball.

pit-eous /'pɪtəs/ *adj* (*formal*) arousing pity.

pit-eous-ly *adv*

pit-fall /'pɪtfɔ:l/ ⇨ **pit**¹.

pith /pɪθ/ *n* [U] **1** soft substance that fills the stems of some plants (eg reeds). **2** similar substance lining the rind of oranges, etc. **3** (*fig*) essential part: *the ~ of his argument/speech*.

'**pith hat/helmet**, light sun hat made of dried pith of marrow.

pithy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (*a*) of, like, full of, pith. (*b*) full of meaning: *~y remarks*.

pith-ily /-əlɪ/ *adv*

piti-able /'pɪtɪəbl/ *adj* arousing pity; deserving to be disliked: *a ~ attempt*.

piti-ably /-əblɪ/ *adv*

piti-ful /'pɪtɪfl/ *adj* **1** feeling, showing, pity. **2** causing pity: *a ~ sight*. **3** arousing dislike.

piti-fully /-fəlɪ/ *adv*

piti-less /'pɪtlɪs/ *adj* showing no pity.

piti-less-ly *adv*

pi-ton /'pɪtən/ *n* [C] (*Fr*) metal spike driven into rock, with a hole for rope, used as a hold in mountain climbing.

pit-tance /'pɪtəns/ *n* [C] low, insufficient amount, payment: *work all day for a ~.*

pitter-patter /'pɪtə pætə(r)/ *n* [U] rapid succession of light sounds: *the ~ of rain*.

pi-tu-itary /'pi:tju:ɪtəri *US*: -tu:etəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (also ~ *gland*) small gland at the base of the brain, giving hormones that influence growth, etc.

pity /'pɪtɪ/ (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] feeling of sorrow for the troubles, sufferings, etc of another person: *be filled with/feel ~ for her*. **have/take pity on sb**, help a person in trouble, etc. **for pity's sake**, (used when asking for urgent

action, a decision, etc): *For ~'s sake try to stop this persecution.* **out of pity**, because of a feeling of pity: *I did it out of ~ for her seven children.* **2** (with *a*, *an*, but not in *pl*) (event which gives) cause for regret or sorrow: *What a ~ (= How unfortunate) (that) you can't come with us!* **more's the pity**, unfortunately. **□ vt** (*pt, pp -ied*) feel genuine (but often used to show disrespect) pity for: *I ~ you having such an ugly wife.*

pivot /'pɪvət/ *n* [C] **1** central pin or point on which something turns. **2** (*fig*) something on which an argument or discussion depends. **□ vt, vi** turn (as) on a pivot.

pixy, pixie /'pɪksɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl -ies*) small elf or fairy.

pizza /'pɪtsə/ *n* [C,U] (*It*) (food made by baking a) layer of dough covered with a mixture of tomatoes, cheese, etc.

placard /'plækɑ:d/ *n* [C] written or printed announcement (to be) publicly displayed; poster. **□ vt** make known using a placard.

placate /'plækɪt/ *US: 'pleɪt* *vt* = pacify.

place¹ /pleɪs/ *n* [C] **1** particular part of space (to be) occupied by a person or thing: *I can't be in two ~s at once.* **all over the place**, in disorder. **in/out of place**, (*a*) in/not in the right or proper place: *I like to have everything in ~.* (*b*) (*fig*) suitable/unsuitable: *his remarks were out of ~.* **in place of**, instead of. **give place**, yield. **give place to**, be succeeded by. **put sb in his (proper) place**; **put oneself in sb's/in sb else's place**, **□ put**(2). **take the place of**, be substituted for: *Plastics have taken the ~ of many materials.* **take place**, happen. **□ also** pride(1); swop. **2** city, town, village, etc: *go to ~s and see things*, travel as a tourist. **'go places**, (*informal*) have increasing success. **3** building or area of land used for some particular purpose that is specified: *a ~ of worship*, a church, mosque etc; *a ~ of business*. **4** particular area on a surface: *a sore ~ on my neck*. **5** passage, part, in a book, etc: *I've lost my ~.* **6** rank or station (in society, etc). **keep sb in his place**, not allow him to be too familiar. **7** (in a race) position among those competitors who are winners: *Whose horse got the first ~?* **8** (*sport*) position in a team. **9** (*maths*) position of a figure in a series: *calculated to two decimal ~s*, eg 6.57. **10** single step or stage in an argument, etc: *in the first/second ~.* **11** office, employment, eg a government appointment; duties of an office-holder. **12** position as an undergraduate: *get a ~ at Cambridge*. **13** (*informal*) house or other residence, eg a flat: *He has a nice little ~ in the country.* **Come round to my ~ one evening.** **14** (in proper names) alternative name for *Street*, *Square*, etc in a town: *St James's P~.* **15** seat for one person in a theatre, restaurant, etc.

place² /pleɪs/ *vt* **1** put in a certain place; ar-

range (things) in their proper places: *P ~ them in the right order.* **2** appoint to a position: *He was ~d in command of the Second Army.* **3** invest (money): *~ £500 in Saving Bonds.* **4** put (an order for goods, etc) with a business firm: *~ an order for books with the bookshop.* **5** sell (unwanted goods) to a customer: *How can we ~ all this surplus stock?* **6** have: *~ confidence in a leader.* **7** recognize by connecting a person with past experience: *I know that man's face, but I can't ~ him.* **8** (*racing*) state the position of runners, athletes, team members. **be placed**, be among the first three: *The Duke's horse wasn't ~d.*

placenta /plə'sentə/ *n* [C] (*pl ~s*) (*med*) organ lining the womb during pregnancy, by which the foetus is nourished.

placid /'plæsid/ *adj* calm; untroubled; (of a person) not easily irritated.

placidly *adv*

plagiarism /'pleɪdʒərɪzəm/ *n* [U] plagiarizing; [C] instance of this.

plagiarist /-ɪst/ *n* [C] person who plagiarizes.

plagiarize (also **-ise**) /'pleɪdʒəraɪz/ *vt* take and use somebody else's ideas, words, etc as if they were one's own.

plague /pleɪg/ *n* [C,U] **1** kind of fatal disease which spreads quickly: *bubonic ~.* **2** (*fig*) cause of serious trouble or disaster: *a ~ of locusts/flied*. **□ vt** annoy (with repeated requests or questions).

plaipe /pleɪs/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) brown flatfish with spots, eaten as food.

plaid /plæd/ *n* **1** [C] long piece of woollen cloth worn over the shoulders by Scottish Highlanders. **2** [U] cloth with a chequered or tartan pattern.

plain¹ /pleɪn/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** easy to see, hear or understand: *~ English. The meaning is quite ~.* **□ nose**¹(1). **2** simple; ordinary; without luxury or ornament: *~ cooking*; *a ~ blue dress*, without a pattern on it, or without trimmings, etc. **in plain clothes**, (esp of policemen) in ordinary clothes, not in uniform. **3** (of persons, their thoughts, actions, etc) straightforward; frank. **4** (of a person's appearance) not pretty or handsome: *It's a pity his wife is so ~.* **□ adv** clearly: *learn to speak ~.*

'plain sailing, (*fig*) course of action that is simple and free from difficulties: *After we engaged a guide, everything was ~ sailing.*

'plain-spoken *adj* frank in speech.

'plain-song/-chant, music for a number of voices together, used in the Anglican and Roman Catholic Church services.

plainly *adv*: *It was ~ly visible.*

plain-ness *n* [U]

plain² /pleɪn/ *n* [C] area of level land: *the wide ~s of Canada.*

plain³ /pleɪn/ *n* [C] (*knitting*) basic stitch. **□ purl**, **□ vt, vi** knit this stitch.

plain-tiff /'pleɪntɪf/ *n* [C] person who brings an action at law. ⇨ **defendant**.

plain-tive /'pleɪntɪv/ *adj* sounding sad.

plain-tive-ly *adv*

plait /plæɪt/ *vt* weave or twist (lengths of hair, straw, etc) under and over one another into one length. □ *n* [C] something made by plaiting: *wearing her hair in a ~*.

plan /plæn/ *n* [C] 1 outline drawing (of or for a building) showing the relative size, positions, etc of the parts, esp as if seen from above: *~s for a new school*. ⇨ **elevation** (4). 2 diagram (of the parts of a machine). 3 diagram showing how a garden, park, town or other area of land has been, or is to be, laid out. (Note: *map* is used for a large area of land.) 4 arrangement for doing or using something, considered in advance: *make ~s for the school holidays*. **go according to plan**, happen as planned. □ *vt* (-nn-) make a plan (of, for, to): *~ a house/a holiday/a military campaign*. *We're ~ning to visit London this summer*.

plan-ner, one who makes plans, esp (3).

plane 1 /pleɪn/ *n* [C] one of several kinds of tree (a *~tree*) with spreading branches, broad leaves and thin bark.

plane 2 /pleɪn/ *n* [C] tool for trimming the surface of wood by taking shavings from it. □ *vt, vi* use a plane: *planing wood*.

plane 3 /pleɪn/ *n* [C] 1 flat or level surface; surface such that the straight line joining any points on it is touching it at all points. 2 wing or supporting surface of an aeroplane. 3 = aeroplane. 4 (fig) level or stage (of development, etc): *on a higher social ~*. □ *adj* perfectly level; lying in a plane: *a ~ curve*. □ *vi* **plane (down)**, (of aeroplanes) travel, glide.

planet /'plæɪnɪt/ *n* [C] one of the heavenly bodies (eg *Mars, Venus*) which move round a star such as the sun and are illuminated by it.

plan-et-ary /'plæɪnɪtri/ *US: -terɪ/ adj*

plank /plæŋk/ *n* [C] 1 long, flat piece of timber. **walk the plank**, (of a person captured by pirates in former times) be forced to walk blindfolded into the sea along a plank put over the ship's side. 2 basic principle in a political platform. □ *vi* cover (a floor, etc) with planks.

'plank-ing *n* [U] planks put down to form a floor.

plank-ton /'plæŋktən/ *n* [U] the very small forms of life that drift in or on the water of the oceans, lakes, rivers, etc.

plant 1 /plɑ:nt/ *US: plænt/ n* [C] 1 living organism which is not an animal, esp the kind smaller than trees and shrubs: *'garden ~s; a to'bac-co ~*. 2 apparatus, fixtures, machinery, etc used in an industrial or manufacturing process: *We get our tractors and bulldozers from a ~-hire firm*. 3 (US) factory; buildings and equipment of an institution. 4 (sl) instance of planting (6). 5 person who joins criminals in order to get evidence against them.

plant 2 /plɑ:nt/ *US: plænt/ vt* 1 put plants, bushes, trees, etc in (a garden, etc): *~ a garden with rose-bushes*. 2 (fig) cause (an idea) to form in the mind: *~ the idea of organizing a demonstration among the members*. 3 place firmly in position; take up a position or attitude: *He ~ed his feet firmly on the ground*. 4 establish, found (a community, colony, etc). 5 deliver (a blow, etc) with deliberate aim: *~ a blow on his ear*. 6 (sl) hide (esp in order to deceive, to cause an innocent person to seem guilty, etc): *He ~ed the stolen pen in my room*.

planter, (a) person who grows crops on a plantation: *'tea-~ers; 'rubber-~ers*. (b) machine for planting: *po'tato-~er*.

plan-tain 1 /'plæntɪn/ *n* [C] tropical plant bearing fruit similar to the banana; its fruit, cooked as a vegetable.

plan-tain 2 /'plæntɪn/ *n* [C] common wild plant with broad leaves and seeds.

plan-ta-tion /plæn'teɪʃn/ *n* [C] 1 area of land planted with trees: *~s of fir and pine*. 2 estate on which a cash crop is cultivated.

plaque /plæk/ *US: plæk/ n* [C] flat metal or porcelain plate fixed on a wall as an ornament or memorial.

plasma /'plæzmə/ *n* [U] clear, yellowish fluid in which the blood-cells are carried.

plas-ter /'plɑ:stə(r)/ *US: 'plæs-/ n* 1 [U] soft mixture of lime, sand, water, etc used for coating walls and ceilings. 2 [C] piece of fabric spread with a medicinal substance, used to cover a wound, etc. □ *vt* 1 cover (a wall, etc) with plaster (1). 2 put a plaster (2) on (the body). 3 cover thickly: *hair ~ed with oil*.

'plaster of Paris, white paste that becomes very hard when dry, used for covering broken limbs etc.

'plaster cast, (a) mould made with gauze and plaster of Paris to hold a broken or dislocated bone in place. (b) mould (eg for a small statue) made of plaster of Paris.

'plaster-board, board made of plaster and cardboard, used for inside walls and ceilings.

plas-tered *adj* (informal) drunk.

plas-terer, workman who uses plaster (1).

plas-tic /'plæstɪk/ *adj* 1 (of materials) easily shaped or moulded: *Clay is a ~ substance*. 2 (of goods) made of plastic: *~ raincoats*. 3 of the art of modelling: *the ~ arts*. 4 (fig) easily influenced or changed: *the ~ mind of a child*. □ *n* [C, U] (kinds of) man-made material which can be shaped or moulded and which keeps its shape when hard.

'plastic surgery, for the restoration of deformed or diseased parts of the body (by grafting skin, etc).

plas-tics *n pl* (used with a *sing verb*) (science of) plastic substances, esp man-made materials.

plas-tic-ity /plæ'stɪsɪti/ *n* [U] state or quality of being plastic (1).

plas-ti-cine /'plæstisi:n/ *n* [U] (*P*) substance like clay used for modelling.

plate¹ /pleɪt/ *n* 1 [C] shallow, almost flat dish from which food is served or eaten: *a dinner/soup/dessert* ~; contents of this: *a ~ of beef and vegetables*. **hand/give sb sth on a plate**, (*informal*) give him something without his having to make any effort. 2 [U] (*collective*) gold or silver articles, eg spoons, dishes, bowls. ⇨ *late*²(2). 3 [C] flat, thin sheet of metal, glass, etc eg for building ships: *'boiler ~s*. 4 [C] sheet of glass coated with sensitive film for photography: *'whole-~, 'half-~, 'quarter-~, the usual sizes*. 5 [C] oblong piece of metal with a person's name, etc on it (as used by professional persons). 6 sheet of metal, plastic, rubber, etc from which the pages of a book are printed; book illustration printed separately from the text. 7 thin piece of plastic material, moulded to the shape of the gums, with artificial teeth attached to it. 8 (*baseball*) (also *home ~*) home base of the batting side.

plate-ful /-fʊl/, as much as a plate can hold.

plate² /pleɪt/ *vt* 1 cover (esp a ship) with metal plates(3). 2 cover (another metal) with gold, silver, copper or tin: *silver-~d spoons*.

plateau /'plætəʊ/ *US: 'plætəʊ* *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or ~x /-təʊz/) expanse of level land high above sea-level.

plat-form /'plætfɔ:m/ *n* [C] 1 flat surface built at a higher level than the track in a railway station, where travellers wait: *Which ~ does your train leave from?* 2 flat structure raised above floor-level for speakers, teachers in a classroom, etc. 3 space at the entrance of a bus or tram (for the conductor). 4 programme of a political party, esp as stated before an election.

plat-ing /'pleɪtɪŋ/ *n* [U] (*esp*) thin coating of gold, silver, etc. ⇨ *plate*²(2).

plati-num /'plæti:nəm/ *n* [U] grey metal (symbol *Pt*) used for jewellery and mixed with other metals for use in industry.

plati-tude /'plætrɪtju:d/ *US: -tʊd* *n* 1 [C] statement that is obviously true, esp one often heard before, but made as if it were new. 2 [U] quality of being dull and ordinary.

plati-tudi-nous /'plætrɪtju:dɪnəs/ *US: -tʊ-/* *adj* dull and ordinary: ~ *remarks*.

Pla-tonic /'plætɒnik/ *adj* of Plato or his teachings: ~ *love/friendship*, between a man and a woman, without physical love.

pla-toon /'plætʊ:n/ *n* [C] body of soldiers, subdivision of a company, acting as a unit and commanded by a lieutenant.

plat-ter /'plætə(r)/ *n* [C] (*US*) large, shallow dish for serving food, esp meat and fish.

platy-pus /'plætipəs/ *n* ⇨ *duck-billed platypus*.

plau-dit /'plɔ:dɪt/ *n* [C] (usually *pl*) (*formal*) cry, clapping or other sign of approval: *grati-*

fied at the ~s of the audience.

plaus-ible /'plɔ:zəbl/ *adj* seeming to be right or reasonable: *a ~ excuse/explanation*.

plaus-ibly /-əblɪ/ *adv*

play¹ /pleɪ/ *n* 1 [C] (performance of a) representation, acting, of a story, etc on a stage, TV, etc. 2 [U] (what is done for) amusement; recreation: *The children are at ~, playing*. **a play on words**, = pun. 3 [U] (the manner of) playing of a game: *rough ~ in a football match*. **in/out of play**, (of the ball in football, cricket, etc) in/not in a position where the rules of the game allow it to be played. ⇨ *fair play*. 4 (*sing only*) turn or move in sport or in a game (eg chess): *It's your ~*. 5 [U] gambling: *lose £50 in one evening's ~*; 6 [U] light, quick, movement: *the ~ of sunlight on water*. 7 [U] (space for) free and easy movement; scope for activity: *give free ~ to one's emotions*; *a knot with too much ~, one that is not tight enough*. 8 [U] activity; operation: *the ~ of natural forces*. **be in full play/come into play**, begin to operate or be active. **bring sth into play**, make use of it; bring it into action. 9 [C] pretence: *My tears were a ~ to get your sympathy*.

'play-acting, (*fig*) pretence.

'play-boy, rich pleasure-loving man.

'play-goer, person who often goes to the theatre.

'play-group, school for children under 5.

'play-ground, area of ground at a school, etc for children to play.

'play-house, = theatre.

'play-mate, (of children) friend one plays with.

'play-pen, portable enclosure for a baby to be left to play.

'play reading, recital of the text of a play by a group.

'play-room, one in a house for children to play in.

'play-school, = playgroup.

'play-suit, article of clothing (trousers and bib) for children.

'play-thing, (a) toy. (b) (*fig*) person treated like a toy.

'play-time, period for play.

'play-wright, person who writes plays.

play² /pleɪ/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* ~ed /pleɪd/) (*For special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 14 below.*) 1 (contrasted with *work*) have fun; do things to pass the time pleasantly, as children do: *Let's go out and ~*. *She was ~ing with the kitten*. 2 pretend, for fun, to be or do: *Let's ~ (at being) pirates*. 3 practice, do: *He has played a trick on me*. **play it cool**, ⇨ *cool*¹(2). **play with fire**, take foolish risks. **play into sb's hands**, ⇨ *hand*¹(3). **play hell with**, ⇨ *hell*(2). **play the market**, ⇨ *market*¹(4). **play for time**, ⇨ *time*¹(3). **play truant**, ⇨ *truant*. 4 (be

able to) take part in a game, eg of football, golf, cards: *He ~s (football) for Stoke/England. On Saturday France ~ (rugby) against Wales/~ Wales at rugby.* **5** fill a particular position in a team: *Who's ~ing in goal? Who shall we ~ as goalkeeper?* **6** (cricket, football, etc) strike (the ball) in a specified way: *In soccer only the goalkeeper may ~ the ball with his hands.* **play ball**, **to ball**¹ (1). **7** move (a chesspiece); lay a card on the table: *~ the ace of hearts.* **play one's cards well/-right/badly**, (fig) make good/bad use of opportunities. **play fair**, **to fair**². **play the game**, **to game**² (1). **8** perform on (a musical instrument), perform (a musical composition): *~ the piano; ~ a Beethoven sonata.* **play second fiddle (to)**, **to fiddle** (1). **play sth by ear**, **to ear**¹ (2). **9** operate a record-player, tape-recorder, etc: *~ a disc/tape.* **play sth back**, reproduce (music, speech, etc) from a tape or disc after it has been recorded. Hence, **'play-back** **n** (a) the device on a tape-recorder which plays back recorded material. (b) occasion when this is done. **10** perform (a drama on the stage); act (a part in a drama); (of a drama) be performed: *~ 'Twelfth Night'; ~ Shylock; the National Theatre, where 'Hamlet' is now ~ing, = being played.* **play the fool**, **to fool**. **11** move about in a gentle, lively manner; direct (light) (on, over, along, etc): *sunlight ~ing on the water. They ~ed coloured lights over the dance floor.* **12** operate continuously; send out in a steady stream: *The firemen ~ed their hoses on the burning building.* **13** fire: *We ~ed our guns on the enemy's lines.* **14** (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions): **play at sth**, (a) **to** 2 above. (b) do in a half-hearted way, or merely for pleasure: *Fight properly—you're only ~ing at boxing!* **play sth back**, **to** 8 above. **play down to sb**, deliberately talk to or behave towards him so that he does not feel inferior, in order to win support or favour. **play sth down**, deliberately treat it as less important. **play off**, play again (eg a football) match that was drawn: *~ off a draw/tie.* Hence, **'play-off** **n** such a match. **play one person off against another**, encourage rivalry, esp for one's own advantage. **play 'on**, continue to take part (in a sport, etc). **play on sth**, try to make use of (a person's feelings, trust, etc) for one's own advantage: *He tried to ~ on her sympathies.* **play sth out**, (fig) play it to the finish: *The long struggle between the strikers and their employers is not yet ~ed out.* **be played out**, be exhausted, used up; be out of date: *Isn't that theory ~ed out, no longer worth considering?* **play up**, (a) (esp in the imperative) (sport) play vigorously, energetically. (b) (informal)

be naughty: *Don't let the children ~ up.* **play sth up**, deliberately treat it with too much importance: *Don't let him ~ up his illness, eg by making it an excuse for doing nothing.* **play sb up**, (informal) give trouble to: *My wretched car/bad tooth has been ~ing me up again.* **play up to sb**, (informal) flatter (to win favour for oneself): *He always ~s up to his boss.*

play with sb/sth, (a) **to** 1 above. (b) treat, think about, casually: *It's wrong for a man to ~ with a woman's affections. He's ~ing with the idea of emigrating to Canada.*

player /'pleɪə(r)/ **n** [C] person who plays a game.

play-ful /'pleɪfl/ **adj** in a mood for play; not serious: *as ~ as a kitten; in a ~ manner.*

play-fully /-fəli/ **adv**

playing-card /'pleɪŋ kɑ:d/ **n** [C] **to** card (3).

play-ing field /'pleɪŋ fi:ld/ **n** [C] field for such games as football and cricket.

play-let /'pleɪlt/ **n** [C] short dramatic piece.

plaza /'plæzə/ **US**: 'plæzə/ **n** [C] (pl ~s) market-place; open square (esp in a Spanish town).

plea /pli:/ **n** [C] **1** (legal) statement made by or for a person charged in a law court. **2** request: *~s for mercy.* **3** reason or excuse offered for doing wrong or failing to do something, etc.

plead /pli:d/ **vt, vi** (pt, pp ~ed, or US pled, /pled/) **1** address a court of law on behalf of either the plaintiff or the defendant: *~ for/against her.* **2** admit or deny that one is guilty: *'How do you ~?' Did you ~ not guilty?* **3** offer as an explanation or excuse: *The thief ~ed poverty.* **4** ask earnestly: *He ~ed with his son to be less trouble to his mother.* **5** argue in favour of; give reasons for (a cause, etc): *~ the cause of political freedom.*

plead-ings **n** pl (legal) statements, replies to accusations, etc made by the parties in a legal action.

pleas-ant /'pleznt/ **adj** giving pleasure; agreeable; friendly: *a ~ afternoon/taste/wine/surprise/companion.*

pleas-ant-ly **adv**

pleas-ant-ness **n** [U].

pleas-ant-ry /'plezntri/ **n** (pl -ies) (formal) **1** [U] humour. **2** [C] humorous or informal remark.

please /pli:z/ **vi, vr** **1** (used as a polite form of request): *Come in, ~. P ~ come in. Two coffees, ~. P ~ don't do that.* **2** give satisfaction to: *It's difficult to ~ everybody. Are you ~d with your new clothes?* **3** think fit; choose; prefer: *I shall do as I ~. Take as many as you ~.*

pleased /pli:zd/ **adj** glad; feeling or showing satisfaction: *He looked ~d with himself. I'm very ~d with what he has done.*

pleas-ing /'pli:zɪŋ/ **adj** **1** giving pleasure (to). **2** attractive: *a ~ design.*

pleas-ing-ly *adv*

pleas-ure /'pleɪzə(r)/ *n* 1 [U] feeling of enjoyment, of being happy or satisfied: *It gave me such ~ to hear of your success. May we have the ~ of your company for lunch? Some boys take great ~ in teasing their little sisters.* 2 [U] (formal) will; desire: *You may go or stay at your ~, as you wish.* 3 [C] something that gives happiness: *the ~s of friendship.*

'pleasure-boat/-craft, one used for enjoyment only.

pleas-ur-able /'pleɪzərəbl/ *adj* giving enjoyment.

pleas-ur-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

pleat /pli:t/ *n* [C] fold made by doubling cloth on itself. □ *vt* make pleats in: *a ~ed skirt.*

plebi-scite /'plebɪst/ *US: -saɪt/ n* [C] (decision made about a political question by) the votes of all qualified citizens.

plec-trum /'plektrəm/ *n* [C] small piece of metal, plastic, etc attached to the finger for plucking the strings of some instruments, eg the guitar.

pled /pled/ ⇨ plead.

pledge /pledʒ/ *n* 1 [C] something left with a person to be kept until the giver has done whatever he has to do. 2 [U] state of being left on these conditions: *put/hold goods in ~.* 3 [C] something given as a sign of love, approval, etc. 4 [U] agreement; promise: *under ~ of secrecy.* **take/sign the pledge**, (esp) make a written promise not to take alcoholic drink. □ *vt* 1 give as security; put in pawn. 2 make an undertaking: *be ~d to secrecy; ~ one's word/honour.*

ple-nary /'pli:nəri/ *adj* 1 (of powers, authority) unlimited; absolute. 2 (of meetings) attended by all who have a right to attend: *a ~ session.*

pleni-po-ten-tiary /'plenɪpə'tenʃəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ries), *adj* (person, eg a representative, an ambassador) having full power to act, make decisions, etc (on behalf of his government, etc).

plen-teous /'plentiəs/ *adj* (chiefly poetic) plentiful.

plen-ti-ful /'plentiʃl/ *adj* in large quantities or numbers.

plen-ti-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

plenty /'plenti/ *n* [U] as much as or more than is needed or desired; a large number or quantity: *There are ~ of eggs. We must get to the station in ~ of time. Six will be ~, as many as I need.*

pleth-ora /'pleθərə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) (formal) 1 (unhealthy) state of being too much or too many; excess. 2 (*med*) state of having too many red corpuscles in the blood.

pleur-isy /'pluəri:si/ *n* [U] serious illness with inflammation of the delicate membrane of the thorax and the lungs.

plexus /'pleksəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es /-səsɪz/ or ~)

(anat) network of fibres or vessels in the body: *the solar ~, in the abdomen.*

pli-able /'plaɪəbl/ *adj* 1 easily bent, shaped or twisted. 2 (of the mind) easily influenced.

pli-abil-ity /'plaɪə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

pli-ant /'plaɪənt/ *adj* = pliable.

pli-ers /'plaɪəz/ *n pl* (also a pair of ~) kind of pincers with long, flat jaws, used for holding, bending or cutting wire, etc.

plight¹ /plaɪt/ *n* [C] serious and difficult condition: *His affairs were in a terrible ~.*

plight² /plaɪt/ *vt* 1 (formal) promise: *one's ~ed word.* 2 (archaic) engage oneself to be married: *~ed lovers.*

plim-soll /'plɪmsəl/ *n* [C] (also a pair of ~s) rubber-soled canvas shoe (*US* = sneaker).

Plim-soll line /'plɪmsəl laɪn/ *n* [C] line on the hull of a ship to mark how far it may legally go down in the water when loaded.

plinth /'plɪnθ/ *n* [C] square base or block on which a column or statue stands.

plod /plɒd/ *vi, vt* (-dd-) 1 walk slowly with a heavy step. 2 continue working, etc slowly and without resting: *~ away at a task.*

plod-der, (a) person who plods (1). (b) slow but earnest person.

plod-ding *adj*

plonk¹ /plɒŋk/ *n* [C] dull sound of something dropping: *the ~ of a shoe falling down the stairs.* □ *adv* with this sound. □ *vi* put down with a plonking sound: *~ the book down on the table.*

plonk² /plɒŋk/ *n* [U] (sl) cheap wine.

plop /plɒp/ *n* [C] sound (as) of a small smooth object dropping into water without a splash. □ *adv* with a plop. □ *vi* (-pp-) make, fall with, a plop.

plot¹ /plɒt/ *n* [C] piece of ground (usually small): *a 'building ~; a ~ of vegetables.* □ *vt, vi* (-tt-) 1 make a plan, map or diagram of. 2 mark (the position of something) on a diagram by connecting points on a graph. 3 divide into plots: *~ out a vegetable garden.*

plot² /plɒt/ *n* [C] 1 secret plan (good or bad): *a ~ to overthrow the government.* 2 plan or outline (of the events of a story, esp of a novel or drama). □ *vt, vi* (-tt-) form, take part in, a plot.

plot-ter, person who plots.

plough (*US* = plow) /pləʊ/ *n* [C] 1 implement for cutting furrows in soil and turning it up, pulled by animals or (more usually) a tractor. 2 any kind of implement resembling a plough. 3 [U] ploughed land: *100 acres of ~.* 4 **the P~, (astron)** the group of stars called Charles's Wain, the Dipper or the Great Bear. □ *vt, vi* 1 break up (land) with a plough: *~ a field.* 2 (fig) reinvest: *~ back the profits of a business.* 3 force a way through: *~ (one's way) through the mud/a dull textbook.* 4 (informal) reject (a candidate) in an examination.

'plough-man /-mən/, man who guides a plough.

'plough-share, broad blade of a plough.

pllover /'pləvə(r)/ *n* [C] sort of long-legged, short-tailed bird living near marshes.

plow /pləʊ/ (US) = plough.

play /pleɪ/ *n* [C] (informal) something said or done to gain an advantage over a person: *crying as a ~ to gain sympathy*.

pluck /plʌk/ *vt, vi* **1** pull the feathers off (a hen, goose, etc): *Has this goose been ~ed?* **2** pick (flowers, fruit, etc). **3** take hold of and pull: *He was ~ing at his mother's skirt*. **4** **pluck up courage**, overcome one's fears. □ *n* **1** [U] courage; spirit: *a boy with plenty of ~*. **2** [C] short, sharp pull.

plucky *adj* (-ier, -iest) brave.

plug /plʌɡ/ *n* [C] **1** piece of wood, metal, etc used to stop up a hole (eg in a wash-basin, bath, etc). **2** device for making a connection with a supply of electric current: *put the ~ in the socket*. ⇨ also sparking-plug. **3** cake of pressed or twisted tobacco; piece of this cut off for chewing. **4** (sl) favourable publicity (eg in a radio or TV programme) for a commercial product. ⇨ **4** below. □ *vt, vi* (-gg-) **1** stop or fill (up) with a plug: *~ a leak*. **2** **plug (sth) in**, make a connection with a plug (2): *~ in the TV set*. **3** (informal) **plug away at**, work hard at. **4** (sl) advertise (something) repeatedly: *~ a new song*, eg on radio or TV.

plum /plʌm/ *n* [C] **1** (tree having) soft round, smooth-skinned fruit with a seed like a stone. **2** (informal) (used as an adjective) considered good and desirable: *a ~ job in the Civil Service*.

plum pudding, rich, brown fruit pudding, boiled or steamed.

plumage /'plu:mɪdʒ/ *n* [U] bird's feathers: *brightly coloured ~*.

plumb /plʌm/ *n* [C] ball or piece of lead tied to the end of a cord or rope (a *~line*) for finding the depth of water or testing whether a wall is vertical. □ *adv* **1** exactly: *~ straight*. **2** (US) (informal) very: *~ crazy*. □ *vi* (fig) get to the root of: *~ the depths of a mystery*.

plumber /'plʌmə(r)/ *n* [C] workman who fits and repairs pipes.

plumbing /'plʌmɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** the work of a plumber. **2** the pipes, water-tanks, cisterns, etc in a building.

plume /plu:m/ *n* [C] **1** feather, esp a large one used as a decoration. **2** something suggesting a feather by its shape: *a ~ of smoke*. □ *vi* (of a bird) smooth (its feathers).

plumb-met /'plʌmɪt/ *n* [C] (weight attached to a) plumb-line or to a fishing-line to keep the float upright. □ *vi* (-tt-) fall steeply: *Share prices have ~ed*.

plump ¹ /plʌmp/ *adj* (of an animal, a person, parts of the body) fat in a pleasant-looking way: *a baby with ~ cheeks*. □ *vt, vi* make or become rounded: *She ~ed up the pillows*.

plump ² /plʌmp/ *vi, vi* (cause to) fall or drop,

suddenly and heavily: *~ (oneself) down in a chair*; *~ down a heavy bag*. **2** vote for, choose, with confidence: *~ for the Liberal candidate*. □ *adv* suddenly, abruptly: *fall ~ into the hole*. □ *n* [C] abrupt, heavy fall.

plun-der /'plʌndə(r)/ *vt, vi* rob, esp during war or civil disorder: *~ (the citizens of) a conquered town*. □ *n* [U] goods taken.

plunge /plʌŋʒ/ *vt, vi* **1** put (something), or go suddenly and with force, into: *plunging one's hand into cold water*; *~ a country into war*. **2** (of a horse) move forward and downward quickly; (of a ship) thrust its bows into the water. □ *n* [C] act of plunging (eg from a diving-board into water). **take the plunge**, (fig) do something decisive, eg marry.

plunger, (a) part of a mechanism that moves with a plunging motion, eg the piston of a pump. (b) suction device for clearing a blocked pipe.

plunk /plʌŋk/ = plonk ¹.

plu-per-fect /'plu:ps:fɪkt/ *n* the **pluperfect** (tense), (gram) verb form showing action completed before some past time, stated or implied, using *had* and a *pp*, as in 'As he *had* not received my letter, he did not come'.

plu-ral /'plʊərəl/ *n* [C], *adj* (form of word) used with reference to more than one: 'The ~ of *child* is *children*' (marked *pl* in this dictionary).

plus /plʌs/ *prep* with the addition of: *Two ~ five is seven*, $2 + 5 = 7$. □ *adj*: *a ~ quantity*, one greater than zero. ⇨ minus. □ *n* [C] (*pl ~ses*) the sign +.

plush /plʌʃ/ (also **plushy** (-ier, -iest)) *adj* (sl) smart, rich: *a ~(y) restaurant*.

Pluto /'plu:təʊ/ *n* (astron) planet farthest from the sun.

plu-to-cra-cy /'plu:təkrəsi/ *n* [C, U] (*pl -ies*) (government by a) rich and powerful class.

plu-to-crat /'plu:təkræt/ *n* [C] person who is powerful because of his wealth.

plu-to-cra-tic /'plu:tə'krætɪk/ *adj*

plu-to-nium /'plu:təniəm/ *n* [U] (artificially produced) radioactive element (symbol **Pu**) used in nuclear reactors and weapons.

ply ¹ /plaɪ/ *n* [C] **1** layer of wood or thickness of cloth: *three-~ wood*, made by sticking together three layers with the grain of each at a right angle to that of the next. **2** one strand in wool, rope, etc: *four-~ wool*.

'ply-wood, board(s) made by gluing together thin layers of wood.

ply ² /plaɪ/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* plied, *present participle* plying) **1** (formal) work with (an instrument, eg a needle). **2** (of ships, buses, etc) go regularly to and from: *ships that ~ between Glasgow and New York*. **3** **ply sb with sth**, keep him constantly supplied with (food and drink); attack him constantly with (questions, arguments, etc).

pneu-matic /nju:'mætɪk/ *US*: nu:-/ *adj* **1**

worked or driven by compressed air: ~ *drills*.

2 filled with compressed air: ~ *tyres*.

pneu-mati-cally /-kli/ *adv*

pneu-monia /nju:'mæniə/ *US: nu:-/ n* [U] serious illness with inflammation of one or both lungs.

poach¹ /pəʊtʃ/ *vt* cook (an egg) by cracking the shell and dropping the contents into boiling water.

poach² /pəʊtʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** (go on a person's property and) take (hares, pheasants, salmon, etc) illegally. **2** (fig) be active in some kind of work that another person believes is his own responsibility.

poacher, person who poaches.

pock /pɒk/ *n* [C] spot on the skin caused by smallpox.

'pock-marked, with marks (as) left after smallpox.

pocket /'pɒkɪt/ *n* [C] **1** small bag forming part of an article of clothing, for carrying things in. **pick sb's pocket**, steal from his pocket. ⇨ *pickpocket*. **2** (as an adjective) of a size suitable for a pocket: *a ~ dictionary*. **3** money. **in/out of pocket**, rich(er)/poor(er). **4** bag, hollow, eg a small cavity in the ground or in rock, containing gold or ore. **5** partial vacuum in the atmosphere (an 'air-~) affecting the flight of an aircraft; cavity of air (an 'air-~) in a mine²(1). **6** (isolated area occupied by) enemy forces, etc: ~s of resistance; ~s of unemployment in the Midlands. □ *vt* **1** put into one's pocket: *He ~ed the money*. **2** keep for oneself (often dishonestly): *He ~ed half the profits*.

'pocket-money, small sum given to children to spend on sweets, etc.

pocket-ful /-fʊl/ *n* [C] as much as a pocket can hold.

pod /pɒd/ *n* [C] long, green container for seeds of various plants, esp peas and beans. □ *vt, vi* (-dd-) **1** take (peas, etc) out of pods. **2** *pod (up)*, form pods.

podgy /'pɒdʒi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (of a person) short and fat.

poem /'pəʊɪm/ *n* [C] piece of creative writing (often in verse form), eg one expressing deep feeling, one describing an experience, etc.

poet /'pəʊɪt/ *n* [C] writer of poems.

'poet laureate, poet appointed to write poems on great state or royal occasions.

poet-ess /'pəʊɪtɪs/ *n* [C] (rare) woman poet.

po-etic /pəʊ'etɪk/ (also **po-eti-cal** /-ɪkl/) *adj* of poets and poetry: ~ *genius*.

po,etic 'justice, ideal justice, with proper distribution of rewards and punishments.

po,etic 'licence, freedom from the normal rules of language (as in poetry).

po-eti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

po-etry /'pəʊɪtri/ *n* [U] **1** the art of a poet; poems. **2** quality that produces feelings as produced by poems: *the ~ of motion*, eg in

some kinds of athletics.

po-grom /'pɒgrəm/ *US: pə'grom/ n* [C] organized persecution or killing (of a group or class of people).

poig-nancy /'pɔɪnjənsi/ *n* [U] (formal) state or quality of being poignant.

poign-ant /'pɔɪnjənt/ *adj* (formal) causing sad feelings: ~ *memories*.

poign-ant-ly *adv*

point¹ /pɔɪnt/ *n* **1** [C] sharp tip (of a pin, pencil, knife, etc). **not to put too fine a point on it**, ⇨ *fine*¹(6). **2** [C] tapering piece of land that stretches out into the sea, a lake, etc. **3** dot (as) made by the point of a pen, etc. ⇨ *decimal point*; *full point*. **4** [C] real or imaginary mark of position, in space of time: *on the ~ of learning*; *a 'turning-~ in my career*. **at this point**, at this place or moment. **a point of view**, (a) position from which something is viewed. (b) (fig) way of looking at a question.

be at the point of death, be dying. **be on the point of doing sth**, be about to do it.

if/when it comes to the point, if/when the moment for action or decision comes: *When it came to the ~, he refused to help*.

point of no return, ⇨ *return*¹(1). **5** [C] mark on a scale; unit of measuring: *the 'boiling-~ of water*. **possession is nine points of the law**, is strong evidence in favour of the person in possession of something.

6 [C] unit of scoring in some games, sports and competitions. **7** [C] one of the thirty-two marks or divisions on the circumference of a compass. **8** [C] single item, detail, idea, etc: *There are several ~s on which we've agreed to differ*.

stretch a point, do what is not normal, eg when deciding something. **9** [C] chief idea or thought. **come to/get to/reach the point**, give the essential, relevant fact.

get/see/miss the point of sth, see/fail to understand: *She missed the ~ of the joke*.

make a point of doing sth, regard or treat it as important or necessary. **take sb's point**, (during a discussion) understand what a person is proposing, etc. (**wander**) **off/away from the point**, say something irrelevant. **on a point of order**, ⇨ *order*¹(4).

to the point, apt, relevant. **10** [U] **no/not much point in doing sth**, little reason for doing it: *There's no ~ in protesting*. It won't help. **11** [C] characteristic: *What are her best ~s as a secretary?* **12** (GB) socket or outlet for electric current. **13** (pl) tapering movable rails by which a train can move from one track to another. **14** [U] effectiveness: *His remarks have no ~*.

point² /pɔɪnt/ *vt, vi* **1** direct attention to; show the position or direction of; be a sign of: *He ~ed to the door*. *All the evidence ~s to his guilt*.

2 aim or direct (something): *~ing a gun at him*.

3 *point sth out*, show; call or direct attention to: *~ out a mistake*. *Can you ~ (me) out*

the man you suspect? I must ~ out that the price is too high. **4** make a point (1) on (a pencil). **5** fill in the joints of (brickwork, etc) with mortar or cement, using a trowel to smooth the material.

pointed *adj* (a) (fig) directed definitely against a person or his behaviour: Jack was making ~ed comments about his neighbour's garden. (b) (of humour, etc) apt, relevant.

point-ed-ly *adv*

point-blank /ˈpɔɪnt 'blæŋk/ *adj* **1** (of a shot aimed, fired) at very close range: fired at ~ range. **2** (fig) (something said) in a manner that leaves no room for doubt: a ~ refusal. □ *adv* in such a manner: I asked him ~ whether he intended to help.

pointer /ˈpɔɪntə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** stick used to point to things on a map, etc. **2** indicator on a dial or balance. **3** short-haired hunting dog. **4** indication; piece of advice: The rise in unemployment is a ~ to the failure of her economic policies.

point-less /ˈpɔɪntlɪs/ *adj* **1** (fig) with little or no sense, aim or purpose: It seemed ~ to argue. **2** without points scored: a ~ draw.

point-less-ly *adv*: argue ~ly.

poise /pɔɪz/ *vt, vi* **1** be or keep balanced: ~d in mid-air. **2** balance; support in a particular place or manner: Note the way the dancer ~s his head. □ *n* **1** [U] balance, equilibrium. **2** [C] way in which one carries oneself, holds one's head, etc. **3** [U] self-confidence.

poi-son /ˈpɔɪzn/ *n* [C, U] **1** substance causing death or harm if absorbed by a living thing (animal or plant): ~ for killing weeds; commit suicide by taking ~. **2** (fig) evil principle, teaching, etc considered harmful to society. □ *vt* **1** put poison on or in: ~ the rats. **2** (fig) injure morally: ~ somebody's mind against another person.

pois-oner, (esp) person who murders by using poison.

pois-on-ous /ˈpɔɪzənəs/ *adj* (a) causing death or injury: ~ous plants. (b) hurting the feelings, a reputation, etc: a man with a ~ous tongue.

pois-on-ous-ly *adv*

poke /pəʊk/ *vt, vi* **1** push sharply (with a stick, one's finger, etc): ~ a man in the ribs; ~ the fire, move the coals to make the fire burn better. **2** put, move (something) with a sharp push: Don't let him ~ his head out of the (train) window—it's dangerous! **poke fun at sb**, try to make him look foolish. ⇨ nose¹(1). **3** search: Who's that poking about in the garden? **4** make (a hole) by poking. □ *n* [C] act of poking.

poker¹ /ˈpəʊkə(r)/ *n* [C] strong metal rod or bar for moving or breaking coal in a fire.

poker² /ˈpəʊkə(r)/ *n* [U] card-game for two or more persons in which the players gamble on the value of the cards they hold.

poky /ˈpəʊki/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (of a place) too

small: a ~ little room.

po-lar /ˈpəʊlə(r)/ *adj* **1** of or near the North or South Pole. **2** directly opposite.

polar bear, the white kind living in the north polar regions.

po-lar-ity /pəʊˈlærəti/ *n* [U] possession of two contrasted or opposite qualities, principles or tendencies.

po-lar-ize (also **-ise**) /ˈpəʊləraɪz/ *vt* cause to centre on two opposite, conflicting or contrasting positions: Inflation has ~d the parties' manifestos for the election.

po-lar-ization (also **-isation**) /ˈpəʊləraɪzəʃn/ *n* [U]

po-lar-oid /ˈpəʊləroɪd/ *n* [U] thin transparent film used in sun-glasses, etc to lessen sun glare.

pole¹ /pəʊl/ *n* [C] **1** either of the two ends of the earth's axis: the North P~; the South P~.

2 = magnetic pole. **3** North P~, South P~, (astron) two points in the night sky about which the stars appear to turn. **4** either of the two ends of a magnet or the terminal points of an electric battery: the negative/positive ~. **5** (fig) each of two opposed principles, etc. **be poles apart**, be opposite: The employers and the trade union leaders are still ~s apart, are far from reaching an agreement, etc.

'pole star, the North Star almost coinciding with true north.

pole² /pəʊl/ *n* [C] **1** long, slender, rounded piece of wood or metal, eg as a support for a tent, as a handle for a broom, etc. **up the pole**, (sl) (a) in difficulty. (b) slightly mad; eccentric. **2** measure of length (also called *rod* or *perch*), 5½ yds or about 5 metres.

'pole-jumping, (athletic contest) jumping with the help of a long pole held in the hands.

'pole-vault, jump of this kind over a bar which can be raised or lowered.

pole-cat /ˈpəʊlkæt/ *n* [C] small, dark-brown, fur-covered European animal which gives off an unpleasant smell.

pol-emic /pəˈlemɪk/ *n* **1** [C] (formal) dispute; argument. **2** (pl) art or practice of arguing, esp in theology. □ *adj* of polemics.

pol-emi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

po-lice /pəˈliːs/ *n* (always *sing* in form, used with *the* and a *pl verb*) department, body of men, concerned with the keeping of public order: the ~, the members of this body; Several hundred ~ were on duty at the demonstration. The ~ have not made any arrests. □ *vt* keep order in (a place) (as) with police: United Nations forces ~d the Gaza Strip for a long time.

po-lice-man /-mən/, member of a police force.

po-lice constable, policeman of ordinary rank.

po-lice force, the police of a country or region.

po-lice officer, policeman.

police state, country controlled by political police.

police station, office of a local police force: *I was taken to the ~ station.*

police-woman, woman police officer.

pol-icy¹ /'pɒləsi/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [C] plan of action, statement of aims and ideals, eg one made by a government, political party, business company, etc: *Is honesty the best ~?* **2** [U] wise, sensible conduct; art of government.

pol-icy² /'pɒləsi/ *n* [C] written statement of the terms of a contract of insurance: *an in'surance ~*; *a ~-holder.*

pol-lio /'pɒliəʊ/ *n* [U] (*informal abbr* for poliomyelitis).

pol-lio-mye-litis /,pɒliəʊ,maɪə'laitɪs/ *n* [U] infectious disease with inflammation of the grey matter of the spinal cord, often resulting in physical disablement.

polish /'pɒlɪʃ/ *vt,vi* **1** make or become smooth and shiny by rubbing (with or without a chemical substance): *~ furniture/shoes.* **2** improve in behaviour, intellectual interests, etc. **3** (*pp*) make refined or elegant: *a ~ed speech.* **4** finish quickly: *~ off a large meal.* **□ n** **1** [U] (surface, etc obtained by) polishing: *shoes/tables with a good ~.* **2** [C] substance used for polishing: *'shoe/'furniture ~.* **3** [U] (*fig*) refinement; elegance.

pol-it-buro /pə'lɪtbjʊəru/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) chief executive committee of a (Communist) party.

pol-ite /pə'lait/ *adj* having, showing the possession of, good manners and consideration for other people: *a ~ boy*; *a ~ remark.*

pol-ite-ly *adv*

pol-ite-ness *n* [U]

poli-tic /'pɒlətɪk/ *adj* **1** (of persons) acting or judging wisely. **2** (of actions) well judged: *a ~ remark at the conference.*

the body politic, the state as an organized group of citizens.

pol-iti-cal /pə'lɪtɪkəl/ *adj* **1** of the State; of government; of public affairs in general: *for ~ reasons.* **2** because of politics: *a ~ crisis*; *~ prisoners.*

political a'sylum, protection given by a Government to a person who has left his own country for political reasons.

political e'conomy, science of economics.

political 'prisoner, one who is imprisoned because he opposes the (system of) government.

political science, study of government and politics.

political surgery, ⇨ surgery (3).

po-liti-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

poli-ti-cian /,pɒlə'tʃɪn/ *n* [C] person taking part in politics or very interested in politics: *party ~s.*

poli-tics /'pɒlətɪks/ *n pl* (used with a *sing* or *pl verb*) the science or art of government; political views, affairs, questions, etc: *Is ~ taught*

at the school? What are your ~?

pol-ity /'pɒləti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] form or process of government. **2** [C] society as an organized State.

polka /'pɒlkə/ *US*: 'pɒlka/ *n* [C] (piece of music, of E European origin, for a) lively kind of dance.

poll¹ /'pɒl/ *n* [C] **1** voting at an election; list of voters; counting of the votes; place where voting takes place: *a light/heavy ~*, voting by a small/large number of voters. **go to the polls**, vote (in an election). **2** survey of public opinion by putting questions to a representative selection of persons. ⇨ opinion poll.

poll² /'pɒl/ *vt,vi* **1** vote at an election. **2** receive (a certain number of) votes: *Mr Hill ~ed over 3000 votes.*

'poll-ing-booth/-station, place where voters go to vote.

'poll-ing-day, day appointed for a poll.

pol-len /'pɒlən/ *n* [U] fine powder (usually yellow) formed on flowers which fertilizes other flowers when carried to them by the wind, insects, etc.

'pollen count, figure of the amount of pollen in the atmosphere.

pol-lin-ate /'pɒlɪneɪt/ *vt* make fertile with pollen.

pol-li-na-tion /,pɒlɪ'neɪʃn/ *n* [U]

poll-ster /'pɒlstə(r)/ *n* [C] person who conducts public opinion polls.

pol-lute /'pɒlʊt/ *vt* **1** make dirty, impure: *rivers ~d with waste from factories.* **2** (*fig*) make immoral: *polluting young minds.*

pol-lu-tant /-ənt/, anything that pollutes, eg exhaust fumes from motor-vehicles.

pol-lu-tion /pə'lʊ:ʃn/ *n* [C,U]

polo /'pɒləʊ/ *n* [U] ball game played on horseback with mallets. ⇨ water-polo.

'polo-neck, (having) a rolled collar: *~neck 'sweaters.*

poly- /pɒli-/ *prefix* many: *polygamy.*

poly-ester /,pɒli'estə(r)/ *n* [U] type of synthetic fabric, like cotton.

poly-ga-mist /'pɒlɪgəməst/ *n* [C] man who practises polygamy.

poly-ga-mous /'pɒlɪgəməs/ *adj* of, practising, polygamy.

poly-gamy /'pɒlɪgəmi/ *n* [U] custom of having more than one wife at the same time.

poly-glot /'pɒlɪglɒt/ *adj* knowing, using, written in, many languages. **□ n** [C] polyglot person or book.

poly-gon /'pɒlɪgən/ *US*: -gɒn/ *n* [C] plane figure with five or more straight sides.

poly-mor-phous /,pɒli'mɔ:fəs/, (also **polymor-phic** /-fɪk/) *adj* having, passing through, many stages (of development, growth, etc).

poly-sty-rene /,pɒli'stairi:n/ *n* [U] light plastic material.

poly-tech-nic /,pɒli'teknɪk/ *n* [C] institu-

tion for advanced full-time and part-time education, esp of scientific and technical subjects: *Manchester P~*.

poly-theism /'pɒlɪθi:zəm/ *n* [C] belief in, worship of, more than one god.

poly-theis-tic /'pɒlɪθi:'ɪstɪk/ *adj*

poly-thene /'pɒlɪθi:n/ *n* [U] plastic material widely used for waterproof packaging, insulation, etc.

pom-egran-ate /'pɒmɪgrænɪt/ *n* [C] (tree with) thick-skinned round fruit which, when ripe, has a reddish centre full of seeds.

pom-mel /'pʌml/ *n* [C] **1** the tall part at the front of a saddle. **2** rounded knob on the hilt of a sword. □ *vt* (-ll-, US also -l-) = pummel.

pomp /pɒmp/ *n* [U] splendid display, magnificence, esp at a public event: *the ~ and ceremony of the State Opening of Parliament*.

pom-pos-ity /pɒm'pɒsɪti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] being pompous. **2** [C] instance of this.

pom-pous /'pɒmpəs/ *adj* full of, showing, (too much) self-importance: *a ~ official*.

pon-cho /'pɒntʃəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) large piece of cloth with a slit in the middle for the head, worn as a cloak.

pond /pɒnd/ *n* [C] small area of water, eg for ducks, children's boats, etc.

pon-der /'pɒndə(r)/ *vi*, *vi* **ponder (over)**, think about: *He ~ed over the incident*.

pon-der-ous /'pɒndərəs/ *adj* **1** heavy; bulky: *~ movements*, eg of a fat man. **2** (of style) dull; laboured.

pon-der-ous-ly *adv*

pong /pɒŋ/ *n* [C] (*sl*) bad smell. □ *vi* smell badly.

pon-tiff /'pɒntɪf/ *n* [C] **1** the Pope. **2** (*old use*) bishop; chief priest.

pon-tifi-cal /'pɒntɪfɪkl/ *adj* **1** of or relating to the Pope; papal. **2** authoritative (in a pompous way). □ *n* (*pl*) vestments and insignia used by bishops and cardinals at some church functions and ceremonies.

pon-tifi-cate /'pɒntɪfɪkeɪt/ *n* [C] office of a pontiff, esp of the Pope; period of this. □ *vi* speak, act, pompously.

pon-toon /'pɒn'tu:n/ *n* [C] **1** flat-bottomed boat. **2** many of these or a similar metal structure, supporting a roadway over a river: *a ~ bridge*. **3** either of two supports shaped like boats that enable a sea-plane to come down on, and take off from, water.

pon-toon /'pɒn'tu:n/ *n* [U] kind of card-game.

pony /'pɒni/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) horse of small breed, used by children for riding.

'pony-trekking, the making of a journey for pleasure on ponies.

poodle /'pu:dl/ *n* [C] kind of dog with thick curling hair, often clipped and shaved into patterns.

pooh /pu:/ *int* (used to indicate impatience or contempt or that there is a bad smell).

pool /pu:l/ *n* [C] **1** small area of water (smaller than a pond). **2** quantity of water or other liquid lying on a surface: *He was lying in a ~ of blood*. **3** = swimming pool.

pool /pu:l/ *n* [C] **1** total of money staked by a number of gamblers. **2** (*pl*) = football pools: *win a fortune on the ~s*. **3** arrangement by business firms to share business and divide profits, to avoid competition and agree on prices. **4** common fund, supply or service, provided by or shared among many: *a 'typing ~*. **5** [U] (US) = snooker. □ *vt* put (money, resources, etc) together for the use of all who contribute: *They ~ed their savings and bought a car*.

poop /pu:p/ *n* [C] (raised deck at the) stern of a ship.

poor /puə(r)/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** having little money; not having and not able to get the necessities of life. **2** deserving or needing help or sympathy: *The ~ little puppy had been abandoned*. **3** small in quantity: *a ~ supply of well-qualified science teachers*; *a country ~ in minerals*. **4** low in quality: *~ soil*; *in ~ health*.

the poor *n pl* poor people.

poor-ly /'puəli/ *adj* (*informal*) unwell: *He's very ~ this morning*. □ *adv* **1** in a poor manner; badly: *~ lit streets*. **2** **poorly off**, having very little money: *She's been ~ off since her husband died*.

poor-ness /'puənɪs/ *n* [U] absence of some necessary quality or element: *the ~ of the soil*. (*Note: poverty* is used for having little or no money.)

pop /pɒp/ *n* [C] **1** short, sharp, explosive sound: *the ~ of a cork*. **2** (*informal*) bottled drink with gas in it: *a bottle of ~*. □ *adv* with the sound of popping: *I heard it go/The balloon went ~*.

pop /pɒp/ *n* [C] (*informal*) = father.

pop /pɒp/ *adj* (*informal*) (abbr for) popular: *'~ music*; *'~ singers*; *'~ groups*, (singers and players) (esp) those whose records sell in large numbers and who are most popular on radio, TV and in discotheques. □ *n* (*informal*) [U] pop music, etc; [C] pop song: *top of the ~s*, most popular record, etc during a given period of time.

'pop concert, of popular music.

'pop festival, large outdoor gathering of people to hear pop singers and musicians.

'pop star, famous pop singer or musician.

pop /pɒp/ *vt*, *vi* (-pp-) **1** (cause to) make a sharp, quick sound (as when a cork comes out of a bottle). **2** **pop the question**, (*sl*) propose marriage. **3** (*sl*) shoot: *They were ~ping away at the wood-pigeons*. **4** (uses with *adverbial particles and prepositions*):

pop across to, ⇨ pop over below.

pop in/out, (cause to) go or come in/out quickly (giving the idea of rapid or unexpected movement or activity): *He ~ped his head in at the door*. *The neighbours' children are always*

~ping in and out, are very frequent visitors.

pop sth into sth, quickly put it there: *She ~ped the 'gin bottle into the cupboard as the vicar entered the room.*

pop off, (a) go away. (b) (sl) die.

pop out of: *His eyes almost ~ped out of his head when he saw that he had won.*

pop over/across to, make a quick, short visit to: *She's ~ped over/across to the grocer's.*

pop up, (of toast, pictures in a book) spring up quickly: *a ~up toaster/book.*

'pop-corn, dried maize heated until it bursts open (eaten with honey, salt, etc).

'pop-eyed *adj* having eyes wide open (with surprise, etc).

pope /pəʊp/ *n* the **P**~, Bishop of Rome as head of the Roman Catholic Church.

pop-lar /'pɒplə(r)/ *n* [C] tall, straight, fast-growing tree; [U] its wood.

poppa /'pɒpə/ *n* (US) = papa.

poppy /'pɒpi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -pies) sorts of plant, wild and cultivated, with large flowers, esp red: *'opium* ~, kind from which opium is obtained.

poppy-cock /'pɒpɪkɒk/ *n* [U] (*GB sl*) = nonsense.

popu-lace /'pɒpjʊləs/ *n* [C] (*formal*) the general public.

popu-lar /'pɒpjʊlə(r)/ *adj* **1** of or for the people: ~ government, by the elected majority of all those who have votes. **2** suited to the tastes, needs, educational level, etc of the general public: *food at ~ (= low) prices.* **3** liked and admired: ~ film stars; *a man who is ~ with his neighbours.* (⇒ *pop*³).

'popular *'front*, (in politics) coalition of parties opposed to reaction and fascism.

popu-lar-ly *adv*

popu-lar-ity /'pɒpjʊləri/ *n* [U] quality of being popular (**3**).

popu-lar-ize (also **-ise**) /'pɒpjʊləraɪz/ *vt* make popular: ~ a new book.

popu-lar-iz-ation (also **-isation**) /'pɒpjʊləraɪzətʃn/ *US*: -rɪz-/ *n* [U]

popu-late /'pɒpjuleɪt/ *vt* supply with people; inhabit; form the population of: *the thickly ~d parts of India.*

popu-la-tion /'pɒpjʊlətʃn/ *n* [C] (number of) people living in a place, country, etc or a special section of them: *the ~ of London; the working-class ~.*

por-ce-lain /'pɒ:səlɪn/ *n* [U] (articles, eg cups and plates, made of a) fine china with a coating of translucent material called glaze.

porch /pɔ:tʃ/ *n* [C] **1** built-out roofed doorway or entrance to a building. **2** (US) = veranda.

por-cu-pine /'pɒ:kjupəɪn/ *n* [C] small animal covered with spines that the animal can stick out if attacked.

pore¹ /pɔ:(r)/ *n* [C] tiny opening (in the skin) through which fluids (eg sweat) may pass.

pore² /pɔ:(r)/ *vi* study something with close attention: *poring over a letter/book.*

pork /pɔ:k/ *n* [U] flesh of a pig (usually fresh, not salted or cured) used as food: *a leg of ~; a ~ chop; roast ~.* ⇨ *bacon*, *ham*(1).

porker, pig raised for food.

porn /pɔ:n/ *n* [U] (*informal*) (abbr of) pornography.

'porn shop, where pornographic books, etc are sold.

por-nogra-phy /pɔ:'nɒgrəfi/ *n* [U] treatment of obscene subjects, esp sexual perversions, in writing, pictures, etc; such writings, pictures, etc.

por-nogra-pher /pɔ:'nɒgrəfə(r)/ *n* [U] writer of pornography.

por-no-graphic /pɔ:'nɒgrəfɪk/ *adj*

po-rous /'pɒ:rəs/ *adj* **1** having pores. **2** allowing liquid to pass through: *Sand is ~.*

por-poise /'pɒ:pəs/ *n* [C] sea-animal like a dolphin or small whale.

por-ridge /'pɒrɪdʒ/ *US*: 'pɔ:r-/ *n* [U] soft food made by boiling oatmeal in water or milk: *a bowl/plate of ~.*

port¹ /pɔ:t/ *n* [C] **1** harbour: *a naval ~; reach ~.* **2** town or city with a harbour, esp one where customs officers are stationed. **free port**, one open for the merchandise of all countries to load and unload in; one where there is exemption of duties for imports or exports. **3** (fig) refuge.

port² /pɔ:t/ *n* [C] (*naut*) opening in the side of a ship for entrance, or for loading and unloading cargo.

'port-hole, (a) opening in a ship's side for admission of light and air. (b) small glass window in the side of a ship or aircraft.

port³ /pɔ:t/ *n* [U] (*naut*) **1** left-hand side of a ship or aircraft as one faces forward: *put the helm to ~.* **2** (as a adjective): *on the ~ bow/quarter.* ⇨ *starboard*. □ *vt* turn (the ship's helm) to port.

port⁴ /pɔ:t/ *n* [U] strong (usually sweet) dark-red wine of Portugal.

port-able /'pɔ:təbl/ *adj* that can be carried about: ~ radios/typewriters.

port-abil-ity /'pɔ:təbɪləti/ *n* [U] being portable.

port-age /'pɔ:tdʒ/ *n* [C,U] (cost of) carrying goods, esp when (eg in forest country in Canada) goods have to be carried overland between two rivers or parts of a river; place where this is done.

por-tal /'pɔ:tl/ *n* [C] doorway, esp a large, elaborate one of a large building.

port-cul-lis /'pɔ:t'kʌlɪs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) iron grating that was raised or lowered to protect the gateway of a castle.

por-tend /pɔ:'tend/ *vt* (*formal*) be a sign or warning of (a future event, etc): *This ~s war.*

por-tent /'pɔ:tent/ *n* [C] (*formal*) omen.

por-ten-tous /pɔ:'tentəs/ *adj* (*formal*) (a)

ominous; threatening. (b) marvellous; extraordinary.

por-ten-tous-ly *adv*

por-ter¹ /'pɔ:tə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 person whose work is to carry luggage, etc at stations, airports, hotels, etc. 2 person carrying a load on his back or head (usually in country where there are no roads for motor-vehicles). 3 (US) attendant on a train.

por-ter² /'pɔ:tə(r)/ *n* [C] doorkeeper (at a hotel, public building, etc).

porter's lodge, (rooms in a) small house at the entrance to a college, etc.

por-ter³ /'pɔ:tə(r)/ *n* [U] dark-brown bitter beer.

por-ter-house /'pɔ:təhaʊs/ *n* [C] (~ *steak*), superior cut of beefsteak.

port-folio /'pɔ:t'fəʊliə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) 1 flat case for keeping papers, documents, drawings, etc. 2 position and duties of a minister of state: *He is minister without ~*, not in charge of any particular department. 3 list of securities and investments (stocks, shares, etc) owned by a person, bank, etc.

port-hole *n* ⇨ **port**².

port-ico /'pɔ:tɪkəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es or ~s) roof on columns, esp at the entrance of a building.

por-tion /'pɔ:ʃn/ *n* [C] 1 part, esp a share, (to be) given when something is distributed. 2 quantity of any kind of food served in a restaurant: *a generous ~ of roast duck*. 3 (*formal, poetic*) (*sing*) one's lot or fate: *Brief life is here our ~*. □ *vt* **portion sth out (among/ between)**, share out (which is more usual).

port-ly /'pɔ:tlɪ/ *adj* round and fat (person): *a ~ city councillor*.

port-man-teau /'pɔ:t'mæntəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or ~x /-təʊz/) oblong, leather case for clothes, opening on a hinge into two equal parts.

por-trait /'pɔ:trɪt/ *n* [C] 1 painted picture, drawing, photograph, of a person or animal. 2 vivid description in words.

'por-trait-ist /-ɪst/, maker of portraits.

'por-trait-ure /-tʃə(r) *US*: -tʃʊə(r)/ *n* [U] art of making portraits.

por-tray /'pɔ:t'reɪ/ *vt* 1 make a picture of. 2 describe vividly in words. 3 act the part of (in a play).

por-tray-al /'pɔ:t'reɪəl/ *n* [U] portraying; [C] act at portraying.

pose /pəʊz/ *vt, vi* 1 put (a person) in a position before making a portrait, taking a photograph, etc: *All the subjects are well ~ed*. 2 **pose for**, take up a position (for a photograph, etc): *Will you ~ for me?* 3 put forward for discussion; create; cause: *The increase in student numbers ~s many problems for the universities*.

4 **pose as**, claim to be (esp deliberately): *posing as an expert on old coins*. 5 behave in an affected way hoping to impress people: *She's always posing*. □ *n* [C] 1 position taken up for a portrait, photograph, etc: *an unusual ~*. 2 un-

natural way of behaving, intended to impress people: *That rich man's socialism is a mere ~*.

poser *n* [C] awkward or difficult question or problem.

posh /pɒʃ/ *adj* (*informal*) smart; first-class: *a ~ hotel*; ~ clothes; *her ~ friends*.

po-si-tion /pə'zɪʃn/ *n* 1 [C] place where a person or thing is or stands, esp in relation to others: *find a ~ where one will get a good view of the procession*. **in/out of position**, in/not in the right place. 2 [U] state of being well placed (in war or any kind of struggle): *They were manoeuvring for ~*. 3 [C] attitude or posture: *sit/lie in a comfortable ~*. 4 [C] person's place or rank in relation to others, in employment, in society, etc: *a pupil's ~ in class*; *a high/low ~ in society*. 5 [C] job; employment: *apply for the ~ of assistant manager*. 6 [C] condition; circumstances: *I'm sorry but I am not in a ~ (= am unable) to help you*. 7 [C] opinion: *What's your ~ on this problem?* □ *vt* 1 place in position. 2 find the position of.

posi-tive /'pɒzətɪv/ *adj* 1 definite; sure; leaving no room for doubt: *I gave you ~ instructions*. 2 (of persons) quite certain, esp about opinions: *Are you ~ (that) it was after midnight?* 3 practical and constructive; that definitely helps: *a ~ suggestion*; ~ help; ~ criticism. 4 (*informal*) complete: *That man is a ~ fool*. 5 (*maths*) greater than zero. 6 (of electricity) of the sort caused by deficiency of electrons: *a ~ charge*. 7 (*photography*) showing light and shadows as in nature, not reversed (as in a *negative*). 8 (*gram*) (of *adjectives and adverbs*) of the simple form, not the comparative or superlative. 9 (*med*) showing presence of a disease, etc: *the blood tests were ~*. □ *n* [C] 1 positive degree, adjective, quantity, etc. 2 positive photograph.

positive sign, the sign +.

posi-tive-ly *adv* definitely; certainly.

pos-sess /pə'zes/ *vt* 1 own, have: ~ nothing; *lose all that one ~s*. 2 occupy (the mind); dominate: *What ~ed you to do that?* What influenced or caused you to do that?

pos-ses-sor /-sə(r)/ *n* [C] owner.

pos-ses-sion /pə'zeʃn/ *n* 1 [U] possessing; ownership: *How did it come into your ~?* *How did you get ~ of it?* *The information in my ~ is strictly confidential*. *Is she in full ~ of her senses?* *Is she sane?* ⇨ also point¹(5). 2 [C] (often *pl*) property: *lose all one's ~s*.

pos-sess-ive /pə'zesɪv/ *adj* 1 of possession or ownership: *She has a ~ nature*, is eager to own things or wants the whole of (someone's) love or attention. 2 (*gram*) showing possession.

possessive adjective, eg *my, your, her, its*. **possessive case**, (of nouns) eg *Tom's, the boy's, the boys'*.

possessive pronoun, eg *yours, his, theirs*.

pos-si-bil-ity /'pɒsə'bɪləti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) 1 [U]

state, degree, of being possible: *Is there any/much ~ of your getting to London this week?* *Help is still within the bounds of ~*, is possible. **2** [C] something that is possible: *I see great possibilities for this scheme.*

possible /'pɒsəbl/ *adj* **1** that can be done; that can exist or happen: *Come as quickly as ~. Frost is ~, though not probable.* **2** that is reasonable or satisfactory: *He is the only ~ man for the position.* □ *n* [C] possible(2) person or thing.

possibly /-əbli/ *adv* **(a)** (used to emphasise effort, etc): *I will come as soon as I possibly can.* **(b)** perhaps: *'Will the manager put your salary up?' — 'Possibly.'*

post¹ /pəʊst/ *n* [C] **1** place where a soldier is on duty: *The sentries are all at their ~s.* **2** place occupied by soldiers, esp a frontier fort; the soldiers there. ⇨ *outpost.* **3** position or appointment; job: *be given the ~ as general manager.* □ *vt* **1** send to a post(1,2): *~ an officer to a unit; be ~ed at the gates.* **2** be appointed, appoint to a job (overseas): *be ~ed to Brussels.*

post² /pəʊst/ *n* [C] (mil) bugle-call sounded at sunset: *the first/last ~.* (Note: the last ~ is also sounded at military funerals.)

post³ /pəʊst/ *n* [C] **1** (GB) (US = mail) public corporation which transports and delivers letters, parcels, etc; one collection of letters, parcels, etc; one delivery or distribution of letters, etc: *I will send you the book by ~.* *Please reply by return of ~,* in the next collection. **2** box (into which letters are dropped for collection): *take letters to the ~.* **3** letters, parcel, etc posted: *Has the ~ arrived yet?* **4** (formerly) one of a number of men placed with horses at intervals, the duty of each being to ride with letters, etc to the next stage.

'post-box, = post(2).

'post-card, oblong card (usually with a picture on one side) used for sending short messages.

'post-code, (US = zip code) group of letters and numbers, written on the envelope, used to make the sorting and delivery of mail easier (by use of a computer).

'post-free *adj, adv* carried free of charge by post, or with postage prepaid.

'post-man /-mən/, (US = mailman) man employed to deliver letters, etc.

'post-mark, official mark stamped on letters, cancelling postage stamp(s) and giving the place, date, and time of collection. □ *vt* mark (an envelope, etc) with this.

'post-master/mistress, official in charge of a post office.

'post office, building, etc where postal business is carried on, together with the telegrams and telephones, payment of state pensions, etc.

'post office box, (abbr **PO Box**) numbered box in a post office where letters are

kept for collection by an individual or company.

'post-paid *adj, adv* with postage already paid.

post⁴ /pəʊst/ *vt, vi* **1** (US = mail) put (letters, etc) into a post box or take (them) to a post office to be forwarded. **2** (formerly) travel by stages, using relays of horses: *~ from London to Bristol.* **3** **keep sb posted**, (fig) keep him supplied with information.

'post-haste *adv* with great speed.

post⁵ /pəʊst/ *n* [C] upright piece of wood, metal, etc supporting or marking something: *'gate~s; the 'starting-/winning-~, marking the starting and finishing points in a race.* ⇨ *lamp-post.* □ *vt* **1** display in a public place by means of a paper, placard, etc: *The announcement was ~ed up on the wall of the town hall.* **2** make known by means of a posted notice: *a ship ~ed as missing.*

post- /pəʊst/ *prefix* after: *postscript.*

post-age /'pəʊstɪdʒ/ *n* [U] payment for the carrying of letters, etc: *What is the ~ for an air-letter?*

'postage stamp, stamp (to be) stuck on letters, etc showing the amount of postage paid.

postal /'pəʊstl/ *adj* of the post³(1): *'~ rates; '~-workers; a ~ vote*, sent by post to decide a ballot.

'postal order, written form for money (to be) cashed at a post office.

post-date /pəʊst'deɪt/ *vt* **1** put (on a letter, cheque, etc) a date later than the date of writing. **2** give to (an event) a date later than its actual date.

poster /'pəʊstə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** placard displayed in a public place (announcing or advertising something). **2** large printed picture, eg of a pop star.

post-erior /pəʊ'stɪəriə(r)/ *adj* **1** later in time or order. ⇨ *prior*¹. **2** placed behind; at the back.

post-er-ity /pəʊ'stɪəri/ *n* [U] **1** person's descendants (his children, their children, etc). **2** future generations: *We should each plant a tree for ~.*

post-gradu-ate /pəʊst'grædʒuət/ *adj* (of studies, etc) done after taking a first academic degree. □ *n* [C] person engaged in such studies.

post-hum-ous /'pɒstʃʊməs/ *adj* **1** (of a child) born after the death of its father. **2** coming or happening after death: *~ fame.*

post-hum-ous-ly *adv*

post meridiem /pəʊst mə'rɪdiəm/ *adv* (abbr **pm** which is more usual) after midday.

post-mor-tem /pəʊst 'mɔ:təm/ *n* [C], *adj* **1** (medical examination) made after death: *A ~ showed that the man had been poisoned.* **2** (informal) review of an event, etc in the past.

post-pone /pəʊ'spəʊn/ *vt* change to a later time: *~ a meeting.*

post-pone-ment *n* [C, U]

post-script /'pəʊskript/ *n* [C] (abbr **PS**) sentence(s) added (to a letter) after the signature.

pos-tu-lant /'pɒstjələnt/ *US*: -tʃu-/ *n* [C] candidate for admission to a religious order. ⇨ novice.

pos-tu-late /'pɒstjuleɪt/ *US*: -tʃu-/ *vt* put forward, defend, as a necessary fact, as a basis for reasoning. □ *n* [C] something (that may be) considered undeniably true.

pos-ture /'pɒstʃə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** attitude of, way of holding, the body: *Good ~ helps you to keep well.* **2** attitude: *Will the Government alter its ~ over aid to the railways?* □ *vt, vi* **1** put or arrange in a position: *~ a model.* **2** be vain, etc: *She was posturing before a tall mirror (pose is more usual).*

posy /'pəʊzi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) small bunch of cut flowers.

pot¹ /pɒt/ *n* [C] **1** round vessel of earthenware, metal or glass, for holding liquids or solids, for cooking things in, etc; contents of such a vessel: *a 'tea~/'coffee~/'flower~.* **2** (phrases and proverbs) *go to pot, (st) be ruined or (mentally) destroyed. take 'pot 'luck*, whatever is available (without choice). *the pot calling the kettle black*, the accuser having the same fault as the accused. **3** (informal) large sum: *make a ~/~s of money.* **4** (st) marijuana.

'pot-'bellied *adj* (of a person) having a large, round belly.

'pot-boiler, book, picture, etc produced quickly to earn money.

'pot-bound, (of a plant) having roots that have filled its pot.

'pot-head, (st) habitual user of marijuana.

'pot-hole, (a) hole in a road made by rain and traffic. (b) deep cylindrical hole worn in rock (eg in limestone caves) by water.

'pot-holer, person who explores potholes in caves.

'pot 'luck, ⇨ 2 above.

'pot plant, one grown (indoors) in a pot.

pot roast, beef, etc browned in a pot and cooked slowly with very little water.

'pot-shot, shot aimed at a bird or animal that is near, so that careful aim is not needed.

pot² /pɒt/ *vt, vi* (-tt-) **1** put (meat, fish paste, etc) in a glass jar to preserve it: *~ted shrimps.* **2** plant in a flower-pot. **3** (informal) put (a baby) on a potty.

po-tass-ium /pə'tæsiəm/ *n* [U] (symbol **K**) soft, shining, white metallic element.

po-tato /pə'teɪtəʊ/ *n* [C, U] (*pl* ~es) plant with rounded white tubers eaten as a vegetable; one of the tubers: *baked ~es. May I have some more ~?* ⇨ sweet potato.

po-tency /'pəʊtənsi/ *n* [U] (formal) strength (eg of drugs, etc.)

po-tent /'pəʊtənt/ *adj* (of arguments, charms, drugs, etc) powerful.

po-tent-ly *adv*

po-ten-tial /pə'tenʃl/ *adj* that can or may come into existence or action: *~ wealth; the ~ sales of a new book.* □ *n* **1** [C] possibility. **2** [U] what a person or thing is capable of: *He/It hasn't much ~.*

po-ten-ti-ally /-ʃəli/ *adv*: *a ~ly rich country*, eg one with rich but undeveloped natural resources.

po-ten-ti-al-ity /pə'tenʃi'æləti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) power or quality which is possible, and needs development: *a country with great potentialities (potential is more usual).*

po-tion /'pəʊʃn/ *n* [C] dose of liquid medicine, poison, etc.

potted /'pɒtɪd/ *adj* **1** ⇨ pot². **2** (of a book, etc) inadequately abridged: *a ~ version of a classical novel.*

pot-ter¹ /'pɒtə(r)/ (*US* also **put-ter** /'pʊtə(r)/) *vi, vt* **1** move about from one little job to another: *~ing about in the garden.* **2** waste (time) in this way: *~ away a whole afternoon.*

pot-ter² /'pɒtə(r)/ *n* [C] maker of (clay, stone, etc) pots.

potter's wheel, horizontal revolving disc on which pots are shaped.

pot-tery *n* (*pl* -ies) (a) [U] earthenware; pots. (b) [C] potter's workshop.

potty¹ /'pɒti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (*GB informal*) **1** unimportant; insignificant: *~ little jobs.* **2** (of a person) mad. **3** (of a person) in love with: *He's ~ about his new girlfriend.*

potty² /'pɒti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) child's chamber-pot.

pouch /paʊtʃ/ *n* [C] **1** small bag carried in the pocket (*a to'bacco~*) or fastened to the belt. **2** formation like a bag, eg that in which a female kangaroo carries her young. □ *vt* put into a pouch.

pouf, pouffe /pu:f/ *n* [C] large cushion, used as a seat.

poul-tice /'pəʊltis/ *n* [C] soft heated mass of eg linseed, mustard, spread on a cloth, and put on the skin to relieve pain, etc. □ *vt* put a poultice on.

poul-try /'pəʊltri/ *n* (collective) **1** (used with a *pl verb*) hens, ducks, geese, etc: *The ~ are being fed.* **2** (used with a *sing verb*) these considered as food: *P~ will be expensive next year.*

pounce /paʊns/ *vi* **1** make a sudden attack (downward) or swoop on: *The hawk ~d on its prey.* **2** (fig) seize: *He ~d at the first chance of a holiday.* □ *n* [C] such an attack.

pound¹ /paʊnd/ *n* [C] **1** unit of weight, 16 ounces avoirdupois, 12 ounces troy. **2** British unit of money: *five ~s, written £5; a five~ note, banknote for £5.* **3** monetary unit of various other countries, esp former British dependencies, and Israel.

pound² /paʊnd/ *n* [C] (*modern use*) place

where stray dogs and cats, and motor-vehicles left in unauthorized places, are kept until claimed.

pound³ /paʊnd/ *vt, vi* **1** strike heavily and repeatedly: *Someone was ~ing at the door with his fist. She could feel her heart ~ing as she finished the 100 metres race.* **2** crush to powder; break to pieces: *~ crystals in a mortar; a ship ~ing/being ~ed to pieces on the rocks.* **3** ride, run, walk, heavily: *He ~ed along the road.*

-pounder /'paʊndə(r)/ *suffix* **1** weighing so many pounds: *a three-~, eg a fish.* **2** gun that fires a shot of so many pounds: *an eighteen-~.*

pour /pɔ:(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** cause (a liquid or a substance like a liquid) to flow in a continuous stream: *P ~ yourself another cup of tea. The sweat was ~ing off him.* **2** (fig) flow in a continuous stream: *Tourists ~ into London during the summer months. The crowds were ~ing out of the football ground. Letters of complaint ~ed in.* **3** (of rain) come down heavily: *The rain ~ed down.* **4** tell, describe, in a long speech: *He ~ed out his story of the road crash.*

pout /paʊt/ *vt, vi* push out the lips (as a sign of displeasure). *n* [C] such an act.

poverty /'pɒvəti/ *n* [U] **1** state of being poor: *live in ~.* **2** state of being low in quality: *an essay which shows ~ of ideas.*

'poverty-stricken *adj* affected by poverty: *~stricken homes.*

powder /'paʊdə(r)/ *n* [C, U] (kind of) substance that has been crushed, rubbed or worn to dust, for use on the skin ('face-~), for cleaning things ('soap-~), or for cooking ('baking-~). *ϕ* gunpowder. *ϕ* *vt, vi* use face-powder or talcum-powder.

'powder-blue, pale blue (colour).

'powder-puff, soft pad used for applying face-powder to the skin.

'powder-room, (esp US) ladies' cloakroom in an hotel, restaurant, cinema, etc with wash-basins and lavatories.

powdered *adj* reduced to powder: *~ed milk/eggs.*

power /'paʊə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] (in living things, persons) ability to do or act: *It is not within/It is beyond/It is outside my ~ to help you. I am unable to do so. I will do everything in my ~ to help.* **2** (pl) faculty of the body or mind: *His ~s are failing. He is becoming weak. He's a man of great intellectual ~s.* **3** [U] strength; force: *the ~ of a blow.* **4** [U] energy or force that can be used to do work: *electric ~.* *ϕ* horse power. **5** [U] right; control; authority: *the ~ of the law; the ~ of Congress.* **have power over sb.** be in authority, control. **in power**, (of a ministry or political party) in office. **6** [C] right possessed by, or granted to, a person or group of persons: *The President has exceeded his ~s, has done more than he has authority to do.* **7** [C] person or organization having great authority or influence: *Is the press a great ~ in*

your country? **8** [C] State having great authority and influence in international affairs. **9** [C] (maths) result obtained by multiplying a number or quantity by itself a certain number of times: *the second, third, fourth, etc ~ of x (= x², x³, x⁴, etc); the fourth ~ of 3 (= 3 × 3 × 3 × 3 = 81).* **10** [U] capacity to magnify: *the ~ of a lens; a telescope of high ~.* **11** [U] (informal) large number or amount: *This beer does me a ~ of good.*

'power-boat, motorboat (esp one used for racing or towing water-skiers).

'power-house/-station, building where electric power is generated for distribution.

'power-point, socket on a wall, etc for a plug to connect an electric circuit.

power politics, diplomacy backed by force.

pow-ered *adj* (a) having, able to exert or produce, mechanical energy: *a high-~ed car.* (b) (fig) having great energy: *a high-~ed salesman.*

power-ful /'paʊəfl/ *adj* having or producing great power: *a ~ enemy; a ~ drug.*

power-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

power-less /'paʊəls/ *adj* without power; unable: *be ~ to resist.*

power-less-ly *adv*

prac-ti-cable /'præktəkəbl/ *adj* that can be done or used or put into practice: *ideas that are not ~.*

prac-ti-cably /-əbl/ *adv*

prac-ti-cal /'præktukl/ *adj* **1** concerned with practice (contrasted with theory): *a suggestion/proposal with little ~ value.* **2** (of persons, their character, etc) clever at and liking doing and making things: *a ~ husband/ mind.* **3** doing well what it is intended to do: *Your invention is clever, but not very ~.*

'practical joke, trick in which a person does something or has something done to him, so that he appears ridiculous.

prac-ti-cally /-kl/ *adv* (a) in a practical manner. (b) almost: *We've had ~ly no sunshine this month.*

prac-ti-cal-ity /'præktɪ'kæləti/ *n* [C] (pl -ies): *Let's get down to ~ities, to considering the things to be done.*

prac-tice (US also **prac-tise**) /'præktɪs/ *n* **1** [U] performance; the doing of something (contrasted with theory): *put a plan into ~, do what has been planned. The idea would never work in ~, may seem good theoretically, but would be useless if carried out.* **2** [C] something done regularly: *the ~ of closing shops on Sundays.* **make a practice of (sth)**, do it habitually: *boys who make a ~ of cheating at examinations.* **3** [U] frequent or systematic repetition, repeated exercise: *Piano-playing needs a lot of ~. It takes years of ~ to become an expert.* **in/out of practice**, having/not having been enough time recently to practice.

4 [U] work of a doctor or lawyer; [C] (number of) persons who regularly consult a doctor or lawyer: *a doctor with a large ~*. ⇨ general practitioner.

prac-tise (US also **prac-tice**) /'præktɪs/ *vt, vi* **1** do something repeatedly or regularly in order to become skilful: *~ the piano*; *~ two hours every day*. **2** make a habit of: *~ getting up early*. **practise what one preaches**, make a habit of doing what one advises others to do. **3** be employed in (a profession, etc): *~ medicine/the law*, work as a doctor/lawyer.

practised (US also **-ticed**) *adj* skilled; having had much practice.

prac-ti-tioner /'præktɪʃənə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** one who practices a skill or art. **2** professional man, esp in medicine and the law. ⇨ general practitioner.

prag-matic /'præg'mætɪk/ *adj* concerned with practical results, reasons and values.

prag-mati-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

prag-ma-tism /'præg'mætɪzəm/ *n* [U] philosophical belief that the truth or value of a theory depends on its practical use.

prag-ma-tist /-tɪst/ *n* [C] believer in pragmatism.

prairie /'preəri/ *n* [C] wide area of level land with grass but no trees, esp in N America. ⇨ pampas, savanna.

praise /preɪz/ *vt* **1** say that one admires or approves: *~ a man for his courage/the meal as the best of its kind*. **2** give honour and glory to (God). □ *n* [U] **1** act of praising: *His heroism is worthy of great ~/is beyond (= too great for) ~*. **2** worship; glory: *P ~ be to God*.

'praise-worthy *adj* deserving praise.

pram /præm/ *n* [C] (GB) (abbr for, and the usual word for) perambulator.

prance /pra:ns/ *US*; /præns/ *vi* **1** (of a horse) move forwards jerkily, by raising the forelegs and jumping from the hind legs. **2** (fig) move in an arrogant manner; dance or jump happily and gaily. □ *n* [C] prancing movement.

prank /præŋk/ *n* [C] playful or mischievous trick: *play ~s on her*.

prattle /'prætl/ *vi* talk in a simple, childish way. □ *n* [U] such talk; gossip.

prawn /prɔ:n/ *n* [C] edible shellfish like a large shrimp. □ *vi* fish for prawns: *go ~ing*.

pray /preɪ/ *vt, vi* commune with God; offer thanks, make requests known: *~ to God for help*. *They knelt down and ~ed*.

prayer /preə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] act of praying to God: *He knelt down in ~*. **2** [U] form of church worship: *Morning/Evening P ~*. **3** [C] form of words used in praying: *the Lord's P ~*.

'prayer-book, containing prayers for use in church services, etc.

'prayer-rug/-mat, small rug used by Muslims to kneel on when they pray.

'prayer-wheel, revolving cylinder inscribed with or containing prayers, used by the Buddh-

hists of Tibet.

pre- /pri:/, *pre-/ prefix* before; beforehand: *pre-war*; *premature*.

preach /'pri:tʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** deliver (a sermon); give a talk (in church) about religion or morals: *~ the gospel*; *~ Buddhism*. **2** give moral advice (to): *The headmaster was ~ing to his boys about being lazy*. ⇨ **practise** (2). **3** urge; recommend (as right or desirable): *The Dictator ~ed war as a means of making the country great*.

preacher, one who delivers sermons.

pre-amble /'pri:'æmbəl/ *n* [C] introduction or preliminary statement (esp to a formal document).

pre-arrange /'pri:'æreɪndʒ/ *vt* arrange in advance.

pre-arrange-ment *n* [C, U]

pre-car-i-ous /'pri:'keəriəs/ *adj* (formal) uncertain; unsafe; depending on chance: *make a ~ living as an author*.

pre-car-i-ously *adv*

pre-cast /'pri:'kɑ:st/ *US*; /-kæst/ *adj* (of concrete) in blocks ready for use in building.

pre-caution /'pri:'kɔ:ʃn/ *n* **1** [U] care taken in advance to avoid a risk. **2** [C] instance of this: *take an umbrella as a ~*.

pre-cau-tion-ary /'pri:'kɔ:ʃnəri/ *US*; /-neri/ *adj*

pre-cede /'pri:'sɪd/ *vt, vi* come or go before (in time, place or order): *The singer who is preceding the pop group in the programme is very good*.

pre-ced-ing *adj* existing or coming before.

pre-ced-ence /'presɪdəns/ *n* [U] (formal) (right to a) priority, or to a senior place. **have/take precedence (over)**, must be considered first.

pre-ced-ent /'presɪdənt/ *n* [C] (formal) earlier happening, decision, etc as an example or rule for what comes later: *set/create/establish a ~*.

pre-cen-tor /'pri:sentə(r)/ *n* [C] (in English cathedrals) member of the clergy in general control of the singing.

pre-cept /'pri:sept/ *n* (formal) **1** [U] moral instruction: *Example is better than ~*. **2** [C] rule or guide, esp for behaviour.

pre-cinct /'pri:sɪŋkt/ *n* [C] **1** space enclosed by outer walls or boundaries, esp of a cathedral or church: *within the sacred ~s*. **2** (US) subdivision of a county or city or ward: *an election ~*; *a police ~*. **3** (pl) neighbourhood (of a town). **4** boundary: *within the city ~s*. **5** (modern use) area (of a town) for a particular use: *a shopping ~*, for shops only.

pre-cious /'preʃəs/ *adj* **1** of great value and beauty: *my ~ possessions*. **2** highly valued; dear: *Her children are very ~ to her*. □ *adv* (informal) very: *I have ~ little (= hardly any) money left*.

'precious 'metal, gold, platinum.

'precious 'stone, diamond, ruby, etc.

precipice /'presɪpɪs/ *n* [C] perpendicular or very steep face of a rock, cliff or mountain.

precipitate /prə'sɪpɪteɪt/ *vt* **1** (formal) throw or send violently down from a height. **2** cause (an event) to happen suddenly, quickly, or in haste: ~ a crisis. **3** (chem) separate (solid matter) from a solution. **4** condense (vapour) into drops which fall as rain, dew, etc. □ *n* [C] that which is precipitated (3,4). □ *adj* /prə'sɪpɪtət/ (doing things, done) without enough thought.

precipitate-ly *adv*

precipitation /prə'sɪpɪ'teɪʃn/ *n* **1** [C] (esp) fall of rain, sleet, snow or hail; amount of this: the annual ~ in Scotland. **2** [U] being hurried: act with ~, without enough thought or consideration of the consequences. **3** act of precipitating.

precipitous /prə'sɪpɪtəs/ *adj* (formal) very steep.

précis /'preɪsɪ/ *US*: prɛɪ'si:/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged in spelling but with usual change in pronunciation to /-sɪz/) restatement in shortened form of the chief ideas, points, etc of a speech or piece of writing. □ *vt* make a précis of.

precise /pri'saɪs/ *adj* **1** exact; correctly and clearly stated; free from error: ~ measurements; at the ~ moment when she sat down. **2** taking care to be exact, not to make errors: a very ~ man. **3** too careful, fussy, about details: *prim and ~ in his manner*.

precise-ly *adv* (a) exactly: at 2 o'clock ~ly. (b) (used as a response) I agree.

precision /pri'sɪʒn/ *n* [U] accuracy; freedom from error: (used as an adjective) ~ instrument/tool, used in technical work, very precise (for measuring, etc).

preclude /pri'klu:d/ *vt* (formal) prevent; make impossible: ~ all doubts.

preclusion /pri'klu:ʒn/ *n* [U]

precocious /pri'kəʊʃəs/ *adj* **1** (of a person) having developed intelligence earlier than is normal. **2** (of actions, knowledge, etc) showing such development.

precocious-ly *adv*

preconceive /pri:kən'si:v/ *vt* form (ideas, opinions) in advance (before getting knowledge or experience): visit a foreign country with ~d ideas.

preconception /pri:kən'sepʃn/ *n* [C] preconceived idea, opinion.

precursor /pri:'kɜ:sə(r)/ *n* [C] (formal) person or thing coming before, as a sign of what is to follow.

precursory /-səri/ *adj* (formal) preliminary; anticipating.

predator /'predətə(r)/ *n* [C] predatory animal.

predatory /'predətəri/ *US*: -təri/ *adj* (formal) **1** of plundering and robbery: ~ tribesmen. **2** (of animals) preying on others.

pre-deces-sor /'pri:disəsə(r)/ *US*: 'predi-/*n* [C] **1** former holder of any office or position: I was Mr Green's ~ on the Board. **2** thing to which another has succeeded: Is the new proposal any better than its ~?

pre-des-ti-na-tion /pri:'destɪ'neiʃn/ *n* [U] **1** theory or doctrine that God has decreed from eternity that part of mankind shall have eternal life and part eternal punishment. **2** destiny; doctrine that God has decreed everything that comes to pass.

pre-des-tine /pri:'destɪn/ *vt* **1** (often passive) (of God, fate) decide, ordain, beforehand. **2** decide or make inevitable: It was as if he was ~d to succeed.

pre-de-ter-mine /pri:'dɪtɜ:mɪn/ *vt* (formal) **1** decide in advance: Does social class ~ a man's career? **2** persuade or force a person in advance to do something: Did an unhappy childhood ~ him to behave as he did?

predicament /pri'dɪkəmənt/ *n* [C] unpleasant situation from which escape seems difficult: be in an awkward ~.

predi-cate¹ /'predɪkət/ *n* [C] (gram) part of a statement which says something about the subject, eg 'is short' in 'Life is short'.

predi-cate² /'predɪkeɪt/ *vt* (formal) **1** declare to be true or real: ~ a motive to be good. **2** make necessary as a consequence: These policies were ~d by Britain's decision to join the Common Market.

predi-cative /pri'dɪkətɪv/ *US*: 'predikeɪt-/*adj* (gram) (of an adjective or noun) forming part or the whole of the predicate.

predicative adjective, one used in the predicate, eg *asleep, alive*.

predict /pri'dɪkt/ *vt* say, tell, in advance: ~ a good harvest/that there will be an earthquake.

predictable /-əbl/ *adj* that can be predicted.

predic-tion /pri'dɪkʃn/ *n* [U] predicting; [C] something predicted.

pre-dis-pose /pri:'dɪspəʊz/ *vt* (formal) cause (somebody) to be interested, liable, etc before the event: His early training ~d him to travel widely.

pre-dis-positi-on /pri:'dɪspə'zɪʃn/ *n* [C] (formal) state of mind or body favourable to: a ~ to arthritis/to going on safari.

pre-dominance /pri'dɒmɪnəns/ *n* [U] superiority in strength, numbers, etc; state of being predominant.

pre-dominant /pri'dɒmɪnənt/ *adj* (formal) having more power, attraction or influence than others: Her ~ characteristic is her friendliness.

pre-dominant-ly *adv* for the most part: a ~ly brown-eyed race.

pre-domi-nate /pri'dɒmɪneɪt/ *vi* (formal) have control (over); be superior in numbers, strength, influence, etc: a forest in which oak-trees ~.

pre-emi-nence /pri:'eminəns/ *n* [U] (*formal*) being best.

pre-emi-nent /pri:'eminənt/ *adj* (*formal*) best of all: ~ above all his rivals.

pre-emi-nent-ly *adv*

pre-empt /pri:'empt/ *vt* (*formal*) **1** obtain by pre-emption(a). **2** (US) occupy (public land) so as to have the right of pre-emption. **3** take for oneself (and exclude others).

pre-emp-tion /pri:'empʃn/ *n* [U] (*formal*) (a) purchase by one person, etc before others are offered the chance to buy; right to purchase in this way. (b) pre-empting(2).

pre-emp-tive /-tɪv/ *adj* done before another has a chance to act: a ~ive attack.

preen /pri:n/ *vt* **1** (of a bird) clean, tidy, (its feathers) with its beak. **2** (*fig*) (of a person) tidy (oneself).

pre-exist /pri:'ɪgzɪst/ *vi* **1** exist beforehand. **2** live a life before this life.

pre-exist-ence /-əns/, life of the soul before entering its present body or this world.

pre-fab-ri-cate /pri:'fæbrɪkett/ *vt* manufacture the parts, eg roofs, walls, of a building for putting together on the site: ~d houses.

pre-fab-ri-ca-tion /pri:'fæbrɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U]

pre-fa-ce /'prefɪs/ *n* [C] author's explanatory remarks at the beginning of a book. *□ vt* provide with a preface; begin (a talk, etc with...): He ~d his remarks with some sharp knocks on the table.

pre-fa-tory /'prefətəri/ *US*: -tɔ:ri/ *adj*: after a few prefatory remarks.

prefect /'pri:fekt/ *n* [C] **1** (in some English schools) one of a number of senior pupils given responsibility, eg for keeping order. **2** (in France) title of the chief administrative officer of a department; head of the Paris police.

pre-fer /'pri:fə(r)/ *vt* (-rr-) **1** choose (from several); like better: Which would you ~, tea or coffee? **1** ~ walking to cycling. **2** put forward: ~ charges against a motorist, ie accuse him of a motoring offence.

pre-fer-able /'prefərəbl/ *adj* superior: an idea ~ to his. (Note: not used with more.)

pre-fer-ably /-əbl/ *adv*

pre-fer-ence /'prefərəns/ *n* **1** [C,U] act of preferring: have a ~ for modern jazz. **2** [C] that which is preferred: What are your ~s? **3** [U] the favouring of one person, country, etc more than another; [C] instance of this.

pre-fer-en-tial /'prefə'renʃl/ *adj* of, giving, receiving, preference (esp 3): get ~ treatment.

pre-fix /'pri:fɪks/ *n* [C] **1** word or syllable, eg *pre-*, *co-*, placed in front of a word to add to or change its meaning. **2** word used before a person's name, eg Mr, Dr. *□ vt* /pri:'fiks/ add a prefix to or in front of.

preg-nancy /'pregnənsɪ/ *n* [U] the state of being pregnant (both senses); [C] (*pl* -ies) instance of this.

preg-nant /'pregnənt/ *adj* **1** (of a woman or

female animal) having in the uterus offspring in a stage of development before birth. **2** (*fig*) (of words, actions) significant: words ~ with meaning; a ~ pause in a play.

pre-hen-sile /pri:'hensail/ *adj* (of a foot or tail, eg a monkey's) able to seize and hold.

pre-his-toric /,pri:'hɪstɔ:rik/ *US*: -tɔ:rik/ (also -*torical* /-kl/) *adj* of the time before recorded history.

pre-his-tory /pri:'hɪstəri/ *n* [U]

pre-judge /,pri:'dʒʌdʒ/ *vt* make a decision, form an opinion, about a person, cause, action, etc before hearing the evidence, making a proper inquiry, etc.

pre-judge-ment *n* [C,U]

pre-ju-dice /'predʒʊdɪs/ *n* **1** [U] opinion, like or dislike, formed before one has adequate knowledge or experience; [C] instance of this: racial ~, against members of other races. **2** [U] (*legal*) injury that may or does arise from some action or judgement. *□ vt* **1** cause a person to have a prejudice(1). **2** injure or weaken (a person's interests, etc): He ~d his claim by asking too much.

pre-ju-di-cial /,predʒʊ'dɪʃl/ *adj* causing prejudice or injury.

pre-late /'prelət/ *n* [C] bishop or other churchman of equal or higher rank.

pre-limi-nary /'pri'lɪmɪnəri/ *US*: -nerɪ/ *adj* coming first and preparing for what follows: a ~ examination; after a few ~ remarks. *□ n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (usually *pl*) preliminary actions, measures, etc.

pre-lude /'preljʊd/ *n* [C] **1** action, event, etc that serves as an introduction to (another). **2** (*music*) introductory movement (eg as part of a suite). *□ vt* serve as, be, a prelude to.

pre-mari-tal /,pri:'mæritl/ *adj* before marriage.

pre-ma-ture /'premətʃə(r)/ *US*: 'pri:mətuə(r)/ *adj* done, happening, doing something, before the right or usual time: ~ birth.

pre-ma-ture-ly *adv*: act ~ly.

pre-medi-tate /'pri:'medɪteɪt/ *vt* consider, plan, (something) in advance: a ~d murder.

pre-medi-ta-tion /,pri:'medɪ'teɪʃn/ *n* [U]

pre-mier /'premiə(r)/ *US*: 'pri:-/ *adj* first in position, importance, etc. *□ n* [C] prime minister; head of the government.

pre-mier-ship /-ʃɪp/ *n* [C]

pre-mière /'premiə(r)/ *US*: 'pri:mjə(r)/ *n* [C] first performance of a play or (*film* ~) first public showing of a cinema film.

prem-ise, prem-iss /'premis/ *n* [C] **1** statement on which reasoning is based. **2** (*pl*) house or building with its sheds, land, etc: 'business ~s, the building(s), offices, etc where a business is carried on. **3** (*pl*) details of property, names of persons, etc in the first part of a legal agreement. *□ vt* make a statement (*that*) or a statement of (fact) by way of introduction.

pre-mium /'pri:miəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** amount or instalment paid for an insurance policy. **2** reward (the usual word): *a ~ for good conduct*. **3** addition to ordinary charges, rent, etc: *He had to pay the agent a ~ before he could rent the house*. **4** fee (to be) paid by a pupil to a professional man, eg an accountant or architect, for instruction and training.

pre-mon-ition /'premə'nɪʃn/ *n* [C] feeling of uneasiness considered as a warning (of approaching danger, etc): *have a strong ~ of failure*.

pre-moni-tory /'pri:mə'nɪtəri/ *US*: -tɔ:ri/ *adj*

pre-natal /'pri:'nɛtl/ *adj* before birth.

pre-oc-cu-pa-tion /'pri:ɒkju:'peɪʃn/ *n* [U] state of mind in which something takes up all a person's thoughts; [C] the subject, etc that takes up all his thoughts: *His greatest ~ was saving money for a holiday in Europe*.

pre-oc-cupy /'pri:ɒkjupaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) take all the attention of a person so that attention is not given to other matters: *preoccupied with thoughts of a holiday*.

pre-or-dain /'pri:ɔ:'deɪn/ *vt* determine in advance.

pre-pack-aged /'pri:'pækɪdʒd/ (also **pre-packed** /'pri:'pækt/) *adj* (of products) cut, wrapped, packed, before being supplied to shops.

prep-ara-tion /'prepə'reɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] preparing or being prepared: *The book is in ~*. **2** [C] (usually *pl*) things done to get ready: *~s for war*; *make ~s for a voyage*. **3** [C] kind of medicine, food, etc specially prepared: *chemical ~s*.

pre-pa-ra-tory /'pri:pə'rətəri/ *US*: -tɔ:ri/ *adj* introductory; needed for preparing: *~ measures/training*.

pre-pare /'pri:peə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** **prepare (for)**, get or make ready: *~ a meal*; *~ students for an examination*, teach them; *be ~d for anything to happen*. **2** **be prepared to**, be able and willing to: *I'm ~d to help you if you want me to*.

pre-pay /'pri:'peɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -paid /-'peɪd/) pay in advance: *postage prepaid*.

pre-pon-der-ance /'pri:pɒndərəns/ *n* [U] (formal) greater amount, weight, etc.

pre-pon-der-ant /'pri:pɒndərənt/ *adj* (formal) greater in weight, number, strength, etc.

pre-pon-der-ant-ly *adv*

pre-posi-tion /'prepə'zɪʃn/ *n* [C] word or group of words (eg *in*, *from*, *to*) often placed before a noun or pronoun to show place, direction, source, method, etc (marked *prep* in this dictionary).

pre-posi-tional /-ʃənl/ *adj* of, containing, a preposition.

prepositional object, (gram) as in 'I gave the money to the treasurer.'

prepositional phrase, (a) phrase made up of a group of words acting as a preposition. eg *in front of*; *on top of*. (b) preposition and the

noun following it, eg *in the night*; *on the beach*.

pre-pos-sess /,pri:pə'zes/ *vt* (formal) give (a person) a feeling (about something), or an idea: *I was ~ed by his manners*. They made a favourable impression upon me.

pre-pos-sess-ing *adj* attractive; making a good impression: *a girl of ~ing appearance*.

pre-pos-ses-sion /,pri:pə'zeɪʃn/ *n* [C] favourable feeling experienced in advance.

pre-pos-ter-ous /'pri:pɒstərəs/ *adj* completely unreasonable or senseless; ridiculous.

pre-pos-ter-ous-ly *adv*

pre-re-cord /,pri:rɪ'kɔ:d/ *vt* record, eg a radio or TV programme, in advance on tape or record.

pre-requi-site /,pri:'rekwɪzɪt/ *n* [C], *adj* (thing) required as a condition for something else: *Three passes at 'A' level are a ~ for university entrance*.

pre-roga-tive /'pri:rɒgətɪv/ *n* [C] special right(s) or privilege(s), esp of a ruler.

Pres-by-ter-ian /'prezbɪ'tɛrɪən/ *adj* (also ~ Church) church governed by elders, all of equal rank. □ *n* [C] member of this Church.

pres-by-tery /'prezbɪtəri/ *US*: -teri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** (in a church) eastern part of the chancel beyond the choir; sanctuary. **2** (regional) administrative court of the Presbyterian Church. **3** residence of a Roman Catholic parish priest.

pre-scribe /'pri:skraɪb/ *vt, vi* **1** advise or order the use of: *~ textbooks*, books which pupils are required to use. **2** say, with authority, what course of action is to be followed: *penalties ~d by the law*.

pre-scription /'pri:skrɪpʃn/ *n* **1** [U] act of prescribing; [C] that which is prescribed. **2** (esp) doctor's written order or direction for the making up and use of a medicine; the medicine itself.

pre-script-ive /'pri:skriptɪv/ *adj* giving orders or directions. ⇨ **descriptive**.

pres-ence /'preznz/ *n* [U] **1** being present in a place, etc: *in the ~ of his friends*, with his friends there. **presence of mind**, ability to act or decide quickly when necessary. **2** person's way of standing, moving, etc: *a man of noble ~*.

pres-ent¹ /'preznt/ *adj* **1** being in this/that place: *The Smiths were ~ at the ceremony*. ⇨ **absent**¹ (1). **2** being discussed or dealt with; now being considered. **3** existing now: *the ~ government*. □ *n* **1** **the ~**, now; the time now passing: *the past, the ~, and the future*. **at present**, now: *We don't need any more at ~*. **2** (gram) = present tense.

present participle, (gram) verb form used to show the present tense, eg *coming*.

(the) **present tense**, (gram) verb form showing action now, descriptions existing now, etc.

pres-ent² /'preznt/ *n* [C] something given for pleasure: *birthday ~s*.

present³ /prɪ'zent/ *vt* **1** give; offer: *the clock that was ~ed to me when I retired.* **2** introduce (a person, esp to a Sovereign): *be ~ed at Court.* **3** (reflex) appear; attend: *~ oneself for trial/for examination.* **4** show; reveal: *A good opportunity has ~ed itself for doing what you suggested.* **5** (of a theatrical manager or company) produce (a play); cause (an actor) to take part in a play: *The Playhouse will ~ 'Hamlet' next week.* **6** introduce a programme on TV or radio.

present-able /prɪ'zentəbl/ *adj* fit to appear, be shown, in public: *Is the girl he wants to marry ~, the sort of girl he can introduce to his friends and family?*

present-ably /-əbl/ *adv*: *presentably dressed.*

pres-en-ta-tion /,prezən'teɪʃn *US*: /prɪzən-/ *n* [U] presenting or being presented; [C] something presented: *the ~ of a new play.*

pres-en-ti-ment /prɪ'zentɪmənt/ *n* [C] (*formal*) vague feeling that something (esp unpleasant or undesirable) is about to happen.

pres-ent-ly /'prezəntli/ *adv* **1** soon: *I'll be with you ~.* **2** (US) at the present time: *The Secretary of State is ~ in Africa.*

pres-er-va-tion /,prezə'veɪʃn/ *n* [U] **1** act of preserving: *the ~ of food/one's health/wild life.* **2** condition of something preserved: *paintings in a good state of ~.*

pre-serv-ative /prɪ'zɜ:vətɪv/ *n* [C], *adj* (substance) used for preserving: *This ice-cream is free from artificial ~s.*

pre-serve /prɪ'zɜ:v/ *vt* **1** keep safe from harm or danger: *preserving old people from the loneliness of old age.* **2** keep from decay, risk of going bad, etc (by pickling, making into jam, etc): *~ fruit.* **3** keep from loss; retain (health, etc): *~ one's eyesight.* **4** care for and protect land, rivers, lakes, etc with the animals and fish: *The fishing in this stream is strictly ~d.* **5** keep alive (a name or memory): *Few of his early poems are ~d.* □ *n* [C] **1** (usually *pl*) jam (the usual word). **2** woods, streams, etc where animals and fish are preserved: *a game ~.*

pre-serv-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be preserved.

pre-server, person or thing that preserves.

pre-side /prɪ'zaid/ *vi* **preside (at/over)**, be chairman, be the head of: *The Prime Minister ~s at meetings of the Cabinet. The city council is ~d over by the mayor.*

presi-dency /'prezɪdənsi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** the ~, the office and functions of president. **2** term of office as a president: *during the ~ of Lincoln.*

presi-dent /'prezɪdənt/ *n* [C] **1** elected head of the government in the US and other modern republics. **2** head of some government departments: *P~ of the Board of Trade.* **3** head of some business companies, colleges,

societies, etc.

presi-dential /,prezɪ'denʃl/ *adj* of a president or his duties: *the ~ial election.*

press¹ /pres/ *n* [C] **1** act of pressing(2): *give something a light ~.* **2** machine or apparatus for pressing: *a 'wine-~.* **3** the ~, printed periodicals; the newspapers generally; journalists: *The book was favourably noticed by the ~/had a good ~, was favourably reviewed by the literary critics. The liberty/freedom of the ~ (= The right of newspapers to report events, express opinions, etc freely) is a feature of democratic countries.* **4** business for printing (and sometimes publishing) books or periodicals; (also 'printing-~) machine for printing: *in the ~, being printed; go to ~, start printing.* **5** pressure (the usual word): *the ~ of modern life.*

'press box, reporters' shelter (in a stadium).

'press conference, one of newspaper reporters, organized by a government official, for a well-known person, etc who talks about policy, achievements, etc.

'press-cutting/-clipping, article, etc cut out from a newspaper or other periodical.

'press photographer, newspaper photographer.

'press-stud, device for fastening fabrics together, eg on clothes, by pressing a small metal knob into a hole.

'press-up, exercise in which a person lies face down on the floor, the arms being straightened and bent by pressing against the floor with the palms of the hands to raise and lower the body.

press² /pres/ *vt, vi* **1** push steadily against: *~ the trigger of a gun; ~ (down) the accelerator pedal (of a car); ~ the button*, eg of an electric bell. **2** use force or weight to get something smooth or flat, to get juice out of fruit, etc: *~ a suit/skirt*, with an iron, to remove creases, etc; *~ the juice out of an orange.* **3** keep close to and attack: *~ home an attack*, carry it out with determination. **4** (fig) obtain support, agreement, etc using a determined, organized effort: *~ one's point home in the debate.* **5** make repeated requests: *demand urgently; ~ for an inquiry into a question; ~ the Government for support.* **6** be pressed for, have barely enough of: *be ~ed for time/money/space.* **7** push, crowd, with weight or force: *crowds ~ing against the barriers.* **8** urge; insist on: *~ him for an answer.* **9** demand action or attention: *The matter is ~ing*, is urgent. **10** squeeze (a person's hand, arm, etc) as a sign of affection or sympathy: *He ~ed her to his side.* **11** weigh heavily on: *The new taxes ~ed down heavily on the people.* **12** hurry, continue, in a determined way: *~ on with one's work/journey.*

press-ing /'presɪŋ/ *adj* **1** urgent; requiring immediate attention: *~ing business.* **2** (of per-

sons, their requests, etc) insistent: *as you are so ~ing*.

press-ure /'presʌ(r)/ *n* [C,U] **1** pressing; (amount of) force on or against something: *I hope that the tyre ~ is right.* ⇨ blood pressure. **2** force or influence: *He pleaded ~ of work and resigned his place on the committee.* **be/come under pressure**, feel/be caused to feel forced (to act): *He's under strong ~ to vote with the government on this issue.* **bring pressure to bear on/put pressure on sb (to do sth)**, use force or influence. **3** something that is difficult to bear: *the ~ of taxation.*

'pressure-cooker, airtight saucepan for cooking quickly with steam under pressure.

'pressure group, organized group, eg a union, which tries to use influence for the benefit of its members.

press-ur-ize (also **-ise**) /'presʊraɪz/ *vt* **1** maintain normal air-pressure, eg in an aircraft. **2** (informal) use pressure(2): *She was ~d into helping with the cooking.*

press-ur-ized (also **-ised**) /'presʊraɪzd/ *adj* (of an aircraft, a submarine, etc) built so that its internal air-pressure can be controlled and made normal.

pres-tige /'prestiːʒ/ *n* [U] **1** respect that results from the good reputation (of a person, nation, etc); power or influence coming from this. **2** distinction, glamour, that comes from achievements, success, possessions, etc: (used as an adjective) *the ~ value of living in a fashionable street.*

pres-tig-i-ous /'prestɪdʒəs/ *adj* producing respect, influence, etc.

pre-stressed /'priːstrest/ *adj* (of concrete) strengthened by being compressed.

pre-sum-able /'priːzjuːməbl/ *US*: -'zuː-/ *adj* that may be presumed.

pre-sum-ably /-əbli/ *adv*: Presumably (= I suppose) *you would agree to giving him more responsibility.*

pre-sume /'priːzjuːm/ *US*: -'zuːm/ *vt, vi* suppose (to be true): *In Britain an accused man is ~d (to be) innocent until he is proved guilty.*

pre-sum-ing *adj* having, showing, a tendency to presume, to take an unfair advantage of.

pre-sump-tion /'priːzʌmpʃn/ *n* **1** [C] something which seems likely although there is no proof: *on the ~ that he was drowned.* **2** [U] arrogance: *What ~ to say that he is better than me!*

pre-sump-tive /'priːzʌmpʃɪv/ *adj* based on presumption(1): *the heir ~, person who is heir (to the throne, etc) until a person with a stronger claim is born.*

pre-sump-tu-ous /'priːzʌmpʃʊəs/ *adj* (of behaviour, etc) too self-confident.

pre-sump-tu-ous-ly *adv*

pre-sup-pose /'priːsə'pəʊz/ *vt* **1** assume be-

forehand. **2** require as a condition: *Sound sleep ~s a peaceful mind.*

pre-sup-po-si-tion /'priːsəpə'zɪʃn/ *n* [C] something presupposed; [U] presupposing.

pre-tence (*US* also **pre-tense**) /'priːtens/ *n* **1** [U] pretending: *under the ~ of friendship. It's all ~.* **2** [C] pretext or excuse; false claim or reason: *It is only a ~ of friendship.* **false pretences**, (legal) acts intended to deceive: *get money by/on/under false ~s.*

pre-tend /'priːtend/ *vt, vi* **1** make oneself appear (to be (doing) something), either in play or to deceive others: *~ to be asleep. They ~ed not to see us.* **2** say falsely that one has (as an excuse or reason, or to avoid danger, difficulty, etc): *~ sickness.*

pre-tend-er, person who has a claim (to a throne, etc) that not everyone agrees to.

pre-tense /'priːtens/ ⇨ pretence.

pre-tension /'priːtensn/ *n* **1** [C] '(often pl) (statement of a) claim: *He makes no ~s to expert knowledge of the subject.* **2** [U] being pretentious: *P ~ is his worst fault.*

pre-ten-tious /'priːtensjəs/ *adj* claiming (without justification) great merit or importance: *a ~ student/speech; use ~ language.*

pre-tentious-ly *adv*

pre-text /'priːtekst/ *n* [C] reason that is not true (for an action, etc): *find a ~ for refusal/refusing the invitation.*

pretty /'prɪti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** pleasing and attractive without being beautiful or magnificent: *a ~ girl/garden/picture/piece of music.* **2** fine; good: *A ~ mess you've made of it!* **3** (informal) large in amount or extent: *a ~ big fine for such a minor offence.* **a pretty kettle of fish**, a state of confusion. **(cost) a pretty penny**, ⇨ penny(1). □ *adv* to a certain extent: *The situation seems ~ hopeless. It's ~ cold outside.* **pretty much**, very nearly: *The result of the ballot is ~ much what we expected.* **pretty nearly**, almost: *The car is new, or ~ nearly so.* **pretty well**, almost: *We've ~ well finished the work.* **sitting pretty**, (informal) rich; favourably placed for future developments, etc.

pret-tily /'prɪtəli/ *adv*

pret-ti-ness *n* [U]

pre-vail /'priːveɪl/ *vi* **1** gain victory (over); fight successfully (against): *Truth will ~.* **2** be generally seen, done, etc: *the conditions now ~ing in Africa.* **3** persuade (a person to do): *~ on/upon a friend to lend you £10.*

pre-vail-ing *adj* most frequent or usual: *the ~ing winds/fashions.*

pre-va-lence /'prevələns/ *n* [U] being usual: *~ of bribery among officials.*

pre-va-lent /'prevələnt/ *adj* (formal) common, seen or done everywhere (at the time in question): *Is malaria still ~ in that country?*

pre-vari-cate /'priːværiːkeɪt/ *vi* (formal) make untrue or partly untrue statements (to

avoid telling the (whole) truth).

pre-vari-ca-tion /prɪˈværiˈkeɪʃn/ *n* [C,U].

pre-vent /prɪˈvent/ *vt* stop or hinder: *Who can ~ us from getting married/ ~ our getting married?*

pre-vent-able /-əbl/ *adj* that is able to be prevented.

pre-ven-tion /prɪˈvenʃn/ *n* [U] act of preventing: *P ~ is better than cure.*

pre-ven-tive /prɪˈventɪv/ *adj* serving or designed to prevent.

preventive custody, imprisonment of a person (eg before a trial) so that he may not commit further crimes.

preventive detention, detention without trial because a person is thought likely to commit crime or (in some countries) opposes the government.

preventive medicine, research into means of avoiding disease, illness.

pre-view /ˈpri:vju:/ *n* [C] view of a film, play, etc before it is shown to the general public. □ *vt* have/give a preview of.

pre-vi-ous /ˈpri:vɪəs/ *adj* coming earlier in time or order: *on a ~ occasion.* **previous to**, before.

pre-vious-ly *adv*

prey /preɪ/ *n* (sing only) animal, bird, etc hunted for food: *The eagle was eating its ~.* □ *vi* **1** take, hunt, as prey: *hawks ~ing on small birds.*

2 steal from; plunder: *Our ships were ~ed on/ upon by pirates.* **3** (of fears, etc) produce great trouble: *anxieties/losses that ~ on my mind.*

beast/bird of prey, one that kills and eats other animals, eg tigers, eagles.

price /praɪs/ *n* **1** [C] sum of money for which something is (to be) sold or bought: *What ~ are you asking?* **put a 'price on sb's head**, offer a reward for his capture (dead or alive). **2** [U] value; worth: *a pearl of great ~.* **3** [C] that which must be done, given or experienced to obtain or keep something: *Loss of independence is a high ~ to pay for peace!* □ *vt* fix, ask about, the price; mark (goods) with a price. **price oneself/one's goods out of the market**, (of manufacturers, producers) fix prices so high that orders decline or stop. ⇨ asking/list price.

'price-control, control or fixing of prices by a government, manufacturers, etc.

'price war, (informal) competition between tradesmen by using low prices to attract buyers.

price-less *adj* too valuable to be priced: *~less paintings.*

pricey /ˈpraɪsi/ *adj* (informal) expensive.

prick ¹ /prɪk/ *n* [C] **1** small mark or hole caused by the act of pricking: *~s made by a needle.* **2** pain caused by pricking: *I can still feel the ~.* **a prick of conscience**, mental uneasiness.

prick ² /prɪk/ *vt, vi* **1** make a hole or a mark in

(something) with a sharp point: *~ a blister*, on the skin. **2** hurt, cause pain to, with a sharp point or points: *~ one's finger with/on a needle.* **3** feel sharp pain: *My fingers ~.* **4** **prick sth out/off**, put (seedlings) in holes made with a pointed stick, etc. **5** (fig) cause uneasy feeling: *His conscience ~ed him.* **6** **prick up one's ears**, ⇨ ear¹(1).

prickle /ˈprɪkl/ *n* [C] pointed growth on the stem, etc of a plant, or on the skin of some animals, eg hedgehogs. □ *vt, vi* give or have a pricking sensation.

prick-ly /ˈprɪkli/ *adj* **(a)** having prickles. **(b)** (informal) easily irritated or annoyed.

prickly heat, inflammation of the sweat glands, marked by a pricking sensation, common in the tropics during the hot-weather season.

prickly pear, cactus covered with prickles and having pear-shaped fruit.

pride /praɪd/ *n* **1** [U] feeling of satisfaction arising from what one has done, or from persons, things, etc one is concerned with: *look with ~ at one's garden.* **take a great/no/little pride in**, have some/much/no/little pride about: *take (a) great ~ in one's achievements.* **pride of place**, a position of superiority. **2** [U] self-respect: knowledge of one's worth and character: *Don't say anything that may wound his ~.* **3** [U] object of pride(1): *a girl who is her mother's ~ and joy.* **4** [U] too high an opinion of oneself, one's position, possessions, etc: *be puffed up with ~.* **5 the ~**, prime: *in the full ~ of youth.* **6** [C] group: (esp) *a ~ of lions/peacocks.* □ *vi* (reflex) be pleased and satisfied about: *He ~s himself on his skill as a pianist.*

priest /praɪst/ *n* [C] **1** clergyman of a Christian Church, esp one who is between a deacon and a bishop in the Church of England or Roman Catholic Church. (Note: *clergyman* is usual in the Church of England, except in official use.) ⇨ minister for Methodist, Baptist, etc Churches. **2** (of non-Christian religions) person trained to perform special acts of religion, etc.

priest-ess /ˈpraɪstɪs/, woman priest(2).

'priest-hood /-hʊd/, the whole body of priests of a Church: *the Irish ~hood.*

priest-ly, **priest-like** *adj* of, for or like a priest.

prig /prɪg/ *n* [C] (dated) person showing too much self-satisfaction or pride.

prim /prɪm/ *adj* (-mer, -mest) **1** neat; formal: *a ~ garden.* **2** (of persons, their manner, speech, etc) showing a dislike of anything rough, rude, improper: *a very ~ and proper old lady.*

prim-ly *adv*

prima /ˈprɪmə/ *adj* (It) first.

'prima, 'balle'rina, leading woman performer in ballet.

prima donna /'dɒnə/, (a) leading woman singer in opera. (b) (informal) temperamental and conceited person.

primacy /'praɪməsi/ *n* [U] (esp) position of an archbishop.

primae-val /praɪ'mi:vl/ *adj* ⇨ primeval.

prima facie /praɪmə 'feɪʃi:/ *adv, adj* (Latin) (based) on the first impression: *have ~ a good (legal) case.*

prima facie evidence, (legal) sufficient to prove something (unless proved wrong).

prim-al /'praɪml/ *adj* (formal) **1** primeval. **2** first in importance.

pri-mar-ily /'praɪmərli/ *US: prai'merəli/ adv* in the first place; above all.

pri-mary /'praɪməri/ *US: -meri/ adj* leading in time, order or development: *of ~ (= chief) importance.* □ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (US) meeting of electors to name candidates for an election.

primary colour, red, blue or yellow, from which all other colours can be obtained by mixing two or more.

'primary school, (GB) for children aged 5 to 9 or 11.

primary stress, (marked ' in this dictionary) strongest stress(3) used in a word.

pri-mate¹ /'praɪmeɪt/ *n* [C] archbishop.

pri-mate² /'praɪmeɪt/ *n* [C] one of the highest order of mammals (including men, apes, monkeys and lemurs).

prime¹ /praɪm/ *adj* **1** chief; most important: *his ~ motive.* **2** excellent; first-rate: *~ (cuts of) beef.* **3** fundamental; primary.

the Prime Minister, head of the British Government.

prime number, divisible only by itself and the number 1 (eg 7, 17, 41).

prime² /praɪm/ *n* **1** [U] state of highest perfection; the best part: *in the ~ of life.* **2** [U] first or earliest part: *the ~ of the year, spring.*

prime³ /praɪm/ *vt* **1** get ready for use or action: *~ a gun*, (the old-fashioned kind) put in gunpowder, etc. **2** supply with facts, etc: *The witness had been ~d by a lawyer.* **3** cover (a surface) with the first coat of paint, oil, varnish, etc.

primer /'praɪmə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** small quantity of explosive, contained in a cap or cylinder, for igniting the powder in a cartridge, bomb, etc. **2** special paint for priming(3).

pri-me-val (also -mae-val) /praɪ'mi:vl/ *adj* **1** of the earliest time in the world's history. **2** very ancient: *~ forests.*

prim-ing /'praɪmɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** gunpowder used to fire the charge of a gun, bomb, mine, etc. **2** mixture used by painters for a first coat.

primitive /'prɪmɪtɪv/ *adj* **1** of the earliest times; of an early stage of social development: *~ man; ~ culture.* **2** simple; old-fashioned; having undergone little development: *~ weapons*, eg bows and arrows, spears. □ *n* [C] primitive man.

primi-tive-ly *adv*

pri-mor-dial /praɪ'mɔ:diəl/ *adj* in existence at or from the beginning: *~ forests.*

prim-rose /'prɪmroʊz/ *n* [C] common wild plant with pale yellow flowers: the flower; [U] its colour. □ *adj* pale yellow.

prim-ula /'prɪmjʊlə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) kinds of perennial herbaceous plants with flowers of various colours and sizes (including the primrose and polyanthus).

prince /prɪns/ *n* [C] **1** ruler, esp of a small state. **2** male member of a royal family, esp (in GB) a son or grandson of the Sovereign.

Prince Consort, husband of a reigning queen.

'prince-dom /-dəm/ *n* [C] rank or dignity of, area ruled by, a prince(1).

prince-ly *adj* (-ier, -iest) (worthy) of a prince; splendid; generous: *a ~ly gift.*

prin-cess /prɪn'ses/ *n* [C] wife of a prince; daughter or granddaughter of a sovereign.

prin-ci-pal /'prɪnsəpl/ *adj* highest in order of importance: *the ~ rivers of Europe.* □ *n* [C] **1** title of some heads of colleges and of some other organizations. **2** person for whom another acts as agent in business: *I must consult my ~.* **3** money lent, put into a business, etc on which interest is payable. **4** (legal) person directly responsible for a crime.

prin-ci-pally /-pli/ *adv* for the most part; chiefly.

prin-ci-pal-ity /prɪnsɪ'pæləti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) country ruled by a prince.

prin-ciple /'prɪnsəpl/ *n* [C] **1** basic truth; general law of cause and effect: *the (first) ~s of geometry.* **2** guiding rule for behaviour: *moral ~s.* **in principle**, (contrasted with *in detail*) in general: *I agree with you in ~.* **on principle**, from a moral motive: *He refuses to fight on ~.* **3** basic method of working of a machine, etc: *These machines work on the same ~.* **-prin-cipled** suffix following, having, the kind of principle(2) shown: *a high-~d woman*, very moral.

print¹ /prɪnt/ *n* **1** [U] mark(s), letters, etc in printed form. **in print**, (of a book) on sale. **out of print**, (of a book) no longer available.

2 [C] mark left on a surface preserving the shape, pattern, left by the pressure of something: *'finger-~s; 'foot-~s.* **3** [C] picture, design, etc made by printing on paper, etc: *old Japanese ~s.* **4** photograph printed from a negative. ⇨ blueprint.

print² /prɪnt/ *vt, vi* **1** make marks on (paper, etc) with inked type, etc; make books, pictures, etc in this way; (of a publisher, an editor, an author) cause to be printed: *~ 6000 copies of a novel.* **2** shape (one's letters), write (words), like printed characters (instead of ordinary handwriting). **3** make (a photograph) from a negative film or plate: *How many copies shall I ~ (off) for you?* **4** (of a plate or

film) be produced as the result of printing(3): *This film|plate|picture hasn't ~ed very well.* **5** mark (cloth) with a coloured design. **6** (fig) make an impression: *The accident ~ed itself on her memory.*

'print-out, printed output of a computer.

print-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be printed, suitable to be printed.

printer, workman who prints books, etc; (owner of a) printing business.

prior¹ /'praɪə(r)/ *adj* earlier in time, order or importance: *have a ~ claim (to the money).*

prior to, *prep* before: *The house was sold ~ to auction*, before the day of the auction.

prior² /'praɪə(r)/ *n* [C] head of a religious order or house; (in an abbey) person next below an abbot in rank.

prior-ess /'praɪəris/ *n* [C] woman prior.

pri-or-ity /praɪ'ɒrəti/ *US*: /-ɪr-/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] right to have or do something before others: *I have ~ over you in my claim.* **2** [C] high place among competing claims: *Road building is a first|is top ~.*

priory /'praɪəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) religious house governed by a prior or prioress.

prise (also **prize**) /praɪz/ *vt* use force to get something, eg a box, lid, open/up/off.

prism /'prɪzəm/ *n* [C] **1** solid figure with similar, equal and parallel ends, and with sides which are parallelograms. **2** solid of this form, usually triangular and made of glass, which breaks up white light into the colours of the rainbow.

pris-matic /prɪz'mætɪk/ *adj* **1** like, having the shape of, a prism. **2** (of colours) brilliant and varied.

prison /'prɪzn/ *n* [C] **1** building in which a person who commits a crime is kept locked up. **2** place where a person is shut up against his will. **3** [U] confinement in such a place: *escape|be released from ~.*

pris-oner, (a) person kept in prison for crime or until tried in a law court. (b) person, animal, kept in confinement: *political ~s*; *~s of conscience*, because of their religious, political, etc beliefs.

priv-acy /'prɪvəsi/ *US*: /'praɪ-/ *n* [U] **1** state of being away from others, alone and undisturbed: *I don't want my ~ disturbed.* **2** secrecy (opposite to publicity): *They were married in ~.*

pri-vate /'praɪvɪt/ *adj* **1** (opposite of *public*) of, for the use of, concerning, one person or group of persons, not people in general: *a ~ letter*; *for ~ reasons*, not to be explained to everybody; *~ means*, income not earned as a salary, etc but coming from personal property, investments, etc. **2** secret; kept secret: *have ~ information about it.* **3** having no official position; not holding any public office: *act in one's ~ capacity*, not as an official, etc. **4** (of a soldier) without rank: *P ~ Dodd*. □ **n** **1** [C] private soldier. **2** *in private*, not in

public: *talk in ~.*

'private ac-count, bank account opened by and drawn on by one person: *My wife and I have a joint account, and in addition we each have a ~ account.*

'private 'bill, bill brought before the House of Commons by an MP acting independently of his political party.

'private 'enterprise, the management of industry, etc by private individuals, companies, etc (contrasted with State ownership or control).

'private 'income, unearned income.

private member, (of the House of Commons) not a member with a position in the Government: *a ~ Member's motion*.

private parts (also *informal privates*), external sex organs.

private school, one at which fees are paid (contrasted with a State school).

private-ly *adv*

pri-va-tion /praɪ'veɪʃn/ *n* (formal) **1** [C,U] lack of the necessities of life; destitution: *fall ill through ~*; *suffering many ~s*. **2** [C] state of being deprived of something: *It was a great ~ not being allowed to smoke.*

privet /'prɪvɪt/ *n* [U] evergreen shrub used for garden hedges.

pri-vi-lege /'prɪvɪlɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [C] right or advantage available only to a person, class or rank, or the holder of a certain position, etc: *the ~s of birth*, eg that come because one is born into a wealthy family. **2** [C] special favour or benefit: *It was a ~ to hear her sing.* **3** [C,U] right to do or say things without risk of punishment, etc (as when Members of Parliament may say things in the House which might result in a libel case if said outside Parliament).

pri-vi-leged *adj* having, granted, a privilege.

privy /'prɪvɪ/ *adj* (old use or legal) secret; private. **'privy to**, having secret knowledge of: *~ to the plot against the President*.

the 'Privy 'Council, committee of persons appointed by the Sovereign, advising on some State affairs, but membership now being chiefly a personal dignity.

'Privy 'Councillor/'Counsellor, member of the Privy Council.

prize¹ /'praɪz/ *n* [C] **1** something (to be) awarded to one who succeeds in a competition, etc: *win first ~*. **2** (fig) anything struggled for or worth struggling for: *the ~s of life*. □ *vt* value highly: *my most ~d possessions*.

prize² /praɪz/ *vt* ⇨ prise.

pro /prəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) (informal) (short for) professional (player): *a ~ tennis ~*.

pro- /prəʊ/ *prefix* **1** supporting; in favour of: *pro-Chinese*. **2** acting for: *pro-vice-chancellor*.

the, pros and cons, the arguments for and against.

prob-abil-ity /ˌprɒbəˈbɪləti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] quality of being probable. **in all probability**, most probably. **2** [U] likelihood: *There is not much ~ of his succeeding.* **3** [C] (most) probable event or result: *What are the probabilities?*

prob-able /ˈprɒəbəl/ *adj* likely to happen or to prove true or correct: *the ~ result; a ~ winner.* □ *n* [C] person who will most likely be chosen, eg for a team.

prob-ably /-əbəl/ *adv*

prob-ate /ˈprəʊbeɪt/ *n* (legal) **1** [U] the official process of proving the validity of a will: *take out/grant ~ of a will.* **2** [C] copy of a will with a certificate showing that it is correct. □ *vt* (US) establish the validity of a will (GB = *prove*).

pro-ba-tion /ˈprəʊbeɪʃn/ *US*: ˈprəʊ-/ *n* [U] **1** testing of a person's conduct, abilities, qualities, etc before he is finally accepted for a position, admitted into a society, etc: *an officer on ~.* **2** system by which (esp young) offenders are allowed to go unpunished for their first offence while they continue to live without further breaking of the law: *be on/get three years' ~.*

prob-ation officer, official who watches over the behaviour of offenders who are on probation.

prob-a-tional /-əl/ *adj*

prob-a-tion-er, (a) hospital nurse receiving training and still on probation(1). (b) offender who is on probation(2).

probe /prəʊb/ *n* [C] **1** thin instrument with a blunt end, used by doctors for learning about the depth and direction of a wound, etc. **2** (journalism) investigation (into a scandal, etc). **3** object used to investigate an unknown area: *a space-~ to the moon.* □ *vt* **1** examine with a probe. **2** investigate or examine thoroughly (eg the causes of something).

prob-lem /ˈprɒbləm/ *n* [C] question to be solved or decided, esp something difficult: *mathematical ~s.*

prob-lem-atic /ˌprɒbləˈmætɪk/ *adj* (esp of a result) doubtful; that cannot be foreseen.

prob-lem-ati-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

pro-bos-cis /ˈprɒbɒsɪs/ *n* [C] (pl ~es) **1** elephant's trunk. **2** long part of the mouth of some insects.

pro-ced-ure /ˈprəʊsɪdʒə(r)/ *n* [C,U] (the regular) order of doing things, esp legal and political: *the usual ~ at committee meetings.*

pro-ced-ural /ˈprəʊsɪdʒərəl/ *adj*

pro-ceed /ˈprəʊsɪd/ *vi* **1** go forward; continue, go on: *Let us ~ to business/to the next item on the agenda.* **2** come, arise (from): *famine, plague and other evils ~ing from war.* **3** take legal action (against).

pro-ceed-ing /ˈprəʊsɪdɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] course of action; (way of) behaving: *What is our best way of ~?* **2** [C] something done: *There have*

been suspicious ~s in committee meetings. **3** (pl) legal action (against): *start legal ~s against a person.* **4** (pl) records (of the activities of a society, etc): *the P~s of the Archaeological Society.*

pro-ceeds /ˈprəʊsiːdz/ *n* pl financial results, profits, of an undertaking: *All the ~ will go to the Red Cross.*

pro-cess¹ /ˈprəʊses/ *US*: ˈprɒses/ *n* **1** [C] connected series of actions, changes, etc esp if they are involuntary or unconscious: *the ~es of digestion, reproduction and growth.* **2** [C] series of operations deliberately undertaken: *Unloading the cargo was a slow ~.* **3** [C] method, esp one used in manufacture or industry: *the ~ of melting iron.* **4** [U] forward movement; progress: *a building in ~ of construction.* **5** [C] (legal) action at law; formal start of this. □ *vt* **1** treat (material, food) in order to preserve it: ~ leather; ~ed cheese. **2** (photography): ~ film, develop it, etc. **3** (computers): ~ tape/information, put it through the system in order to obtain the information.

pro-cess² /ˈprəʊses/ *vi* (formal) walk in or as if in procession.

pro-ces-sion /ˈprəʊseɪʃn/ *n* **1** [C] number of persons, vehicles, etc moving forward and following each other in an orderly way: *a funeral ~.* **2** [U] act of moving forward in this way: *walking in ~ through the streets.*

pro-ces-sional /-ʃənl/ *adj* of, for, used in, processions: ~al music.

pro-claim /ˈprəʊkleɪm/ *vt* **1** make known publicly or officially; declare: ~ war/peace; ~ a man (to be) a traitor/that he is a traitor. **2** show (the usual word): *His accent ~ed that he was a Scot.*

proc-la-ma-tion /ˌprɒkləˈmeɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] proclaiming: *by public ~.* **2** [C] that which is proclaimed: *issue/make a ~.*

pro-con-sul /ˌprəʊˈkɒnsəl/ *n* [C] (modern use) governor of a colony or dominion.

pro-con-su-lar /ˌprəʊˈkɒnsjələ(r)/ *US*: -səl-/ *adj*

pro-con-su-late /-lət/ *n* [C] position of a proconsul; his term of office.

pro-cras-ti-nate /ˌprəʊˈkræstɪneɪt/ *vi* (formal) delay action: *He ~d until it was too late.*

pro-cras-ti-na-tion /ˌprəʊˈkræstɪˈneɪʃn/ *n* [U]

pro-create /ˈprəʊkreɪt/ *vt* (formal) give birth to.

pro-cre-ation /ˌprəʊkreɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

pro-cure /ˈprəʊkjʊə(r)/ *vi* (formal) **1** obtain, esp with care or effort: ~ an abortion. **2** (old use) bring about; cause: ~ his death by poison.

prod /prɒd/ *vt,vi* (-dd-) **1** push or poke with something pointed: ~ding (at) the bear through the bars of the cage. **2** (fig) urge an action: *I was always ~ding her to see her doctor.* □ *n* [C] prodding action: *She gave him a ~ with her umbrella.*

pro-di-gal /'prɒdɪɡl/ *adj* (formal) spending or using too much: *a ~ administration*, spending public funds too freely.

pro-di-gious /prə'dɪdʒəs/ *adj* enormous; 'surprisingly great; wonderful: *a ~ sum of money*.

pro-di-gious-ly *adv*

pro-di-gy /'prɒdɪdʒi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) something wonderful because it seems to be contrary to the laws of nature; person who has unusual or remarkable abilities or who is a remarkable example of something.

pro-duce¹ /'prɒdʒuːs/ *US*: -duːs/ *n* [U] that which is produced, esp by farming: *garden/farm/agricultural ~*.

pro-duce² /prə'djuːs/ *US*: -duːs/ *vt, vi* **1** put or bring forward to be looked at or examined: *~ one's railway ticket when asked to do so*. **2** manufacture; make; grow; create: *We must ~ more food and import less*. **3** give birth to; lay (eggs). **4** cause; bring about: *success ~d by hard work and enthusiasm*; *a film that ~d a sensation*. **5** organize (a play, film) for the stage, TV, etc.

pro-ducer /prə'djuːsə(r)/ *US*: -duː-/ *n* [C] **1** person who manufactures goods (contrasted with the consumer). **2** person responsible for presenting a play in the theatre or for the production of a film or a radio or TV programme. ⇨ director.

prod-uct /'prɒdʌkt/ *n* [C] **1** thing produced (by nature or by man): *metal ~s from Germany*. **2** result; outcome: *The plan was the ~ of many hours of careful thought*. **3** (maths) quantity obtained by multiplication. **4** (chem) substance obtained by chemical reaction.

pro-duc-tion /prə'dʌkʃn/ *n* [U] process of producing: *the ~ of crops/manufactured goods*. ⇨ mass production. **2** [U] quantity produced: *a fall/increase in ~*. **3** [C] thing produced: *his early ~s as a writer*, his first novels, plays, etc.

pro-duc-tive /prə'dʌktɪv/ *adj* **1** able to produce; fertile: *~ land*. **2** resulting in: *~ of happiness*. **3** producing things economically: *~ methods*.

pro-duc-tive-ly *adv*

pro-duc-tiv-ity /prə'dʌk'tɪvəti/ *n* [U] being productive; power of being productive: *a ~ bonus for workers*.

productivity agreement, (as part of a wage settlement) better pay and conditions for an increased output.

pro-fane /prə'feɪn/ *US*: prəu-/ *adj* **1** (formal) (contrasted with *sacred*, *holy*) worldly: *~ literature*. **2** having or showing contempt for God and sacred things: *~ language*. □ *vt* treat (sacred or holy places, things) with contempt, without proper reverence: *~ the name of God*.

pro-fane-ly *adv*

pro-fane-ity /prə'fæniəti/ *US*: prəu-/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] use of profane conduct, speech or lan-

guage. **2** (pl) profane language.

pro-fess /prə'fes/ *vt, vi* **1** declare that one has (beliefs, likes, ignorance, interests, etc): *He ~ed a great interest in my welfare*. **2** declare one's faith in (a religion, Christ): *~ Islam*. **3** claim; represent oneself: *I don't ~ to be an expert on that subject*.

pro-fessed *adj* **(a)** self-confessed: *a ~ed Christian*. **(b)** having taken religious vows: *a ~ed nun*.

pro-fes-sion /prə'feʃn/ *n* [C] **1** occupation, esp one needing advanced education and special training, eg the law, teaching, medicine. **2** statement or declaration (of belief, feeling, etc): *~s of faith/loyalty*.

pro-fes-sional /prə'feʃnəl/ *adj* **1** of a profession (1): *~ skill*; *~ men*, eg doctors, lawyers. **2** doing or practising something for payment or to make a living: *~ football*. ⇨ amateur. □ *n* [C] **1** (abbr = **pro**) person who teaches or engages in some kind of sport for money. **2** person who does something for payment that others do (without payment) for pleasure: *~ musicians*. **turn professional**, become a professional.

pro-fes-sion-ally /-nəli/ *adv*

pro-fes-sion-al-ism /-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] **(a)** high standard of a profession (1). **(b)** the practice of employing professionals (2) to play games.

prof-es-sor /prə'fesə(r)/ *n* [C] university teacher at the highest level, holding a chair of some branch of learning; (US also) teacher or instructor.

prof-es-sor-ial /prə'fɛsəriəl/ *adj*

prof-es-sor-ship /-ʃɪp/ professor's post.

prof-fer /'prɒfə(r)/ *vt* (formal) offer.

pro-fi-ciency /prə'fɪʃnsi/ *n* [U] being skilled: *a certificate of ~ in English*.

pro-fi-cient /prə'fɪʃnt/ *adj* skilled: *~ in using a calculator*.

pro-fi-cient-ly *adv*

pro-file /'prəʊfaɪl/ *n* [C] **1** side view, esp of the head. **2** edge or outline of something seen against a background. **3** brief biography, as given in a periodical or on TV. □ *vt* draw, show, in profile.

profit¹ /'prɒfɪt/ *n* **1** [U] advantage or good obtained from something: *gain ~ from one's studies*. **2** [C, U] money gained in business, etc: *sell a bike at a ~*; *gross/net ~*.

'profit-margin, difference between the cost of purchase or production and the selling price.

'profit-sharing, the sharing of profits between employers and employees.

profit-less *adj*

profit² /'prɒfɪt/ *vt, vi* (of persons) gain or be helped: *I have ~ed by your advice*.

prof-it-able /'prɒfɪtəbl/ *adj* **1** bringing profit: *~ investments*. **2** (fig) useful: *a deal that was ~ to all of us*.

prof-it-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

profi-teer /ˌprɒfɪˈtiə(r)/ *vi* make large profits, esp by taking advantage in times of difficulty, eg in war. □ *n* [C] person who does this.

pro-li-gate /ˈprɒlɪɡət/ *adj* (formal) **1** (of a person, his behaviour) shamelessly immoral. **2** (formal) (of the spending of money) very extravagant: ~ of one's inheritance. □ *n* [C] such a person.

pro-found /prəˈfaʊnd/ *adj* **1** (formal) deep: a ~ sleep. **2** needing, showing, having, great knowledge: a man of ~ learning. **3** needing much thought to understand: ~ mysteries.

pro-found-ly *adv* deeply: ~ly grateful.

pro-fun-dity /prəˈfʌndəti/ *n* [U] (formal) depth: the ~ of his knowledge.

pro-fuse /prəˈfjuːs/ *adj* (formal) **1** very plentiful: ~ gratitude. **2** extravagant: He was ~ in his apologies, apologized almost too much.

pro-fuse-ly *adv*

pro-fu-sion /prəˈfjuːʒn/ *n* [U] (formal) great supply: flowers in ~.

pro-ge-ni-tor /prəʊˈdʒenɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] (formal) = ancestor.

pro-geny /ˈprɒdʒəni/ *n* (collective sing) (formal) offspring; descendants.

prog-no-sis /prɒɡˈnəʊsɪs/ *n* [C] (pl -noses [-sɪz]) (med) forecast of the probable course of a disease or illness. ⇨ diagnosis.

prog-nos-tic /prɒɡˈnɒstɪk/ *adj*, *n* [C] (formal) (that which is) warning, indicating, etc: ~ of failure.

prog-nos-ti-cate /prɒɡˈnɒstɪkeɪt/ *vt* (formal) predict: ~ trouble.

prog-nos-ti-ca-tion /ˌprɒɡˈnɒstɪˈkeɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

pro-gram-me (also and US -gram) /ˈprəʊɡræm/ *n* [C] **1** list of items, events, etc, eg for a concert, for radio or TV or for a sports meeting; list of names of singers at a concert, actors in a play, etc. **2** plan of what is to be done: a political ~. What's the ~ for tomorrow? What are we/you going to do? **3** coded collection of information, data, etc fed into a computer. □ *vi* make a programme of or for; plan.

pro-gram-mer, person who prepares a computer programme.

prog-ress¹ /ˈprəʊɡres/ *US*: 'prɒɡ-/ *n* **1** [U] forward movement; improvement; development: making fast ~. **in progress**, being made, done. **make good progress**, (a) (of health) improve satisfactorily. (b) (of a task) do it well.

pro-gress² /prəˈɡres/ *vi* make progress: The work is ~ing steadily. She is ~ing well in her studies.

pro-gres-sion /prəˈɡresʃn/ *n* [U] moving forward; improvement.

pro-gress-ive /prəˈɡresɪv/ *adj* **1** making continuous forward movement. **2** increasing by regular amounts: ~ taxation. **3** (of a disease) getting worse. **4** improving; supporting

or favouring reform, modernization: a ~ political party. □ *n* [C] person supporting a progressive (political) policy.

pro-gress-ive-ly *adv*

pro-hib-it /prəˈhɪbɪt/ *US*: prəʊ-/ *vt* say that something must not be done, that somebody must not do something: Smoking is strictly ~ed in libraries.

pro-hib-ition /ˌprəʊɪˈbɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] prohibiting. **2** [C] law or order that forbids: a ~ against smoking.

pro-hi-bit-ive /prəˈhɪbɪtɪv/ *US*: prəʊ-/ *adj* **1** intended to prevent use or abuse: ~ laws to stop racialism. **2** (informal) have the effect of prohibiting: ~ prices.

pro-ject¹ /ˈprɒdʒekt/ *n* [C] (plan for a) scheme or undertaking: a ~ to study community welfare.

pro-ject² /prəˈdʒekt/ *vt, vi* **1** make plans for: ~ a new dam/waterworks. **2** cause a shadow, an outline, a picture from a film, slide, etc to fall on a surface, etc: ~ a beam of light on to a wall. **3** say a person has feelings (usually unpleasant ones such as guilt, inferiority) that one has oneself: She always ~s her own bad temper onto her colleagues. **4** make known the characteristics of: Does the BBC World Service adequately ~ Great Britain, give listeners right ideas about British life, etc? **5** throw; send: to ~ missiles into space. **6** draw (a solid thing) on a flat surface using straight lines through every point of it from a centre; make (a map) in this way. **7** stand out beyond the surface nearby: a balcony that ~s over the street.

pro-jec-tile /prəˈdʒektaɪl/ *US*: -tl/ *n* [C] something (to be) sent forward, esp from a gun or launching-pad.

pro-jec-tion /prəˈdʒekʃn/ *n* [C] the act of projecting (all senses); [C] something that projects or has been projected.

pro-jec-tion room, (in a cinema) room from which pictures are projected on to the screen.

pro-jec-tion-ist /-ʃənɪst/, person who, in a cinema, projects the films on to the screen.

pro-jec-tor /prəˈdʒektə(r)/ *n* [C] apparatus for projecting pictures by rays of light on to a screen: a ~cinema/slide ~.

pro-let-ar-iat /ˌprəʊlɪˈtəriət/ *n* [C] (modern use) the wage-earners contrasted with the owners of industry and capital (called the bourgeoisie).

pro-let-ar-ian /-iən/ *n* [C], *adj* (member) of the proletariat.

pro-lif-er-ate /prəˈlɪfəreɪt/ *US*: prəʊ-/ *vi, vt* (formal) **1** reproduce, by rapid multiplication of cells, new parts, etc. **2** (fig) reproduce; exist in large numbers: guerrillas proliferating in the hills.

pro-lif-er-ation /prəˈlɪfəˈreɪʃn/ *US*: prəʊ-/ *n* [U]

pro-lif-ic /prəˈlɪfɪk/ *adj* (formal) producing

much or many: *a ~ author*.

pro-logue /'prəʊlɒg/ *US*: -lɒ:g/ *n* [C] **1** introductory (part of a) poem: *the 'P~' to the 'Canterbury Tales'*. **2** (fig) first of a series of events.

pro-long /prə'lɒŋ/ *US*: -lɒ:g/ *vt* make longer: *~ a visit*.

pro-longed *adj* continuing for a long time: *a ~ed discussion*.

pro-long-a-tion /,prə'lɒŋ'geɪʃn/ *US*: -lɒ:ŋ-/ *n* [C, U]

prom-en-ade /,prɒm'eɪd/ *US*: -'neɪd/ *n* [C] **1** (place suitable for, made for, a) walk or ride taken in public, for exercise or pleasure, esp along the waterfront at a seaside resort. **2** (*US*) formal dance or ball (for a class in a high school or college). □ *vi, vt* go, take, up and down a promenade.

promi-nence /'prɒmɪnəns/ *n* **1** [U] the state of being prominent. **2** [C] prominent **(1)** part or place: *a ~ in the middle of a plain*.

promi-nent /'prɒmɪnənt/ *adj* **1** standing out; easily seen: *~ cheekbones*; *the most ~ feature in the landscape*. **2** (of persons) distinguished: *~ politicians*. **3** important: *play a ~ part in public life*.

promi-nent-ly *adv*

prom-is-cu-ity /,prɒmɪ'skju:əti/ *n* [U] (state of) being promiscuous.

pro-mis-cu-ous /prə'mɪskjuəs/ *adj* (esp) indiscriminate; casual (esp in sexual relationships): *~ teenagers*.

pro-mis-cu-ous-ly *adv*

prom-ise /'prɒmɪs/ *n* **1** [C] written or spoken undertaking to do, or not to do, give, something, etc: *make/give/keep/carry out/break a ~*. ⇨ moon¹ **(2)**. **2** [C] that which one undertakes to do, etc: *It was a ~ so I'm doing it*. **3** [C] (something that gives) hope of success or good results: *a writer who shows much ~, seems likely to succeed*.

prom-ise /'prɒmɪs/ *vt, vi* **1** make a promise **(1)** to: *He ~d (me) to be here/that he would be here at 6 o'clock*. **2** give cause for expecting: *The clouds ~ rain*.

prom-is-ing *adj* likely to succeed, have (the possibility of) good results, etc: *make a promising start as a student*.

prom-on-tory /'prɒməntri/ *US*: -tɔ:ri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) high point of land standing out from the coastline.

pro-mote /prə'məʊt/ *vt* **1** give (a person) higher position or rank: *He was ~d sergeant/to sergeant/to the rank of sergeant*. **2** help to organize and start; help the progress of: *try to ~ good feelings (between...)*.

pro-mo-ter, (esp) person who supports with money, etc new trading companies, professional sports, etc.

pro-mo-tion /prə'məʊʃn/ *n* **1** [U] promoting or being promoted: *He has got/gained ~*. **2** [C] instance of promoting or being promoted: *He resigned because ~s were few*. **3** advertising

using publicity, etc: *'sales ~, advertising, publicizing, one's products*.

prompt /'prɒmpt/ *adj* acting, done, sent, given, without delay: *a ~ reply*; *at 6pm ~*.

prompt-ly *adv*

prompt-ness *n* [U]

prompt /'prɒmpt/ *vt* **1** be the reason causing (a person to do something): *He was ~ed by patriotism*. **2** follow the text of a play and tell (an actor) what to say if he forgets. □ *n* [C] action of prompting **(2)**.

prompt-er, person who prompts actors.

prom-ul-gate /'prɒmlgeɪt/ *vt* (*formal*) **1** make public, announce officially (a decree, a new law, etc). **2** make known beliefs, knowledge.

prom-ul-ga-tion /,prɒml'geɪʃn/ *n* [U]

prone /prəʊn/ *adj* **1** (stretched out, lying) face downwards: *in a ~ position*. **2** *prone to*, have a tendency: *~ to accidents* (and other generally undesirable things). *Some people seem to be 'accident' ~*.

prong /prɒŋ/ *US*: prɔ:ŋ/ *n* [C] (something like) one of the long, pointed parts of a fork.

pro-noun /'prəʊnaʊn/ *n* [C] word used in place of a noun or noun phrase, eg *he, it, hers, me, them* (marked *pron* in this dictionary).

pro-nounce /prə'naʊns/ *vt, vi* **1** make the sound of (a word, etc): *The 'b' in 'debt' is not ~d*. **2** declare, announce (esp formally, solemnly or officially): *Has judgement been ~d yet?* **3** (*formal*) declare as one's opinion: *He ~d himself in favour of the plan*. **4** (*legal*) pass judgement (in a law court): *~ for/against him*.

pro-nounce-able /-əbl/ *adj* (of sounds, words) that can be pronounced.

pro-nounced *adj* definite; easy to notice: *a man of ~d opinions/with a ~d foreign accent*.

pro-nounce-ment *n* [C] formal statement or declaration.

pro-nun-ci-ation /prə'naʊnsɪ'eɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] way in which a language is spoken: *the ~ of English*. **2** [U] person's way of speaking a language, or words of a language: *His ~ is improving*. **3** [C] way in which a word is pronounced: *Which of these ~s do you recommend?*

proof /'pru:f/ *adj* **proof (against)**, giving safety or protection; able to resist: *~ against bullets*; *'bullet-~'*; *'water-~'*; *'sound-~'*; *'splinter-~'*; (fig) *~ against temptation*. ⇨ foolproof. □ *vt* make safe or resistant (esp make cloth waterproof).

proof /'pru:f/ *n* **1** [U] evidence (in general), or [C] a particular piece of evidence, that is sufficient to show that something is a fact: *Is there any ~ that the accused man was at the scene of the crime?* **2** [U] demonstrating; testing of whether something is true, is a fact, etc: *He produced documents in ~ of his claim*. **3** [C] test, trial, examination. **4** [C] trial copy of

something printed or engraved, for approval before other copies are printed. **5** [U] standard of strength of distilled alcoholic liquors: *This rum is 30 per cent ~.*

prop¹ /prɒp/ *n* [C] **1** support used to keep something up: *a clothes-~, holding up a line on which laundered clothes are drying.* **2** (fig) person who supports another person: *He is the ~ of his parents in their old age.* □ *vt* (-pp-) **1** support; keep in position: *Use this box to ~ the door open/to ~ up the ladder.* **3** (fig) support: *He can't always expect his colleagues to ~ him up.*

prop² /prɒp/ *n* [C] (usually *pl*) (abbr of) (stage) property(5).

propa-ganda /prɒpə'gændə/ *n* [U] (means of, methods for the) spreading of information, doctrines, ideas, etc: *political ~;* (used as an adjective) *~ plays/films.*

propa-gan-dize (also -ise) /-daɪz/ *vi* engage in propaganda.

propa-gate /'prɒpəgeɪt/ *vt, vi* (formal) **1** increase the number of (plants, animals, diseases) by natural process from the parent stock: *Trees ~ themselves by seeds.* **2** spread more widely: *~ news/knowledge.* **3** (of animals and plants) reproduce.

propa-ga-tion /prɒpə'geɪʃn/ *n* [U] propagating: *the propagation of disease by insects.*

pro-pel /prə'pel/ *vt* (-ll-) force to move forward: *a boat ~led by oars.*

pro-pel-lant, (or -lent) /-ənt/ *adj, n* [C] something used to produce forward motion, eg fuel that burns to fire a rocket, etc.

pro-pel-ler, two or more blades which turn to move a ship, helicopter, an aircraft, etc.

propelling pencil, pencil with a lead that can be extended by turning the outer casing.

prop-en-sity /prə'pensəti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (formal) natural tendency: *a ~ to exaggerate.*

proper /'prɒpə(r)/ *adj* **1** right, correct, fitting, suitable: *Are you doing it the ~ way? Is this the ~ tool for the job?* **2** in conformity with, paying regard to, the conventions of society: *~ behaviour.* **3** (placed after the noun) strictly so called; genuine: *architecture ~*, excluding, for example, the question of water-supply, electric current, etc. **4** (informal) great: *We're in a ~ mess.*

proper fraction, (eg $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$) one in which the number above the line is smaller than that below the line.

proper noun/name, (gram) name used for an individual person, town, object, place, etc eg *Mary, Prague, Mars.*

proper-ly *adv* (a) in a correct manner: *behave ~ly.* (b) (informal) thoroughly: *He was ~ly beaten by the champion.*

prop-erty /'prɒpəti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] (collectively) things owned; possessions: *Don't take my bike—it's not your ~.* **2** [C] area of land or land and buildings: *He has a small ~ (eg a*

house) *in Kent.* **3** [U] ownership; the fact of owning or being owned: *P ~ has its obligations*, eg you must look after it. **4** [C] special quality that belongs to something: *the chemical properties of iron.* **5** (theatre) (abbr *prop*) article of dress or furniture or other thing (except scenery) used on the stage in the performance of a play.

prop-er-tied /'prɒpətɪd/ *adj* owning property, esp land.

proph-ecy /'prɒfɪsi/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] power of telling what will happen in the future: *have the gift of ~.* **2** [C] statement that tells what will happen: *His ~ came true.*

proph-esy /'prɒfɪsaɪ/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** say what will happen: *~ war/that war will break out.* **2** speak as a prophet.

prophet /'prɒfɪt/ *n* [C] **1** person who teaches religion and claims that his teaching comes to him directly from God: *the ~ Isaiah.* **2** pioneer of a new theory, cause, etc: *William Morris, one of the early ~s of socialism.* **3** person who tells, or claims to tell, what will happen in the future: *I'm not a good ~ weather-~.*

prophet-ess /'prɒfɪtəs/ *n* [C] woman prophet.

pro-phetic /prə'fetik/ *adj* of a prophet or prophecy: *Her dreams were ~.*

pro-pheti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

pro-pi-ti-ate /prə'pɪʃiət/ *vt* (formal) do something to take away the anger of; win the favour or support of: *offer a sacrifice to ~ the gods.*

pro-pi-ti-ation /prə'pɪʃi'eɪʃn/ *n* [U]

pro-pi-ti-at-ory /prə'pɪʃiətəri/ *US*: -tɔːri/ *adj*

pro-pi-tious /prə'pɪʃəs/ *adj* (formal) favourable: *~ weather.*

pro-pi-tious-ly *adv*

prop-or-tion /prə'pɔːʃn/ *n* **1** [U] relation of one thing to another in quantity, size, etc; relation of a part to the whole: *The ~ of imports to exports is worrying the government.* **in proportion to**, relative to: *payment in ~ to work done.* **get sth/be out of proportion (to)**, (make it) bear no relation (to): *When you're angry, you often get things out of ~, have an exaggerated view of things.* **2** [C] part; share: *You have not done your ~ of the work.* **3** (often *pl*) the correct relation of parts or of the sizes of the several parts: *a room of good ~s.* **4** (*pl*) size; measurements: *export trade of substantial ~s.* **5** (maths) equality of relationship between two sets of numbers; statement that two ratios are equal (eg 4 is to 8 as 6 is to 12). □ *vt* (formal) put into a correct relationship: *Do you ~ your expenditure to your income?*

prop-or-tion-able /-ʃənəbl/ *adj* = proportional.

prop-or-tional /prə'pɔːʃnəl/ *adj* (formal) corresponding in degree or amount (to): *payment ~ to the work done.*

prop,ortional ,represen'tation, system

of voting so that parties have a number of representatives corresponding to the size of their success in the election.

pro-portion-ally /prə'pɔ:ʃənəl/ *adv*

pro-portion-ate /prə'pɔ:ʃənət/ *adj* (formal) = proportional.

pro-portion-ate-ly *adv*

pro-po-sal /prə'pəʊzəl/ *n* **1** [U] proposing. **2** [C] plan or scheme: *a ~ for peace*. **3** [C] offer (esp of marriage): *five ~s in one week*.

pro-pose /prə'pəʊz/ *vt, vi* **1** offer or put forward for consideration, as a suggestion, plan or purpose: *I ~ starting early/an early start/that we should start early*. **2** offer (marriage). **3** put forward (a person's name) for an office; nominate: *I ~ Mr Smith for chairman*.

pro-poser, person who proposes.

prop-osition /prəpə'zɪʃn/ *n* [C] **1** statement; assertion: *a ~ stated so well that it needs no explanation*. **2** question or problem (with or without the answer or solution): *Tunnelling under the English Channel is a big ~*. **3** (informal) matter to be dealt with, esp something immoral or illegal, eg an indecent suggestion made to a girl. \square *vi* (sl) make a proposition (3) to.

pro-pound /prə'paʊnd/ *vt* (formal) offer for consideration or solution: *~ a theory*.

pro-pri-etary /prə'praɪətəri/ *US: -teri/* *adj* owned or controlled by somebody; held as property: *a ~ name*, eg Kodak for cameras and films.

pro-pri-eter /prə'praɪətə(r)/ *n* [C] owner, esp of a hotel, store, land or patent.

pro-pri-ess /prə'praɪətrɪs/ *n* [C] woman proprietor.

pro-pri-ety /prə'praɪəti/ *n* (pl -ies) (formal) **1** [U] state of being correct in behaviour and morals: *a breach of ~*. **2** (pl) details of correct social behaviour: *observe the proprieties*. **3** [U] reasonableness; fitness: *I question the ~ of granting such a request*, doubt whether it is right to do so.

pro-pul-sion /prə'pʌlʃn/ *n* [U] propelling force.

pro rata /prəu 'rɑ:tə/ *adv* (Latin) according to the share, etc of each.

pro-rogue /prə'rəʊg/ *vt* bring (a session of Parliament) to an end without dissolving it (so that unfinished business may be taken up again in the next session).

pro-ro-ga-tion /prəu'rə'geɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

pro-saic /prə'zeɪk/ *adj* (formal) dull; uninteresting; commonplace: *a ~ husband*.

pro-sai-cally /-kli/ *adv*

pro-scenium /prə'si:niəm/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) (theatre) that part of a stage between the curtain and the orchestra; an enclosing arch.

pro-scribe /prə'skraɪb/ *vt* **1** denounce (a person, practice, etc) as dangerous. **2** (old use) publicly put (a person) out of the protection of the law.

pro-scrip-tion /prə'skrɪpʃn/ *US: prəʊ-/* *n* [U] proscribing or being proscribed; [C] instance of this.

prose /prəʊz/ *n* [U] language not in verse form. \Rightarrow poetry.

pros-ecute /'prɒsɪkjʊt/ *vt* start legal proceedings against: *Trespassers will be ~d*.

pros-ecu-tion /prɒsɪ'kju:ʃn/ *n* **1** [U] prosecuting or being prosecuted: *make oneself liable to ~*; [C] instance of this: *start a ~ against him*. **2** (collective) person and his advisers who prosecute: *the case for the ~*. \Rightarrow defence (3).

pros-ecutor /'prɒsɪkjʊ:tə(r)/ *n* [C] person who prosecutes.

pros-pect ¹ /'prɒspekt/ *n* **1** [C] wide view over land or sea. **2** [C] (fig) broad view before the mind, in the imagination. **3** (pl) something expected, hoped for, looked forward to: *There are bright ~s for me if I accept the job*. **4** [U] expectation; hope: *I see no/little/not much ~ of his recovery*. **5** [C] possible customer or client: *He's a good ~*.

pros-pect ² /'prɒspekt/ *US: 'prɒspekt/* *vi* search (for): *~ing for gold*.

pros-pec-tive /'prɒspektɪv/ *adj* hoped for; anticipated: *a ~ buyer*; *the ~ Labour candidate*.

pros-pec-tor /'prɒspektə(r)/ *n* [C] person who explores a region looking for gold or other valuable ores, etc.

pro-spec-tus /prə'spektʌs/ *n* [C] (pl ~es) printed leaflet advertising something, eg a book about to be published.

pros-per /'prɒspə(r)/ *vi, vt* succeed; do well: *The business ~ed*.

pros-per-ity /prɒ'sperəti/ *n* [U] state of being successful; good fortune: *a life of happiness and ~*; *live in ~*.

pros-per-ous /'prɒspərəs/ *adj* successful; rich: *a ~ business*; *~ years*.

pros-per-ous-ly *adv*

pros-ti-tute /'prɒstɪtju:t/ *US: -tu:t/* *n* [C] person who offers herself or himself for sexual intercourse for payment. \square *vi* **1** (reflexive) make a prostitute of (oneself). **2** put to wrong or unworthy uses: *~ one's reputation*, lose it; *~ one's talents*, use in an unworthy cause.

pros-ti-tu-tion /'prɒstɪ'tju:ʃn/ *US: -'tu:-/* *n* [U] practice of prostituting.

pros-trate /'prɒstreɪt/ *adj* lying stretched out on the ground, usually face downward, eg because exhausted, or to show submission or deep respect. **2** (fig) overcome (with grief, etc); conquered. \square *vi* /'prɒstreɪt/ *US: 'prɒstreɪt/* **1** make oneself, cause to be, prostrate: *trees ~d by the gale*. **2** make helpless: *She is ~d with grief*.

pros-tra-tion /prɒ'streɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

pro-tag-on-ist /prəʊ'tæɡənɪst/ *n* [C] (formal) chief person in a drama; (by extension) chief person in a story or factual event.

pro-tect /prə'tekt/ *vt* keep safe (from danger,

enemies; against attack): *well ~ed from the cold/against the weather.*

pro-tec-tion /prə'tekʃn/ *n* [U] **1** protecting or being protected: *These plants need ~ against the sun.* **2** [U] system of protecting home industry against foreign competition. **3** [C] person or thing that protects: *wearing a heavy coat as a ~ against the cold.*

pro-tec-tive /prə'tektiv/ *adj* **1** giving protection: *a ~ covering.* **2** **protective (to-wards)**, (of persons) with a wish to protect: *A mother will naturally feel ~ towards her children.*

pro-tec-tive-ly *adv*

pro-tec-tor /prə'tektə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who protects. **2** something made or designed to give protection.

pro-tec-tor-ate /prə'tektətə(r)/ *n* [C] country which is under the protection of one of the great powers.

pro-tégé (feminine = **-gée**) /'prɒtʒeɪ/ *US*: /prəʊ'tʒeɪ/ *n* [C] person to whom another gives protection and help (usually over a long period).

pro-tein /'prəʊti:n/ *n* [C,U] body-building substance essential to good health, in such foods as milk, eggs, meat, fish.

pro-test ¹/prə'test/ *n* [C,U] statement of disapproval or objection: *He paid without ~, without making any objection.* **2** (as an adjective) expressing protest: *a ~ march.*

pro-test ²/prə'test/ *vt,vi* **1** affirm strongly; assert against opposition: *He ~ed his innocence.* **2** raise an objection, say something (against): *I ~ against being called an old fool.*

pro-tester, person who protests.

pro-test-ing-ly *adv*

Pro-tes-tant /'prɒtɪst/ *n* *adj* (member) of any of the Christian groups that separated from the Church of Rome at the time of the Reformation (16th century), or their later branches.

pro-tes-ta-tion /'prɒtɪsteɪʃn/ *n* [C] (formal) serious declaration: *~s of innocence.*

pro-to-col /'prəʊtəkəl/ *n* **1** [C] first or original draft of an agreement (esp between States), signed by those making it, in preparation for a treaty. **2** [U] code of behaviour as practised on diplomatic occasions: *Was the seating arranged according to ~?*

pro-ton /'prəʊtɒn/ *n* [C] positively charged particle forming part of an atomic nucleus. ⇨ electron.

pro-to-type /'prəʊtəʊp/ *n* [C] first or original example from which others have been or will be copied or developed.

pro-to-zoa /'prəʊtə'zəʊə/ *n* *pl* (division of the animal kingdom consisting of) animals of the simplest type formed of a single cell.

pro-tract /prə'trækt/ *US*: prəʊ-/ *vt* lengthen the time taken by: *a ~ed visit/argument.*

pro-trac-tion /prə'trækʃn/ *US*: prəʊ-/ *n* [U]

lengthening out.

pro-trac-tor /prə'træktə(r)/ *US*: prəʊ-/ *n* [C] instrument, usually a semicircle, marked (0° to 180°) for measuring and drawing angles.

pro-trude /prə'truːd/ *US*: prəʊ-/ *vi,vi* (cause to) stick out or project: *protruding teeth.*

pro-tru-sion /prə'truːʒn/ *US*: prəʊ-/ *n* [U] protruding; [C] something that protrudes.

pro-tru-sive /prə'truːsɪv/ *US*: prəʊ-/ *adj* protruding.

pro-tu-ber-ance /prə'tjuːbəəns/ *US*: prəʊ-/ *n* (formal) [U] bulging; [C] bulge or swelling.

pro-tu-ber-ant /prə'tjuːbəərənt/ *US*: prəʊ-/ *adj* (formal) curving or swelling outwards; bulging.

proud /praʊd/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (in a good sense) having or showing a proper pride or dignity: *~ of their success/of being so successful.* **2** (in a bad sense) having or showing too much pride: *He was too ~ to join our party.* **3** of which one is or may be properly proud; splendid: *It was a ~ day for the school when its team won the national chess championship.* ⇨ houseproud.

proud-ly *adv*

prov-able /'pruːvəbl/ *adj* that can be proved.

prove /'pruːv/ *vt,vi* (pp ~d, or, as below, ~n /'pruːvən/) **1** supply proof of; show beyond doubt to be true: *~ that he is guilty. Can you ~ it (to me)? His guilt was easily ~n.* **The exception proves the rule**, the theory, etc is valid in most cases (and so it is useful). **2** establish the genuineness, quality or accuracy of: *~ a man's worth.* **3** be seen or found (to be): *The new typist ~d (to be) useless. Our wood supply ~d (to be) insufficient.*

prov-erb /'prɒvəːb/ *n* [C] popular short saying, with words of advice or warning, eg 'It takes two to make a quarrel'.

prov-erb-ial /prə'vɜːbiəl/ *adj* widely known and talked about: *His stupidity is ~ial.*

prov-erbi-ally /-əli/ *adv*

pro-vide /prə'vaɪd/ *vi,vi* **1** give, supply (what is needed or useful, esp what a person needs in order to live): *providing the children with food; ~ food and clothes for the family.* **2** do what is necessary: *~ against the risk of infection.* **3** state: *The agreement ~s that the tenant shall pay for repairs to the building.*

pro-vider, person who provides.

pro-vided /prə'vaɪdɪd/ *conj* on condition (that): *I'll come ~ that he stays away.*

pro-vid-ence /'prɒvɪdəns/ *n* **1** P ~ God, as believed to be the supreme creator, and all his supposed actions. **2** [U] (old use) thrift; being provident or prudent (about future needs).

pro-vid-ent /'prɒvɪdənt/ *adj* (formal) (careful in) providing for future needs or events, esp in old age.

pro-vid-ent-ly *adv*

pro-vid-ing /prə'vaɪdɪŋ/ *conj* = provided.

prov-ince /'prɒvɪns/ *n* [C] **1** large adminis-

trative division of a country. **2** the ~s, all the country outside the capital: *The pop group is now touring the ~s.* **3** district under an archbishop. **4** area of learning or knowledge; department of activity: *That is outside my ~*, not something with which I can or need deal.

prov-in-cial /prə'vɪnʃl/ *adj* **1** of a province(1): ~ government. **2** of the provinces(2): ~ roads. **3** having, typical of, the speech, manners, views, etc of a person living in the provinces (esp in former times when communications were poor): *a ~ accent.* □ *n* [C] person from the provinces(2).

prov-in-ci-ally /-ʃəli/ *adv*

pro-vi-sion /prə'vɪʒn/ *n* **1** [U] providing, preparation (esp for future needs): *make ~ for one's old age*, eg by saving money. **2** [C] amount provided: *issue a ~ of meat to the troops.* **3** (pl) food; food supplies: *have a good supply of ~s.* **4** [C] condition in a legal document, eg a clause in a will: *Have you made ~s for your children?* □ *vt* supply with food and stores.

pro-vi-sional /prə'vɪʒnəl/ *adj* **1** of the present time only, and to be changed or replaced later: *a ~ government/chairman.* **2** (of an appointment or acceptance eg as an undergraduate) to be confirmed if certain conditions are met.

pro-vi-sion-ally /-nəli/ *adv*

pro-viso /prə'vɪzəʊ/ *n*: with the ~ that..., on condition that...

provo-ca-tion /prəvə'keɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] provoking or being provoked: *She shouts at/on the slightest ~.* **2** [C] something that provokes or annoys.

pro-vo-ca-tive /prəvə'kətɪv/ *adj* causing, likely to cause, anger.

pro-vok-ing-ly *adv*

pro-w /praʊ/ *n* [C] pointed front of a ship or boat.

pro-w-ess /'praʊs/ *n* [U] (formal) bravery; valour; unusual skill or ability.

pro-wl /praʊl/ *vi, vt* go about quietly looking for a chance to eat food (as wild animals do), or to steal, etc. □ *n* **be on the prowl**, be prowling.

pro-w-ler, animal or person that prowls.

prox-im-ity /prɒk'sɪmɪti/ *n* [U] nearness. *in (close) proximity to*, (very) near to.

proxy /'prɒksi/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [C,U] (document giving) authority to represent or act for another (esp in voting at an election). **2** [C] person given a proxy: *vote by ~.*

prude /pru:d/ *n* [C] person who is extremely moral (often exaggerated or affected) in behaviour or speech: *She's such a ~—she objects to bikinis.* ⇨ prudish.

pru-dery /'pru:dəri/ *n* (pl -ies) [U] prudish behaviour; [C] prudish act or remark.

pru-dence /'pru:dns/ *n* [U] careful forethought.

pru-dent /'pru:dnt/ *adj* acting only after careful thought or planning: *a ~ housewife.*

pru-dent-ly *adv*

pru-dish /'pru:diʃ/ *adj* easily shocked; extremely moral.

pru-dish-ly *adv*

prune¹ /pru:n/ *n* [C] dried plum.

prune² /pru:n/ *vt* **1** cut away parts of (trees, bushes, etc) in order to control growth or shape: *pruning the rose-bushes.* **2** (fig) take out unnecessary parts from: *a ~ report of unnecessary detail.*

pry¹ /praɪ/ *vi* (pt, pp *pried* /praɪd/) **1** **pry (into)**, inquire too curiously (into other people's affairs). **2** **pry (about)**, look (about) for.

pry-ing-ly *adv*

pry² /praɪ/ *vt* = prize².

psalm /sɑ:m/ *n* [C] sacred song or hymn, esp (the P~s) in the Bible.

pseud(o)- /sju:daʊ US; su:-/ *prefix* false; fake: *pseudonym.*

pseu-do-nym /'sju:dənɪm US; 'su:d-/ *n* [C] name taken, esp by an author, instead of his real name.

pseud-ony-mous /sju:'dɒnɪməs US; su:-/ *adj*

psyche /'saɪki/ *n* [C] **1** human soul or spirit. **2** human mind.

psyche-delic /'saɪkɪ'delɪk/ *adj* **1** (of drugs) of, causing, hallucinations, ecstasy, terror, etc. **2** (of visual and sound effects) acting on the mind like psychedelic drugs: ~ music.

psy-chi-atric /'saɪkɪ'ætrɪk/ *adj* of psychiatry: *a ~ ward/clinic.*

psy-chia-trist /'saɪkɪətrɪst/ *n* [C] expert in psychiatry.

psy-chia-try /'saɪkɪətri US; si:-/ *n* [U] the study and treatment of mental illness.

psy-chic /'saɪkɪk/, **psy-chi-cal** /'saɪkɪkl/ *adj* **1** of the soul or mind. **2** of phenomena and conditions which appear to be outside physical or natural laws, eg telepathy.

psy-cho-an-al-yse (US = -lyze) /'saɪkəʊ 'ænəlaɪz/ *vt* treat (a person) by psychoanalysis.

psy-cho-an-a-ly-sis /'saɪkəʊ 'ænələsɪs/ *n* [U] **1** method of healing mental illnesses by tracing them, through interviews, to events in the patient's early life, and making the events and their effects known to the patient. **2** body of doctrine based on this method concerned with the investigation and treatment of emotional disturbances.

psy-cho-anal-yst /'saɪkəʊ 'ænəlist/ *n* [C] person who practises psychoanalysis.

psy-cho-an-a-lytic(al) /'saɪkəʊ 'ænə-lɪtɪk(l)/ *adj* relating to psychoanalysis.

psy-cho-logi-cal /'saɪkə'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* of psychology.

psycho-logical 'warfare, attempt at winning a struggle by affecting the opponent's mind.

psy-cho-logi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

psy-chol-ogist /saɪ'kɒlədʒɪst/ *n* [C] student of, expert in, psychology.

psy-chol-ogy /saɪ'kɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] science, study, of the mind and its processes.

psy-cho-path /'saɪkəʊpæθ/ *n* [C] person suffering from severe emotional derangement, esp one who is aggressive and antisocial.

psy-cho-pathic /'saɪkəʊ'pæθɪk/ *adj*

psy-cho-sis /saɪ'kəʊsɪs/ *n* [C] (*pl* -choses /'kəʊsɪz/) abnormal or diseased mental state.

psy-cho-therapy /,saɪkəʊ'therəpi/ *n* [U] treatment by psychological methods of mental, emotional and nervous disorders.

pub /pʌb/ *n* [C] (common abbr and usual word for) public house.

pu-berty /'pju:bəti/ *n* [U] stage at which a person becomes physically able to become a parent.

pu-bic /'pju:bɪk/ *adj* of the lower front part of the abdomen: ~ *hair*.

pub-lic /'pʌblɪk/ *adj* (opposite of *private*) of, for, connected with, owned by, done for or done by, known to, people in general: *a ~ library/park*. **be in the public eye**, ⇨ *eye* ¹(1). □ **n** 1 the ~, members of the community in general: *The ~ are not admitted*. **in public**, not in private; openly: *be seen together in ~*. 2 particular section of the community: *the reading ~*.

public house *n* [C] (GB) (formal) place (not a club, hotel, etc) licensed to sell alcoholic drinks to be drunk on the premises.

public opinion poll, = opinion poll.

public ownership, ownership by the State, eg of the railways.

Public Prosecutor, State official who prosecutes.

public relations *n pl* (esp) relations between a government department or authority, business organization, etc and ordinary people.

public school, (a) (GB) private school for fee-paying pupils. (b) (US and Scot) school providing free education from public funds.

public servant, person who works for the public, eg a policeman, fireman.

public spirit, readiness to do things that are for the good of the community. Hence,

public-spirited *adj*

pub-lic-ly /-kli/ *adv*

pub-li-ca-tion /'pʌblɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] act of making known to the public, by publishing something. 2 [C] something published, eg a book or a periodical.

pub-lic-ity /'pʌblɪ'sɪti/ *n* [U] 1 the state of being known to, seen by, everyone: *an actress who seeks/avoids ~*. 2 (business of) providing information, advertising, to interest people in general: *a ~ campaign*.

pub-li-cize (also -ise) /'pʌblɪsaɪz/ *vt* bring to the attention of the public.

pub-lish /'pʌblɪʃ/ *vt* 1 have (a book, periodical, etc) printed and announce that it is for sale. 2 make known to the public: ~ *the news*.

pub-lisher, person, company, whose business is publishing books.

puck /pʌk/ *n* [C] hard rubber disc used like a ball in ice-hockey.

pucker /'pʌkə(r)/ *vt, vi* draw or come together into small folds or wrinkles: ~ *up one's lips*.

pudding /'puɒɪŋ/ *n* 1 [C, U] (dish of) food, usually a soft, sweet mixture, served as part of a meal, eaten after the meat or fish course. 2 kind of sausage: *black ~*.

puddle /'pʌdl/ *n* [C] small, dirty pool of rain-water.

pudgy /'pʌdʒi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) short, thick and fat: ~ *fingers*.

puer-ile /'pjʊərəɪl/ *US: -rl* *adj* trivial, childish: *ask ~ questions*.

puff ¹ /pʌf/ *n* [C] 1 (sound of a) short, quick sending out of breath, air, etc: *have a ~ at a pipe*. 2 = powder-puff. 3 mass of material on a dress, etc: ~ *sleeves*, swelling out like balloons.

'puff-adder, poisonous African viper which can inflate the upper part of its body.

puffy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) short of breath (by running, climbing, etc). (b) swollen: ~ *under the eyes*.

puff ² /pʌf/ *vi, vt* 1 breathe quickly (as after running); (of smoke, steam, etc) come out in puffs: *He was ~ing hard when he jumped on to the bus*. *He was ~ing (away) at his cigar*. 2 send out in puffs: *He ~ed smoke into my face*.

3 puff sth out, cause to swell with air: *He ~ed out his chest with pride*. (**all**) **puffed up**, (of a person) behaving conceitedly.

puf-fin /'pʌfɪn/ *n* [C] North Atlantic seabird with a large bill.

pug /pʌg/ *n* [C] breed of small dog with a flat nose.

pug-na-cious /'pʌg'neɪʃəs/ *adj* (formal) fond of, in the habit of, fighting.

puke /'pju:k/ *vi, vt* *n* [U] (sl) vomit.

pull ¹ /pʊl/ *n* 1 [C] act of pulling: *give a ~ at a rope*. 2 [U] force or effort: *It was a long ~ (= a long, hard climb) to the top of the mountain*. 3 [C, U] (informal) power to get help or attention through influence, eg with people in high positions: *He has strong ~/a great deal of ~ with the Managing Director*.

pull ² /pʊl/ *vt, vi* (For special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*, ⇨ 6 below.) 1 (contrasted with *push*) use force on (a person or thing) so as to draw towards or after one, or in the direction shown: *The horse was ~ing a heavy cart*. *Would you rather push the barrow or ~ it?* **pull sth to pieces**, (a) use force to separate its parts or to break it up into parts. (b) (fig) criticize severely by pointing out the weak points or faults: *He ~ed my theory to*

pieces. **2** (of a boat) be rowed (by): *The men ~ed for the shore.* **pull together**, (fig) work together; co-operate. **pull one's weight**, do a fair share of the work. **3 pull at/on sth**, (a) give a tug: ~ *at/on a rope*. (b) draw or suck: ~ing *at his pipe*. **4 pull a muscle**, strain it. For other uses with nouns, ⇨ the noun entries, eg at face, leg, string, wool. **5 (sl)** raid; rob; steal: ~ *a bank*.

6 (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

pull sb/sth about, treat roughly.

pull sth apart, tear or pull into its parts.

pull sth down, destroy or demolish, eg an old building.

pull in, (a) (of a train) enter a station: *The express from Rome ~ed in on time*. (b) (of a motor-vehicle or boat) move in towards: *The lorry driver ~ed in to the side of the road*.

Hence, **'pull-in** *n* place to stop at the side of the road. **pull sb in**, (a) attract, draw: *The new play at the National Theatre is ~ing in large audiences*. (b) (informal) (of the police) arrest. **pull oneself in**, draw in the stomach muscles (so as to be less fat).

pull sth off, (a) drive a motor-vehicle off the road into a lay-by or hard shoulder. (b) succeed in a plan, in winning: ~ *off a deal*, be successful in getting agreement.

pull out (of), (a) move out (in order to pass or go round): *The driver of the car ~ed out from behind the lorry. The train ~ed out of Euston on time*. (b) detach, eg from a magazine. **pull (sb) out (of)**, leave a place or situation which is too difficult to manage: *Troops are being ~ed out/are ~ing out of these troubled areas*.

pull (sth) over, (cause a vehicle, boat, etc to) move or steer to one side, eg to let another vehicle or boat pass: *P ~ over and let me pass!*

pull (sb) round, (help to) recover from illness, weakness, a faint, etc.

pull through, (a) = pull round. (b) succeed in avoiding difficulties, dangers, etc. **pull sb through**, (a) help to recover from illness, etc. (b) help to avoid failure, help to pass an examination, etc.

pull together, ⇨ 2 above. **pull oneself together**, get control of oneself, of one's feelings, etc.

pull (sth) up, bring or come to a stop: *The driver ~ed up when he came to the traffic lights*.

pull sb up, express disapproval of him: *He was ~ed up by the chairman*. **pull up to/with sb/sth**, improve one's relative position (in a race, etc): *The favourite soon ~ed up with the other horses*.

pul-let /'pʊlɪt/ *n* [C] young hen, esp at the time she begins to lay eggs.

pul-ley /'pʊli/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) grooved wheel(s) for ropes or chains, used for lifting things.

pull-over /'pʊləʊvə(r)/ *n* [C] knitted article

of clothing pulled on over the head.

pul-mon-ary /'pʌlmənəri/ *US*: -neri/ *adj* (anat) of, in, connected with, the lungs: ~ *diseases*; the ~ *arteries*, carrying blood to the lungs.

pulp /pʌlp/ *n* [U] **1** soft, fleshy part of fruit. **2** soft mass of other material, esp of wood fibre as used for making paper. □ *vi*, *vi* make into, become like, pulp: ~ *old books*.

pul-pit /'pʊlpɪt/ *n* [C] raised and enclosed structure in a church, used by a clergyman, esp when preaching.

pul-sate /pʌl'seɪt/ *US*: 'pʌlseɪt/ *vi*, *vi* (cause to) beat or throb; expand and contract rhythmically.

pul-sa-tion /pʌl'seɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

pulse /pʌls/ *n* [C] **1** the regular beat of the arteries, eg as felt at the wrist, as the blood is pumped through them by the heart. **2** (fig) activities or thrill of life or emotion: *the ~ of life in a big city*. □ *vi* beat; throb: *news that sent the blood pulsing through his veins*.

pul-ver-ize (also -ise) /'pʌlvəraɪz/ *vi*, *vi* **1** grind to a powder; smash completely (also fig). **2** become powder or dust.

puma /'pju:mə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) large brown American animal of the cat family (also called a cougar and mountain lion).

pum-ice /'pʌmɪs/ *n* [U] (also ~-stone), light, porous stone (from lava) used for cleaning and polishing.

pum-mel /'pʌmɪl/ *vi* (-ll-, *US* also -l-) beat repeatedly with the fists.

pump /pʌmp/ *n* [C] machine or device for forcing liquid, gas or air into, out of or through something, eg water from a well, air into a tyre: *a bicycle ~*. □ *vt*, *vi* **1** force, eg water, air, into, from, something using a pump: ~ *petrol into a car*; ~ *up a tyre*. **2** (fig) obtain, explain, something using repetition, etc: ~ *information out of her*; ~ *facts into the heads of dull students*.

pump-kin /'pʌmpkɪn/ *n* [C, U] (plant, a trailing vine, with a) large, round orange-yellow fruit, used as a vegetable and (*US*) as a filling for pies.

pun /pʌn/ *n* [C] (also called a *play on words*) humorous use of words which sound the same or of two meanings of the same word, eg 'The soldier laid down his *arms*.' □ *vi* (-nn-) make a pun or puns.

punch¹ /pʌntʃ/ *n* [C] **1** tool or machine for cutting holes in leather, metal, paper, etc. **2** tool for stamping designs on surfaces. □ *vi* **1** make a hole (in something) with a punch: ~ *a train ticket*. **2** force (nails, etc) in or out with a punch.

punch² /pʌntʃ/ *n* [U] drink made of wine or spirits mixed with hot water, sugar, lemons, spice, etc.

'punch-bowl, bowl in which punch is mixed.

punch³ /pʌntʃ/ *vt* hit hard with the fist: ~ a man on the chin. □ **n** 1 [C] blow given with the fist: a ~ on the nose. 2 [U] (fig) energy: a speech with plenty of ~ in it.

'punch-up, fight with the fists: *The quarrel ended in a ~-up.*

punc-ti-ous /pʌŋk'tiʊəs/ *adj* (formal) very careful to carry out duties correctly, arrive on time, etc.

punc-ti-ous-ly *adv*

punc-tual /'pʌŋktʃʊəl/ *adj* neither early nor late; coming, doing something, at the time fixed: *be ~ for the lecture/in the payment of one's rent.*

punc-tu-al-ity /pʌŋktʃʊ'æləti/ *n* [U] being punctual.

punc-tu-ally /-ʊəli/ *adv*

punc-tu-ate /'pʌŋktʃueɪt/ *vt* 1 put stops, commas, etc. eg ., : ? !, into a piece of writing. 2 interrupt from time to time: a speech ~d with cheers. ⇨ Appendix.

punc-tu-ation /pʌŋktʃʊ'eɪʃn/ *n* [U] (use of) stops, commas, etc in writing: ~ marks.

punc-ture /'pʌŋtʃə(r)/ *n* [C] small hole, esp one made accidentally in a tyre. □ *vt, vi* 1 make a puncture in: ~ an abscess. 2 experience a puncture: *Two of my tyres ~ed while I was on that stony road.*

pun-dit /'pʌndɪt/ *n* [C] 1 very learned Hindu. 2 (informal) learned teacher; pedant.

pun-gent /'pʌndʒənt/ *adj* (formal) 1 (of smells, tastes) sharp; stinging: a ~ sauce. 2 (fig) (of remarks) hurting: ~ criticism.

pun-ish /'pʌnɪʃ/ *vt* 1 cause (a person) suffering or discomfort for doing wrong: ~ a man with/by a fine. 2 treat roughly; hit: *The champion ~ed his opponent severely.*

pun-ish-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be punished (by law).

pun-ish-ment *n* [U] punishing or being punished: *Does the ~ment fit the crime?* [C] penalty for doing wrong: *severe ~ment for murder.*

pun-itive /'pju:nɪtɪv/ *adj* (intended for) punishing.

punk /pʌŋk/ *adj* (sl) worthless (used in GB 1970's to describe young people who deliberately shock society through their clothes, language, pop music, etc).

punk rock, (1970's) style of fast, loud rock music using violent or antisocial themes.

pun-net /'pʌnɪt/ *n* [C] small basket, made of very thin wood, plastic, etc esp as a measure for fruit: *strawberries, 60p a ~.*

pun-ster /'pʌnstə(r)/ *n* [C] person who has the habit of making puns.

punt¹ /pʌnt/ *n* [C] flat-bottomed, shallow boat with square ends, moved by pushing the end of a long pole against the river-bed. □ *vt, vi* move, carry in, a punt.

punt² /pʌnt/ *vi* bet on a horse.

pun-ter /'pʌntə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 person using a

punt. 2 person who bets on a horse.

puny /'pjʊ:ni/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) small and weak: *What a ~ little man!*

pup /pʌp/ *n* [C] = puppy.

pupa /'pjʊ:pə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s or ~e /-pi:/) = chrysalis.

pu-pil¹ /'pjʊ:pl/ *n* [C] young person at school or having private lessons.

pu-pil² /'pjʊ:pl/ *n* [C] (anat) round opening in the centre of the iris of the eye, regulating the passage of light.

pup-pet /'pʌpɪt/ *n* [C] 1 doll, small figure of an animal, etc with jointed limbs moved by wires or strings, used in plays or shows called ~-plays/-shows. 2 (glove-~) doll of which the body can be put on the hand like a glove, moved by the fingers. 3 person, group of persons, whose acts are completely controlled by another: (used as an adjective) a ~ government/State.

puppy /'pʌpi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) young dog.

'puppy love, love by young people.

pur-chase¹ /'pɜ:tʃəs/ *n* 1 [U] buying. 2 [C] (formal) something bought: *I have some ~s to make.*

pur-chase² /'pɜ:tʃəs/ *vt* buy (which is much more usual): *a dearly ~d victory*, eg a battle in which many lives are lost.

pur-chaser, = buyer (the usual word).

pur-dah /'pɜ:də/ *n* [U] (esp in Muslim communities) curtain for, convention of, keeping women from the sight of strangers, esp men: *live/be in ~.*

pure /pjʊə(r)/ *adj* (-r, -st except 5, 6 below) 1 unmixed with any other substance, etc: ~ air, free from smoke, fumes, etc. 2 of unmixed race or breed: a ~ poodle. 3 without evil or sin: ~ in body and mind. 4 (of sounds) clear and distinct: a ~ note. 5 dealing with, studied for the sake of, theory only (not applied): ~ mathematics/science. 6 nothing but: a ~ waste of time. ⇨ simple(7).

pure-ly *adv* (esp) entirely; completely; merely: ~ly by accident.

pu-rée /'pjʊərə/ *US*: pjʊə'reɪ/ *n* [C, U.] soup of vegetables, etc boiled and pressed through a sieve; fruit similarly treated: *apple ~.*

pur-ga-tive /'pɜ:gətv/ *n* [C], *adj* (substance) having the power to empty or cleanse the bowels.

pur-ga-tory /'pɜ:gətri/ *US*: -tɔ:ri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) 1 (esp in Roman Catholic doctrine) condition after death in which the soul has to be purified by temporary suffering; place where souls are so purified. 2 (fig) any place of temporary suffering.

pur-ga-tor-ial /pɜ:gə'tɔ:riəl/ *adj*

purge /'pɜ:dʒ/ *vt* 1 make clean or free (of physical or moral impurity): *be ~d off/from sin*; *purging away one's sins*. 2 empty (the bowels) of waste matter by means of medicine. 3 clear (oneself, a person, of a charge, of sus-

picion). **4** rid (eg a political party, etc) of members who are considered undesirable. □ *n* [C] clearing out or away: *the political ~s that followed the counter-revolution.*

pu-rify /'pjʊərɪfaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) make pure; cleanse: *~ing the air in a factory.*

pu-ri-fi-ca-tion /'pjʊərɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U]

pu-rist /'pjʊərɪst/ *n* [C] person who pays great attention to the correct use of words, grammar, style, etc.

puri-tan /'pjʊərɪtən/ *n* [C] **1 P~**, (16th and 17th centuries, in England) member of a division of the Protestant Church which wanted simpler forms of church ceremony. **2** person who is strict in morals and religion, who considers some kinds of fun and pleasure as sinful: *Don't marry a ~.* □ *adj* of or like a Puritan or a puritan.

puri-tani-cal /'pjʊərɪ'tænikl/ *adj*

puri-tani-cally /'pjʊərɪ'tænikli/ *adv*

pu-rity /'pjʊərɪti/ *n* [U] state or quality of being pure.

purl /pɜːl/ *n* [C] (knitting) inverted stitch, which produces a ribbed appearance (the opposite of plain). □ *vi*, *vt* knit in this way.

pur-loin /pɜː'lɔɪn/ *vi* (formal) steal.

purple /'pɜːpl/ *n* [U], *adj* (colour) of red and blue mixed together.

pur-pose /'pɜːpəʊs/ *US*: -pɔːrt/ *n* [C] (formal) general meaning or intention of something said or written; likely explanation of a person's actions: *the ~ of what he said.* □ *vi* /pɜːpəʊt/ **1** seem to mean: *The statement ~s that...* **2** claim: *It's ~ed to be an original but it is really a fake.*

pur-pose /'pɜːpəʊs/ *n* [C] **1** that which one means to do, get, be, etc; plan; design; intention: *This van is used for various ~s.* **2** [U] (formal) determination; power of forming plans and keeping to them: *weak of ~.* **3 on purpose**, deliberately: *She sometimes smiles at him on ~ just to annoy me.* □ *vi* (formal) have as one's purpose: *They ~ a further attempt/ ~ to make/ ~ making a further attempt.*

purpose-built *adj* made to serve a particular function: *~built offices.*

pur-pose-ful /-fl/ *adj*

pur-pose-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

pur-pose-ly *adj* intentionally; deliberately.

purr /pɜː(r)/ *vi*, *vt* **1** (of a cat) make a low, continuous vibrating sound expressing pleasure. **2** (of a car engine) make a similar vibrating sound. □ *n* [C] purring sound.

purse /pɜːs/ *n* [C] **1** small bag for money. **2** money; funds. **3** (US) = handbag.

the purse-strings, control of expenditure.

purse /pɜːs/ *vt* draw (the lips) together in tiny folds or wrinkles.

purser /'pɜːsə(r)/ *n* [C] officer responsible for a ship's accounts and stores, esp in a passenger liner.

pur-su-ance /pɜː'sjuːns/ *US*: -'suː-/ *n* in *pur-*

suance of, (formal) in the carrying out or performance of (one's duties, a plan, etc).

pur-su-ant /-ənt/ *adj* **pursuant to**, (formal) in accordance with: *pursuant to your instructions.*

pur-sue /pɜː'sjuː/ *US*: -'suː/ *vt* **1** go after in order to catch up with, capture or kill: *They were pursuing a robber/a bear.* *Make sure that you are not being ~d.* **2** (fig) (of consequences, penalties, etc) be constantly remembered, stated, etc: *His record as a criminal ~d him wherever he went.* **3** continue with: *~ one's study of English after leaving college.* **4** have as an aim or purpose: *~ pleasure/a teaching career.*

pur-suer, person who pursues (**1**).

pur-suit /pɜː'sjuːt/ *US*: -'suːt/ *n* **1** [U] act of pursuing: *a dog in ~ of rabbits.* **2** [C] something at which one works or to which one gives one's time: *scientific/literary ~s.*

pur-vey /pɜː'veɪ/ *vi*, *vi* **1** (formal) provide, supply (food, as a trader). **2** supply provisions (for): *a firm that ~s for the Navy.*

pur-veyor /-ə(r)/, supplier (the usual word).

pus /pas/ *n* [U] thick yellowish-white liquid formed in and coming out from a poisoned place in the body, eg a cut.

push /puʃ/ *n* **1** [C] act of pushing: *Give the door a hard ~.* **2** [C] great effort: *We must make a ~ to finish the job this week.* **3 be given/get the push**, (sl) be dismissed (from one's employment, etc). **give sb the push**, (sl) dismiss him. **4** [U] confidence to put oneself forward, to attract attention, etc: *He hasn't enough ~ to succeed as a salesman.*

push /puʃ/ *vi*, *vi* (For special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, see 8 below.) **1** (contrasted with pull) use force on (a person or thing) to cause forward movement: *Please ~ the table nearer to the wall.* *We had to ~ our way (= go forward by pushing) through the crowd.* **2** persuade others to recognize, eg claims, or buy, eg goods: *Unless you ~ your claim you'll get no satisfaction.* □ also ~ oneself forward in 8 below. **3** sell (illicit drugs) by acting as a link between large suppliers and the drug addicts. □ pusher below. **4** insist, put pressure on: *We're ~ing them for payment/an answer.* **5** urge: *She'll ~ him to the edge of suicide.* **6** press: *~ a button*, eg to ring a bell. **7 be pushing** fifty, etc, (informal) be nearing the age mentioned: *She wouldn't like you to think so, but she's ~ing forty.*

8 (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

push along, (informal) leave: *I'm afraid it's time I was ~ing along.*

push sb around, (informal) bully him; order him about: *I'm not going to be ~ed around by you or anybody!*

push forward/on (to), continue energetically with a journey, one's work, etc: *We must ~ on with our work, hurry and finish it.* **push**

oneself forward, ambitiously draw attention to oneself, eg at work, in society: *He never ~es himself forward.*

push off, (informal) leave; go away: *I told him to ~ off!*

push sb/sth over, cause to fall: *Several children were ~ed over by the crowd.* **'push-over**, (sf) (a) something very easy to do. (b) person who is easily defeated, converted, etc.

push sb through (sth), enable a person to succeed: *~ a weak student through an exam.*

push sth through, do something by making a special effort: *~ the bill through the Commons.*

push sth up, force, eg prices, to rise. **push up the daisies**, (informal) die, be buried in a grave.

'push-bike, one that is worked by pedalling (not a moped or motorbike).

'push-cart, small cart pushed by a man.

'push-chair, chair on wheels (used when a child is old enough to sit up).

pusher, (a) person who takes every opportunity of gaining an advantage for himself. (b) (sf) seller of illicit drugs.

push-ing *adj* having a tendency to be a pusher(a).

puss /pos/ *n* [C] cat; word used to call a cat.

pussy /'pusi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (also '~-cat) (child's word for a) cat.

put /put/ *vi, vt* (pt *pp* put, *present part* putting)

(For special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*, ⇨ 10 below.) **1** move (something) so as to be in a certain place or position:

He ~ the book on the table. He ~ his hands into (to) his pockets. Did you ~ milk in my tea? It's time to ~ the baby to bed. They've ~ men on the moon. **put one's foot in it**, ⇨ foot¹(1).

2 cause to be in some relationship, eg as an employee, client, with a person. **put sb in his (proper) place**, make him humble.

put oneself in his/her/in sb else's, etc place/position, imagine oneself in his position.

3 make a person bear (the particular nervous or moral strain shown). **put the blame on sb**: *Don't ~ all the blame on me.*

put pressure on sb (to do sth), ⇨ pressure(2).

4 affect the progress of. **put an end/a stop to sth**, ⇨ end¹(3), stop¹(1).

5 cause to pass into or suffer the emotional, physical, etc-state shown by the phrase that follows. **put sb to death**, ⇨ death(2).

put sb at his ease, ⇨ ease¹. **put sb/sth to the test**, test him/it.

6 cause (a person or thing) to become (what is shown by the adjective): *That picture on the wall is crooked—I must ~ it straight.*

put sth right, ⇨ right¹(2).

7 write; indicate; mark: *~ a tick against a name/a price on an article/one's signature to a will.*

8 put sth (to sb); put it to sb (that), offer; express: *~ a proposal to the Board of Directors, ~ a question to the vote/a*

resolution to the meeting. I ~ it to you that..., invite you to agree with me that... *How can I ~ it*, express it? *How would you ~ (= express, translate) this in Danish?* *That can all be ~ in a few words.* **9** set a value (on): *The experts refused to ~ a price on the Rubens painting.*

10 (special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*):

put sth about, spread, eg rumours: *Don't believe all the stories he's ~ about.*

put sth across (to sb), communicate something successfully: *a teacher who quickly ~s his ideas across to his students.*

put sth across sb, deceive; trick: *You can't ~ that across me, make me believe or accept it.*

put sth aside, (a) put down and leave it: *~ one's work aside.* (b) ~ put by. (c) ignore: *P ~ aside for a moment the fact that the man's been in prison.*

put sth away, (a) put in the usual place of storage, eg a drawer, box: *P ~ your books/toys away.* (b) save: *~ money away for one's old age.*

put sb away, (informal) put into confinement, eg in a mental home: *He acted so strangely that he had to be ~ away.*

put back, (naut) return: *The ship/we ~ back to harbour.*

put sth back, (a) replace: *P ~ the dictionary back on the shelf.* (b) move backwards: *That clock is fast; I'd better ~ it back five minutes, move the minute hand back.*

(c) (fig) stop the advance of, cause delay to: *The strike ~ back production by two months.*

put sth by, save for future use: *Has she any money ~ by/ ~ any money by?*

put (sth) down, (a) land: *He ~ down (his glider) in a field.* (b) set or place down: *P ~ down your hands!* (c) press down: *When you get on the motorway, you can really ~ your foot down, press the accelerator pedal down and go fast.*

put one's foot down, ⇨ foot¹(1).

(d) place in storage: *~ down wine.* (e) suppress by force or authority: *~ down a rebellion.* (f) write down; make a note of: *Here's my address—~ it down before you forget it.*

(g) (of animals, eg sick or old pets) kill. **put sb down**, (a) allow to get off: *The bus stopped to ~ down passengers.* (b) reduce to silence: *~ down hecklers at a political meeting.*

put sb down as, consider that he is: *They ~ me down as a fool.*

put sb down for, (a) write his name on a list as willing to give, eg to a charity or other fund: *You can ~ me down for £5.* (b) put a person's name down as an applicant, participant, etc: *They ~ him down for the school football team.*

put sth down to sth, (a) charge to an account: *You can ~ the cost of the petrol down to business expenses.* (b) attribute to: *Can we ~ it down to his ignorance?*

put sth forward, (a) suggest for consideration: *~ forward a new theory.* (b) move on: *~ a clock forward*, eg when it is stopped or slow.

put sb forward, propose: ~ oneself/a friend forward as a candidate.

put in/into, (naut) (of a boat, its crew) enter: The boat ~ in at Malta/~ into Malta for repairs. **put in for sth**, apply formally for: ~ in for the position of manager. **put in for leave**, ⇨ leave²(2). **put sth in**, (a) cause to be in: He ~ his head in at the window. (b) present formally: ~ in a claim for damages. (c) manage to hint or say: ~ in a blow. (d) do, perform: ~ in an hour's work before breakfast. (e) pass (time): There's still an hour of work to ~ in before the pubs open. **put the boot in**, ⇨ boot¹(1). **put in a good word for sb**, ⇨ word(2). **put sb in**, elect to office: Which party will be ~ in at the next general election? **put sb in mind of sb/sth**, remind him. ⇨ the noun entries for **put in an** appearance; **put one's oar in**. **put sth in/into sth**, devote; give: ~ a lot of work into improving one's French.

put sth off, (a) postpone: ~ off going to the dentist. (b) get rid of: You must ~ off your doubts and fears. (Note: take off clothes.) **put sb off (sth)**, (a) do something with somebody at a later date: We shall have to ~ the Smiths off till next week. (b) make excuses and try to avoid, eg a duty: I won't be ~ off with such silly excuses, won't accept them. (c) hinder or dissuade: ~ a man off his game, eg distract him when he is about to play.

put sth on, (a) (opposite = take off) clothe oneself with: ~ one's hat/shoes on. (b) pretend to have: Her modesty is all ~ on, she's only pretending to be modest. Hence 'put-on n': It's all a ~ on, pretence. (c) increase; add to: ~ on more speed. (d) add to: He's ~ ting on weight, is getting fatter. (e) arrange for; make available: ~ on extra trains during the rush hours. **put a play on**, arrange for it to be shown at a theatre. (f) advance: ~ the clock on one hour, move the hands forward, eg for Summer Time. (g) (informal) exaggerate; pretend to be more important, etc than is justified: Stop ~ ting it on! (h) turn on: ~ the light/TV on. **put money on sb/sth**, gamble (in horse-racing, etc): I've ~ a pound on the favourite.

put sth out, (a) extinguish; cause to stop burning: ~ out the lights/the gas/the fire. (b) dislocate: She fell off a horse and ~ her shoulder out. (c) produce: The firm ~s out 1000 bales of cotton sheeting every week. ⇨ output. (d) issue; broadcast: The Health Department has ~ out a warning about dangerous drugs. **put one's tongue out**, show it, eg for a doctor, or as a rude act. **put sb out**, (a) cause to be confused or worried: She was very much ~ out by your rudeness. (b) inconvenience: He was ~ out by the late arrival of his guests. **put sb out (of)**, expel: Don't get drunk—you'll be ~ out/eg of the bar.

put sth through, carry it out: ~ through a business deal. **put sb/sth through**, connect (by telephone): Please ~ me/this call through to the Manager. **put sb through sth**, cause him to undergo, eg an ordeal, a test: The police ~ him through a severe test. **put sb through it**, (informal) test or examine him thoroughly, eg use force to make him confess.

put sth to sb, ⇨ 8 above. **be hard put to it (to do sth)**, find difficulty in doing it: I'd be hard ~ to say exactly why I disliked him.

put sth together, construct (a whole) by combining parts: It's easier to take a machine to pieces than to ~ it together again. **put our (two)/your/their heads together**, consult one another. **put two and two together**, ⇨ two.

put up (for sth), offer oneself for election: Are you going to ~ up for Finchley again, ie as a prospective member of Parliament? **put sb up**, provide lodging and food (for): We can ~ you up for the weekend. **put sb up (for sth)**, propose, nominate, him for a position. **put sb up to sth**, urge him to do something naughty or wrong: Who ~ you up to all these tricks? **put sth up**, (a) raise; hold up: ~ up one's hands, eg over one's head, as a sign that one is ready to answer, surrender; ~ up a flag/a sail. (b) build: ~ up a shed/a tent. (c) place so as to be seen: ~ up a notice. (d) raise, increase: ~ up the rent by £5 (a week). (e) offer, make: ~ up a good fight. (f) supply (a sum of money for an undertaking): I will supply the skill and knowledge if you will ~ up the £2000 capital. **put sb's back up**, ⇨ back²(1). **put sth up for auction/sale**, offer it to be auctioned/sold. **put up with sb/sth**, endure without protest; bear patiently: There are many inconveniences that have to be ~ up with when you are camping.

pu-ta-tive /'pju:tativ/ adj generally considered to be: his ~ father.

pu-trefy /'pju:trɪfaɪ/ vt,vi (pt,pp -ied) (cause to) decay.

pu-tre-fac-tion /'pju:trɪ'fækʃn/ n [C,U]

pu-tres-cent /'pju:tresnt/ adj in the process of decaying.

pu-trid /'pju:trɪd/ adj having become decayed; decomposed and smelling bad: ~ fish.

putt /pʌt/ vi,vi strike (a golf-ball) gently with a club so that it rolls across the ground towards or into a hole.

putty /'pʌti/ n [U] soft paste of white powder and oil used for fixing glass in window frames, etc. □ vt (pt,pp -ied) fill or fix with putty: ~ up a hole.

puzzle /'pʌzl/ n [C] 1 question or problem difficult to understand or answer. 2 problem (eg a 'crossword~) or toy (eg a 'jig-saw~) designed to test a person's knowledge, skill, patience. 3 (sing only) state of feeling confused, thinking hard about a problem: be in a ~

about this refusal. □ *vi*, *vt* **1** cause (a person) to be confused, worried, (about the solution to a problem): *This letter ~s me*. **2** **puzzle over sth**, think very much about it. **puzzle sth out**, (try to) find the answer or solution by thinking hard.

puzz-ler, difficult problem.

puzzle-ment *n* [U] state of being puzzled.

pygmy, pigmy /'pɪgmɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** **P~**, dwarf race in Equatorial Africa. **2** very small person; dwarf.

py-ja-mas (US = **pa-ja-mas**) /pə'dʒɑ:məz US: -'dʒæm-/ *n* *pl* (also *a pair of* ~) loose-fitting jacket and trousers for sleeping in. (Note: singular when used as an adjective: *pyjama tops/bottoms*.)

py-lon /'paɪlən US: -lən/ *n* [C] tower (steel framework) for carrying overhead high-voltage electric cables.

py-or-rhoea (also -**rhea**) /paɪə'riə/ *n* [U] inflammation of the gums causing them to shrink, with loosening of the teeth.

pyra-mid /'pɪrəmid/ *n* [C] **1** structure with a triangular or square base and sloping sides meeting at a point, esp one of those built of stone in ancient Egypt. **2** pile of objects in the shape of a pyramid.

pyre /'paɪə(r)/ *n* [C] large pile of wood for burning, esp a funeral pile for a corpse.

py-thon /'paɪθn/ *n* [C] large snake that kills its prey by twisting itself round it and crushing it.

Qq

Q, q /kju:/ (*pl* Q's, q's /kju:z/) the seventeenth letter of the English alphabet. **mind one's P's and Q's**, ⇨ P.p.

quack¹ /kwæk/ *vi*, *n* (make the) cry of a duck.

quack² /kwæk/ *n* [C] person dishonestly claiming to have medical knowledge and skill: (used as an adjective) ~ remedies.

quad /kwɒd/ *n* [C] (abbr of) **1** = quadrangle. **2** = quadruplet (but *quad* is more usual).

quad-rangle /'kwɒdræŋgl/ *n* [C] **1** flat shape with four sides, esp a square or a rectangle. **2** (abbr *quad*) space in the form of a rectangle, (nearly) surrounded by buildings.

quad-ran-gu-lar /kwɒ'dræŋgjʊlə(r)/ *adj*

quad-rant /'kwɒdrənt/ *n* [C] **1** quarter of a circle or its circumference. **2** graduated strip of metal, etc shaped like a quarter of a circle for use in measuring angles (of altitude) in astronomy and navigation.

quad-ri-lat-eral /'kwɒdrɪ'lætərəl/ *adj*, *n* [C] (of a) quadrangle(1).

quad-ru-ped /'kwɒdrʊpəd/ *n* [C] (*formal*) four-footed animal.

quad-ruple /'kwɒdrʊpl US: kwɒ'dru:pl/ *adj* **1** made up of four parts. **2** agreed to by four persons, parties, etc: *a ~ alliance*, of four Powers. □ *n* [C] number or amount four times as great as another: *20 is the ~ of 5*. □ *vt*, *vi* multiply by four: *He has ~d his income/His income has ~d in the last four years*.

quad-ru-plet /'kwɒdrʊplit US: kwɒ'dru:-/ *n* [C] (abbr *quad* which is more usual) one of four babies at a birth. (Note: usually *pl*: *one of the ~s*, not *a ~*).

quad-ru-pli-cate /kwɒ'dru:plɪkət/ *adj* repeated or copied four times. □ *n*: *in ~*, in four exactly similar examples or copies. □ *vt* /kwɒ'dru:plɪkət/ make four specimens of.

quag-mire /'kwɒɡmaɪə(r)/ *n* [C] area of soft, wet land.

quail¹ /kweɪl/ *n* [C] small bird, similar to a partridge, valued as food.

quail² /kweɪl/ *vi* feel or show fear: *He ~ed at the prospect of meeting the President*.

quaint /kweɪnt/ *adj* (-er, -est) attractive or pleasing because unusual or old-fashioned: *American visitors to England admire our ~ villages/customs*.

quaint-ly *adv*

quake /kweɪk/ *vi* **1** (of the earth) shake: *The ground ~d under his feet*. **2** (of persons) tremble: *quaking with fear/cold*.

Quaker /'kweɪkə(r)/ *n* member of the Society of Friends, a Christian group that holds informal meetings and is opposed to the use of violence or resort to war under any circumstances.

quali-fi-ca-tion /'kwɒlɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] act of restricting, modifying or limiting; [C] something which restricts, modifies or limits: *You can accept his statement without ~/with certain ~s*. **2** [C] training, test, diploma, degree, etc that qualifies(1) a person to do or be something.

qual-ify /'kwɒlɪfaɪ/ *vi*, *vt* (*pt*, *pp* -ied) **1** be trained, educated and approved as having the required standard: *He's qualified/His training qualifies him as a teacher of English/for this post*. **2** have the necessary experience, ability, age, etc: *He's the manager's son but that does not ~ him to criticize my work*. *Do you ~ for the vote/to vote?* **3** limit; make less general: *The statement 'Boys are lazy' needs to be qualified*, eg by saying 'Some boys' or 'Many boys'. **4** (*gram*) limit the meaning of: *Adjectives ~ nouns*.

quali-fied /-faɪd/ *adj* (a) having the necessary qualifications: *a qualified doctor*. (b) limited: *give a scheme one's qualified approval*.

'quali-fier /-faɪə(r)/ *n* [C] (*gram*) qualifying word, eg an adjective or adverb.

quali-tat-ive /'kwɒlɪtətv US: -tɪt-/ *adj* relating to quality: ~ analysis. ⇨ quantitative.

qual-ity /'kwɒləti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [C,U] (esp high standard, of) goodness or worth: *We aim at ~ rather than quantity*, aim to produce superior goods, not large quantities. **2** [C] something that is special in or that distinguishes a person or thing: *One ~ of leadership is to be trusted*.

qualm /kwa:m/ *n* [C] **1** feeling of doubt (esp about whether one is doing or has done right): *He felt no ~s about borrowing money from friends*. **2** temporary feeling of sickness in the stomach: *~s which spoil his appetite*.

quan-dary /'kwɒndəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) state of doubt or confusion: *be in a ~ about what to do next*.

quango /'kwæŋgəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) semi-autonomous government committee or organization.

quan-ti-tat-ive /'kwɒntitativ/ *US*: -teit- / *adj* relating to quantity: *~ analysis*. ⇨ qualitative.

quan-tity /'kwɒntəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] the property of things which can be measured, eg size, weight, number: *I prefer quality to ~*. **2** [C] amount, total or number: *There's only a small ~ (ie not much or not many) left*. **3** (often pl) large amount or number: *He buys things in large quantities*. **4** *an unknown quantity*, (a) (maths) symbol (usually *x*) representing an unknown value in an equation. (b) (fig) person or thing whose ability, etc is not known: *The Union's candidate is an unknown ~, may or may not win the election*.

quantity surveyor, expert who estimates quantities of materials needed in building, their cost, etc.

quar-an-tine /'kwɒrənti:n/ *US*: 'kwɔ:r-/ *n* [C,U] (esp of imported animals) (period of) separation from others until it is known that there is no danger of spreading disease: *be in/out of ~*. □ *vt* put in quarantine.

quar-rel /'kwɒrəl/ *US*: 'kwɔ:rəl/ *n* [C] **1** angry argument; strong disagreement: *have a ~ with him about the weather*. **2** cause for being angry; reason for protest or complaint: *I have no ~ with/against him*. **pick a quarrel (with sb)**, find or invent some occasion or excuse for disagreement, etc. ⇨ patch². □ *vi* (-ll-, *US* also -l-) **1** have, take part in, a quarrel: *The thieves ~led with one another about how to divide the money*. **2** disagree (with); complain about: *It's not the fact of examinations I'm ~ling with; it's the way they're conducted*.

'quar-rel-some /-səm/ *adj* quickly made to argue; often causing arguments.

quarry¹ /'kwɒri/ *US*: 'kwɔ:ri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (usually sing) hunted animal, bird, etc.

quarry² /'kwɒri/ *US*: 'kwɔ:ri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) place (not underground like a mine) where stone, slate, etc is obtained (for building, road-making, etc). □ *vt*, *vi* (pt, pp -ied) get from a quarry: *~ limestone*.

quart /kwɔ:t/ *n* [C] measure of capacity equal to two pints or about 1.14 litres.

quar-ter /'kwɔ:tə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** fourth part (¼); one of four equal or corresponding parts: *a ~ of a mile; a mile and a ~; a ~ of an hour, 15 minutes; an hour and a ~; the first ~ of this century*, ie 1901–25. **2** point of time 15 minutes before or after any hour: *a ~ to (US = of) two; a ~ past six*. **3** three months, esp as a period for which rent and other payments are made. **4** (US) (coin worth) 25 cents. **5** (used of animals in compounds) section including a leg: 'fore-~s; 'hind-~s. **6** direction; district; source of supply; help, information, etc: *travel in every ~ of the globe, everywhere*. *As his father was penniless, he could expect no help from that ~*. **7** division of a town, esp one of a particular group of people: *the Chinese ~ of San Francisco*. **8** one-fourth of a lunar month: *the moon at the first ~/in its last ~*. **9** (pl) place to stay in: *married ~s*. *All troops must return to ~s at once*, return to barracks. ⇨ head-quarters. **10** *at close quarters*, close together. **11** place for duty by sailors on a ship, esp for fighting: *Officers and men at once took up their ~s*. **12** back part of a ship's side: *on the port/starboard ~*. **13** (GB) fourth part of a hundredweight, 28 lb; (US) 25 lb; measure of grain of eight bushels. □ *vi* **1** divide into quarters. **2** place (troops) in lodgings: *~ troops on the villagers*.

'quarter-final, (sport) one of four competitions or matches, the winners of which play in the semi-finals.

'quarter-master, (a) (army) (abbr **QM**) officer in charge of the stores, etc of a battalion. (b) (navy) petty officer in charge of steering the ship, signals, etc.

'quarter-master-general, (army) (abbr **QMG**) staff officer in charge of supplies.

quar-ter-ly /'kwɔ:təli/ *adj*, *adv* (happening) once in each three months: *~ payments; to be paid ~*. □ *n* [C] (pl -ies) periodical published every 3 months.

quar-tet, **quar-tette** /kwɔ:tet/ *n* [C] (piece of music for) four players or singers: *a string ~, for (usually) two violins, viola and cello; a piano ~, for piano and three stringed instruments*.

quartz /'kwɔ:ts/ *n* [U] sorts of hard mineral (esp crystallized silica), including agate and other semi-precious stones.

quash /kwɒʃ/ *vi* put an end to, reject as not valid (by legal procedure): *~ a verdict*.

quasi- /kweɪsɪ/ *prefix* almost, partly: *'quasi-official*.

quat-er-cen-ten-ary /kwɔ:təsən'ti:nəri/ *US*: 'kwɒtər'sentənəri/ *adj*, *n* [C] (pl -ies) (of the) 400th anniversary: *the ~ celebrations in 1964 of Shakespeare's birth*.

qua-ver /'kweɪvə(r)/ *vi*, *vi* **1** (of the voice or a sound) shake; tremble: *in a ~ing voice; in a*

voice that *~ed*. **2** say or sing in a shaking voice. □ *n* [C] **1** trembling sound. **2** (music) note with one-half the value of a crotchet.

quay /ki:/ *n* [C] landing-place usually built of stone or iron, alongside which ships can be tied up for loading and unloading.

queasy /'kwɛɪzi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** (of food) causing a feeling of sickness in the stomach. **2** (of the stomach) easily upset. **3** (of a person) easily made sick.

queen /kwɪn/ *n* [C] **1** woman ruler in her own right: *the Q~ of England*; *Q~ Elizabeth II*. **2** wife of a king. **3** woman regarded as first of a group: *a 'beauty-~*. **4** (chess) most powerful piece for attack or defence. **5** (playing-cards) one with the picture of a queen: *the ~ of spades/hearts*. **6** fertile, egg-producing, female of bees, ants, etc.

queen mother, mother of a reigning sovereign.

Queen's Counsel, (abbr **QC**) ⇨ King's Counsel.

queen-ly *adj* like, fit for, a queen.

queer /'kwɪə(r)/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** strange; unusual: *a ~ way of talking*. **2** causing doubt or suspicion: *~ noises in the attic*. **3** (informal) unwell; sick: *feel very ~*.

queer /'kwɪə(r)/ ⇨ pitch¹(1).

quell /kwel/ *vt* suppress (a rebellion, rebels, opposition).

quench /kwentʃ/ *vt* **1** put out (flames, fire). **2** satisfy (thirst). **3** put an end to (hope).

querulous /'kwɛrələs/ *adj* (formal) full of complaints: *in a ~ tone*.

query /'kwɪəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** question, esp one raising a doubt about the truth of something: *raise a ~*. **2** mark (eg ?) put against something, eg in the margin of a document, as a sign of doubt. □ *vi* **1** inquire: *I ~ whether/if his word can be relied on*. **2** express doubt about: *~ a person's instructions*. **3** put a mark (eg ?) against.

quest /kwɛst/ *n* [C] (formal) search: *the ~ for gold*. □ *vt* (formal) search (for): *~ing for further evidence*.

question /'kwɛstʃən/ *n* [C] **1** sentence which by word-order, use of words such as *who*, *why*, etc written with ? at the end, or by intonation, asks for information, an answer, etc. **2** something which needs to be decided; inquiry; problem: *economic ~s*. *Success is only a ~ of time*, will certainly come sooner or later. *The ~ is...*, What we want to know, What we must decide, is... **in question**, being talked about: *Where's the man in ~?* **out of the question**, impossible: *We can't go out in this weather; it's out of the ~*. **3** [U] (the putting forward of) doubt, objection: *There is no ~ about/some ~ as to his honesty*. **beyond (all)/without question**, certain(ly); without doubt: *His honesty is beyond all ~*. *Without ~, he's the best man for the job*.

question-mark, (a) the mark (?) at the end of a written question. (b) (fig) instance of doubt: *a ~ mark about/over her suitability for the job*.

question time, (in the House of Commons) period when ministers answer questions put by Members.

ques-tion? /'kwɛstʃən/ *vt* **1** ask a question; examine: *He was ~ed by the police*. **2** express or feel doubt about: *~ her honesty*; *~ the value/importance of games at school*.

ques-tion-able /-əbl/ *adj* doubtful: *a ~ able account of what happened*.

ques-tion-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

questioner, person who questions.

ques-tion-naire /'kwɛstʃə'neə(r)/ *n* [C] printed list of questions to be answered by a group of people, esp to get facts or information, or for a survey.

queue /kju:/ *n* [C] **1** line of people waiting for their turn (eg to enter a cinema, get on a bus, buy something): *form a/stand in a ~*. **jump the queue**, ⇨ jump²(8). **2** line of vehicles waiting to proceed: *A ~ of cars was held up by the traffic lights*. □ *vi* get into, be in, a queue: *queuing up for tickets/to buy tickets*.

quibble /'kwɪbl/ *n* [C] attempt to escape giving an honest answer (in an argument), by using a secondary or doubtful meaning of a word or phrase. □ *vi* argue about small points or differences: *quibbling about/over nothing of importance*.

quick /kwɪk/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** moving fast; able to move fast and do things in a short time; done in a short time: *a ~ train/worker*; *have a ~ meal*. *Be ~ about it!* *Hurry up!* **2** lively; bright; active; prompt: *~ to seize an opportunity*; *~ at figures*; *a ~ (= intelligent) child*; *a ~ temper*, easily angered. □ *n* [U] tender or sensitive flesh below the skin, esp the nails: *bite one's nails to the ~*. **cut/touch sb to the quick**, hurt his feelings deeply. □ *adv* (-er, -est) (informal) (= quickly and always placed after the verb): *Can't you run ~er?* *He wants to get rich ~*.

quick-step, kind of ballroom dancing step.

quick-tempered *adj* easily made angry.

quick-ly *adv*

quick-ness *n* [U]

quicken /'kwɪkən/ *vt, vi* **1** make or become quick(er): *We ~ed our pace*. *Our pace ~ed*. **2** make or become more lively, vigorous or active: *His pulse ~ed*.

quick-sand /'kwɪksænd/ *n* [C] (area of) loose, wet, deep sand which sucks down men, vehicles, etc that try to cross it.

quick-silver /'kwɪksɪlvə(r)/ *n* [U] = mercury.

quick-step /'kwɪkstep/ *n* ⇨ quick.

quid /kwɪd/ *n* [C] (pl unchanged) (GB sl) = pound¹(2): *earning twenty ~ (= £20) a week*. **quids 'in**, (sl) profiting.

quiet /'kwaɪət/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** with little or no sound: *a ~ classroom*. **2** free from excitement, trouble, anxiety: *live a ~ life in the country*. **3** gentle; not rough (in attitude, etc): *a ~ personality*. **4** (of colours) not bright. **5** not open or revealed: *harbouring ~ resentment*. **keep sth quiet**, keep it secret. **on the quiet**, (or, informal, **on the qt** /kju: 'ti:/), secretly: *have a whisky on the ~*. □ *n* [U] state of being quiet (all senses): *live in peace and ~*.

quieten /'kwaɪətn/ *vt, vi* make or become quiet: *~ children/fears/suspensions*. *The city ~ed down after the political disturbances*.

quiff /kwɪf/ *n* [C] lock of hair brushed up above the forehead.

quill /kwɪl/ *n* [C] **1** (also ~-feather) large wing or tail feather; (hollow stem of) such a feather formerly used for writing with: *a ~ pen*. **2** long, sharp, stiff spine of a porcupine.

quilt /kwɪlt/ *n* [C] thick bed-covering of two layers of cloth padded with soft material kept in place by cross lines of stitches. ⇨ **continental quilt**, duvet. □ *vt* make in the form of a quilt, ie with soft material between layers of cloth: *a ~ed dressing-gown*.

quilt-ing, material for a quilt.

quin /kwɪn/ *n* [C] (abbr of) quintuplet (but *quin* is more usual).

quin-cen-ten-ary /'kwɪnsən'ti:nəri/ *US*: -'sentənəri/ *adj*, *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (of) (the celebration of) the 500th anniversary of an event.

quin-ine /kwɪ'nɪn/ *US*: 'kwɪnɪn/ *n* [U] bitter medicine used for fevers such as malaria.

Quin-qua-ges-ima /'kwɪŋkwə'dʒesɪmə/ *n* the Sunday before Lent.

quin-tes-sence /kwɪn'tesns/ *n* [C] (*formal*) perfect example: *the ~ of virtue*.

quin-tet, **quin-tette** /kwɪn'tet/ *n* [C] (piece of music for) five players or singers: *a string ~*, string quartet and an additional cello or viola; *a piano ~*, string quartet and piano; *a wind ~*, bassoon, clarinet, flute, horn and oboe.

quin-tu-plet /'kwɪntju:plɪt/ *US*: kwɪn'tu:plɪt/ *n* [C] (abbr *quin* which is more usual) one of five babies at a birth. (Note: usually *pl*: *one of the ~s*, not *a ~*.)

quip /kwɪp/ *n* [C] clever, witty or sarcastic remark or saying. □ *vi* (-pp-) make quips.

quire /'kwaɪə(r)/ *n* [C] twenty-four sheets of writing-paper.

quirk /kwɜ:k/ *n* [C] odd act or behaviour.

quis-ling /'kwɪzlɪŋ/ *n* [C] person who cooperates with the authorities of an enemy country who are occupying his country.

quit! /kwɪt/ *adj* free, clear: *We are well ~ of him*, fortunate to be rid of him.

quit /kwɪt/ *vi* (*pt* ~ted or ~) (-tt- *US* also -t-) **1** go away from; leave: *I ~ted him in disgust*. *We've had notice to ~*, a warning that we must give up the house we rent. **2** stop: *He ~ work when the bell rang*.

quit-ter, (*informal*) person who does not finish what he has started.

quite /kwaɪt/ *adv* **1** completely; altogether: *I ~ agree/understand*. *She was ~ alone*. *That's ~ another* (= a completely different) *story*. **2** to a certain extent; a little more (so) than not: *~ a good player*. *It's ~ warm today*. (Note: used before an adjective.) ⇨ rather(3). **3** really; truly: *She's ~ a beauty*. **4** used to show agreement, understanding, etc): A: 'It's a difficult situation'. B: 'Q~ (so)'. A: 'I'm so sorry'. I'm afraid I'm late'. B: 'Oh, that's ~ all right'.

quits /kwɪts/ *adj* **be quits (with sb)**, be on even terms (by repaying a debt of money, punishment, etc): *We're ~ now*. **call it quits**, agree that things are even, that a dispute or quarrel is over. **double or quits**, (in gambling) paying double or nothing that is owed.

quiver¹ /'kwɪvə(r)/ *n* [C] sheath for carrying arrows.

quiver² /'kwɪvə(r)/ *vt, vi* (cause to) tremble slightly or vibrate: *a ~ing leaf*; *~ing with fear*. □ *n* [C] quivering sound or movement.

quix-otic /kwɪk'sɒtɪk/ *adj* (*formal*) generous, unselfish, imaginative, in a way that disregards one's own welfare.

quiz /kwɪz/ *vt* (-zz-) ask questions of, as a test of knowledge. □ *n* [C] (-zz-) (*modern use*) general knowledge test or contest.

quiz-zi-cal /'kwɪzɪkl/ *adj* (*formal*) **1** causing amusement. **2** teasing: *a ~ smile*. **3** expressing disbelief, puzzlement; questioning: *a ~ look*.

quiz-zi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

quoit /kwɔɪt/ *US*: kwɔɪt/ *n* [C] ring (of metal, rubber, rope) to be thrown at a peg so as to encircle it; (*pl*) this game (often played on the deck of a ship, 'deck-~s).

quorate /'kwɔ:reɪt/ *adj* (*informal*) having a quorum.

quo-rum /'kwɔ:rəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) number of persons who must, by the rules, be present at a meeting (a committee, etc) before its proceedings can have authority: *have/form a ~*.

quota /'kwɔ:tə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) limited share, amount or number, esp a quantity of goods allowed to be manufactured, sold, etc or number, eg of immigrants allowed to enter a country: *The ~ of trainees for this year has already been filled*.

quo-ta-tion /kwɔ:t'eɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] quoting(1). **2** [C] something quoted(1): *~s from Shakespeare*. **3** [C] statement of the current price of an article, etc: *the latest ~s from the Stock Exchange*. **4** [C] estimate of the cost of a piece of work: *Can you give me a ~ for building a garage?*

quotation marks, the marks '—' or '—' enclosing words spoken or quoted.

quote /kwɔ:t/ *vi* **1** repeat, write (words used by another, from a book, an author, etc): *~ from the newspaper*; *~ the Chairman*. **2** give (a

reference, etc) to support a statement: *Can you ~ (me) a recent instance?* **3** name, mention (a price): *This is the best price I can ~ you.*

quot-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be, or deserves to be, quoted.

quoth /kwəuθ/ *vt* (*archaic*) (1st and 3rd person *sing, pt* only) said: ~ I/he/she.

quo-tient /'kwəʊfənt/ *n* [C] (*maths*) number obtained by dividing one number by another.

Rr

R, r /ɑ:(r)/ (*pl* R's, r's /ɑ:z/) the eighteenth letter of the English alphabet. **the three R's**, reading, (w)riting and (a)rithmetic as the basis of an elementary education.

rabbi /'ræbaɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) teacher of the Jewish law; (title of a) spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation.

rab-bini-cal /rə'bɪnɪkl/ *adj*

rab-bit /'ræbɪt/ *n* [C] small burrowing animal with long ears of the hare family. □ *vt* (-tt-) hunt rabbits: *go ~ting*.

'rabbit-hutch, cage for domestic rabbits.

'rabbit-punch, punch on the back of the neck with the side of the hand.

'rabbit-warren, area of land full of rabbit-burrows.

rabble /'ræbl/ *n* [C] disorderly crowd; mob.

'rabble-rousing *adj* inciting the passions of the mob: ~-rousing 'speeches/speakers.

rabid /'ræbɪd/ *adj* **1** affected with rabies. **2** (fig) furious; fanatical: ~ hate of socialism.

ra-bies /'reɪbi:z/ *n* [U] infectious fatal disease causing madness in dogs and other animals.

rac-coon = racoon.

race¹ /reɪs/ *n* [C] **1** contest or competition in speed, eg in running, swimming or to see who can finish a piece of work, or get to a certain place, first: *a 'horse-~; run a ~ with the other school. a race against time*, an effort to finish something before a certain time. **2** strong, fast current of water in the sea, a river, etc. □ *vi, vt* **1** compete in speed, have a race; move at full speed: *boys racing home from school; ~ with/against somebody for a prize. 2* own or train horses for racing and take part in horse-races: *He ~s at all the big meetings. 3* cause (a person or thing) to move at full speed: *He ~d me to the station in his car.*

rac-ing *n* [U] (esp) the hobby, sport or profession of running horses or driving motor-cars in races.

'race-course, ground where horse-races are run.

'race-horse, special breed for racing.

'race-meeting, occasion when a number of

horse-races are held at a certain place.

'race-track, path prepared for races, eg in a stadium.

race² /reɪs/ *n* **1** [C, U] any of several subdivisions of mankind sharing certain physical characteristics, esp colour of skin, colour and type of hair, shape of eyes and nose: *people of the same ~ but of different culture. 2* [C] (used loosely for a) group of people having a common culture, history or language: *the 'German ~. 3* (used as an adjective): *Can ~ relations be improved by legislation? 4* [C] main division of any living creatures: *the human ~, mankind.*

ra-cial /'reɪʃl/ *adj* relating to race² (1,2): ~ conflict/minorities/discrimination/harmony.

ra-cially /-ʃəli/ *adv*

ra-cial-ism /-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] conflict between different races; belief that one's own race is superior.

ra-cial-ist /-ɪst/, *person* who believes that some races are superior to others.

ra-cily, raci-ness ⇨ racy.

ra-cing /'reɪsɪŋ/ *n* ⇨ race¹.

ra-cism /'reɪsɪzəm/ *n* [U] = racialism.

ra-cist /-ɪst/ *n* [C] = racist.

rack¹ /ræk/ *n* [C] **1** wooden or metal framework for holding food for animals (in a stable or in the fields). **2** framework with bars, pegs, etc for holding things, hanging things on, etc: *a 'plate-~; a 'tool-~. 3* shelf over the seats of a train, plane, bus, etc for light luggage: *a 'luggage-~. 4* rod, bar or rail with teeth or cogs into which the teeth on a wheel (or pinion) fit (as used on special railways up a steep hill-side).

rack² /ræk/ *n* [C] (usually *the ~*) instrument of torture (a frame with rollers to which a person was tied so that his joints were stretched when the rollers were turned). □ *vi* **1** torture by placing on the rack. **2** (of a disease or of mental agony) inflict torture on: ~ed with pain. **3 rack one's brains (for)**, make great mental efforts (for, in order to find, an answer, method, etc).

rack³ /ræk/ *n* (only in) **go to rack and ruin**, fall into a ruined state.

racket¹ /'rækt/ *n* **1** (*sing* only, with *a, an* or [U]) loud noise: *The young men in the pub kicked up such a ~, were very noisy. 2* [U] (time of) great social activity: *I hate the ~ of living in London. 3* [C] (*informal*) dishonest way of getting money (by deceiving or threatening people, selling worthless goods, etc). **4** [C] ordeal.

rack-et-eer /'ræktɪ'ɪə(r)/ *n* [C] person who is engaged in a racket (3).

racket², **rac-quet** /'ræktɪ/ *n* [C] **1** light, stringed bat used for hitting the ball in tennis, badminton, etc. **2** (pl) ball-game for two or four players in a court with four walls.

rac-on-teur /'ræknɪ'ɪ:z(r)/ *n* [C] person who tells stories with skill and wit.

rac-oon, rac-coon /rækʊn/ US: ræ-/ *n* [C] small, flesh-eating animal of N America with a bushy, ringed tail; [U] its fur.

râc-quet *n* [C] = racket².

racy /reɪsi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** (of speech or writing) full of activity and life; spirited: *a ~ style/novel*. **2** having strongly marked qualities: *a ~ flavour*.

ra-cily /-əli/ *adv*

ra-ci-ness *n* [U]

ra-dar /reɪdɑː(r)/ *n* [U] (the use of) apparatus that shows on a screen (by means of radio echoes) solid objects that come within its range, used (eg by pilots of ships, aircraft or spacecraft) in fog, war, etc and which gives information about their position, movement, speed, etc: *follow an aircraft by ~*; (used as an adjective): *a ~ screen*.

ra-dial /reɪdiəl/ *adj* **1** relating to a ray, rays or a radius. **2** (of spokes in a bicycle wheel, etc) from a centre; arranged like rays or radii. □ *n* [C] (also ~ *tyre*) tyre designed (by having the material inside the tyre wrapped in a direction radial to the hub of the wheel) to give more grip on road surfaces, esp when cornering or when roads are wet.

ra-di-ally /-iəli/ *adv*

ra-di-ance /reɪdiəns/ *n* [U] radiant quality.

ra-di-ant /reɪdiənt/ *adj* **1** sending out rays of light; shining: *the ~ sun*. **2** (of a person, his looks, eyes) showing great joy or love: *a ~ face*. **3** (physics) transmitted by radiation: ~ *heat/energy*.

ra-di-ant-ly *adv*

ra-di-ate /reɪdiət/ *vt, vi* **1** send out rays of (light or heat). **2** (fig) send out: *a bride who ~s happiness*. **3** come or go out in rays; show: *heat that ~s from a fireplace*; *the happiness that ~s from her eyes*. **4** spread out like radii: *the avenues that ~ from the Arc de Triomphe in Paris*.

ra-di-ation /reɪdi'eɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] radiating. **2** [U] (physics) the sending out of energy, heat, light, etc in rays. **3** [C] something radiated: ~ *emitted by an X-ray apparatus*.

ra-di-ator /reɪdiə'tɔː(r)/ *n* [C] **1** apparatus (in a room) for radiating heat, esp heat from hot water supplied through pipes or from electric current. **2** device for cooling the cylinders of the engine of a motor-vehicle: *This car has a fan-cooled ~*.

'radiator grill, grill in front of the engine of a motor-vehicle.

rad-ical /'rædɪkəl/ *adj* **1** of or from the root or base: ~ (= thorough and complete) *changes*. **2** (politics) favouring complete reform; advanced (and usually left-wing) in opinions and policies: *the R~ Party*. □ *n* [C] person with radical(2) opinions.

radi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

ra-di-al /reɪdiəl/ *n pl* ⇨ radius.

ra-dio /reɪdiəʊ/ *n* (pl ~s) **1** [U] (communication by) electromagnetic waves or by tele-

phone: *send a message by ~*. **2** [U] broadcasting by this means: *hears something on the ~*; (as an adjective) *a ~ programme*. **3** [C] apparatus (eg on ships, aircraft) for transmitting and receiving radio messages or (eg in the home) for receiving sound broadcast programmes: *a transistor ~*.

'radio frequency, frequency(2) between 10 kilocycles per second and 300000 megacycles per second.

radio- /reɪdiəʊ/ *prefix* (esp) of rays.

'radio telescope, apparatus that detects stars by means of radio waves from outer space and tracks spacecraft.

'radio therapist, expert in radio therapy.

'radio-therapy, treatment of disease by means of X-rays or other forms of radiation, eg of heat.

radio-active /reɪdiəʊ 'æktɪv/ *adj* (of such metals as uranium) having atoms that break up and, in so doing, send out rays in the form of electrically charged particles capable of passing through material that cannot be seen through and of producing electrical effects: ~ *dust*, *dust* (eg as carried by winds) from explosions of nuclear bombs, etc.

'radio-ac-tiv-ity *n* [U]

radi-og-ra-phy /reɪdi'ɒgrəfi/ *n* [U] production of X-ray photographs.

'radi-og-ra-pher, person trained in radio-graphy.

radio-iso-tope /reɪdiəʊ 'aɪsə'toʊp/ *n* [C] radioactive form of an element, used in medicine, industry, etc.

rad-ish /'rædɪʃ/ *n* [C] plant used in salad, with a white or red root.

ra-dius /reɪdiəs/ *n* [C] (pl radii /-diəi/) **1** (length of a) straight line from the centre of a circle or sphere to any point on the circumference or surface. **2** circular area measured by its radius: *The police searched all the fields and woods within a ~ of two miles*. **3** (anat) outer of the two bones in the forearm.

raf-fia /'ræfiə/ *n* [U] fibre from the leaf-stalks of a kind of palm-tree, used for making baskets, hats, mats, etc.

raffle /'ræfl/ *n* [C] sale of an article by a lottery, often for a charitable purpose. □ *vt* sell in a raffle: *raffling (off) a television*.

raft /ræft/ US: ræft/ *n* [C] **1** number of logs fastened together to be floated down a river. **2** = life-raft: *The sailors got away from the wrecked ship on a ~*. □ *vi, vi* carry, move, go, on a raft.

raf-ter /'ræftə(r)/ US: 'ræf-/ *n* [C] one of the sloping beams of the framework on which the tiles or slates of a roof are supported.

rag¹ /ræg/ *n* [C] **1** odd bit of cloth: *a ~ to polish the car with*. **2** (used contemptuously for a) newspaper: *Why do you read that worthless ~?*

rag² /ræg/ *vi* (-gg-) (informal) play practical jokes on. □ *n* [C] procession of amusing floats¹(3), eg as held by college students.

rag-day, day on which students hold a rag, and often collect money for charity.

rage /reɪdʒ/ *n* [C,U] (outburst of) furious anger: *shouting with ~; the ~ of the sea*, its violence during a storm. **be in/fly into a rage**, be, become, very angry. **2** [C] strong desire: *He has a ~ for collecting butterflies*. **3 be (all) the rage**, (informal) something for which there is temporary enthusiasm: *Long hair on men is all the ~ this summer*. □ *vi* **1** be very angry: *He ~d and fumed against me for not letting him have his own way*. **2** (of storms, etc) be violent: *The storm/battle ~d all day*.

rag-ged /'ræɡɪd/ *adj* **1** (with clothes) badly torn or in rags: *a ~ coat/old man*. **2** having rough or irregular edges or outlines or surfaces: *a dog with a ~ coat of hair; a sleeve with ~ edges*. **3** (of work, etc) not having smoothness or uniformity: *a ~ performance*, eg of an actor, a piece of music.

rag-ged-ly *adv*

rag-time /'ræɡtaɪm/ *n* [U] (1920's) popular music and dance of US Negro origin, the accent of the melody falling just before the regular beat of the accompaniment.

raid /reɪd/ *n* [C] **1** surprise attack made by troops, ship(s) or aircraft: *make a ~ on the enemy's camp; killed in an 'air-~, an attack by aircraft*. **2** sudden visit by police to make arrests: *a ~ on a casino*. **3** sudden attack for the purpose of taking money: *a ~ on a bank by armed men*. □ *vt,vi* carry out a raid: *Boys have been ~ing my orchard, stealing fruit*.

raider, person, ship, aircraft, etc that makes a raid.

rail /reɪl/ *n* [C] **1** horizontal or sloping bar or rod or continuous series of bars or rods, of wood or metal, as part of a fence, as a protection against contact or falling over: *metal ~s round a monument. He was leaning over the (ship's) ~*. **2** similar bar or rod placed for things to hang on: *a 'towel-~, eg at the side of a wash-basin*. **3** steel bar or continuous line of such bars, laid on the ground as one side of a track for trains or trams: *a ~ strike*, of railway workers. **off the rails**, (a) (of a train) off the track. (b) (fig) out of order, out of control. (c) (informal) mad. □ *vt* **rail off/in**, put rails(1) round: *fields that are ~ed off from the road*.

'rail-road, (US) = railway.

'rail-way, (a) track on which trains run: *build a new ~way*. (b) system of such tracks, with the locomotives, wagons, etc and the organization controlling the system: *work on/nationalize the ~way*. (c) (as an adjective): *a ~way station/bridge*.

rail-ing *n* [C] (often *pl*) fence made with rails.

rail² /reɪl/ *vi* find fault; criticize.

rai-ment /'reɪmənt/ *n* [U] (literary) clothing.

rain¹ /reɪn/ *n* 1 [U] condensed moisture of the atmosphere falling in separate drops; fall of

such drops: *It looks like ~, as if there will be a fall of rain. Don't go out in the ~. (come) rain or shine*, (a) whatever the weather is like. (b) (fig) whether conditions are favourable or not: *He's always there, come ~ or shine. right as rain*, ⇨ right ¹(4). **2** (with a and an adjective) fall or shower of rain: *There was a heavy ~ last night*. **3** (usually *sing* with a) fall of something like rain: *a ~ of arrows/bullets*.

the rains, the season in tropical countries when there is heavy and continuous rain.

rain-bow /'reɪnbəʊ/ arch containing the colours of the spectrum, formed in the sky opposite the sun when rain is falling or when the sun shines on mist or spray.

'rain-coat, light coat of waterproof or tightly-woven material.

'rain-drop, single drop of rain.

'rain-fall, amount of rain falling within a given area in a given time.

'rain forest, hot, wet forest in tropical areas, where rainfall is heavy and there is no dry season.

'rain-gauge, instrument for measuring rainfall.

'rain-proof *adj* able to keep rain out.

'rain-water, water that has fallen as rain and has been collected.

rain² /reɪn/ *vi,vi* **1** fall as rain: *It was ~ing. It never rains but it pours*, (proverb) If one disaster happens, others will follow. **2** fall in a stream: *Tears ~ed down her cheeks*. **3** send or come down (on): *The people ~ed gifts on/upon the heroes returning from the war*.

rainy /'reɪni/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) having much rain: *~ weather; a ~ day/climate; the ~ season. save/put away/keep sth for a rainy day*, save money for a time when one may need it.

raise /reɪz/ *vt* **1** lift up; move from a low(er) to a high(er) level; cause to rise: *~ a sunken ship to the surface of the sea; ~ one's glass to one's lips; ~ prices; ~ (= build, erect) a monument*.

raise sb's hopes, ⇨ hope ¹(1).

raise one's voice, ⇨ voice(3). **2** cause to be upright: *~ a man from his knees; ~ the banner of revolt*.

3 cause to rise or appear: *~ a cloud of dust; shoes that ~ blisters on my feet; a long, hot walk that ~d a good thirst*, caused the walker to be thirsty.

raise sb from the dead, restore him to life. **raise a laugh**, do something to cause laughter.

raise Cain/hell/the devil/the roof, (sl) become very angry; start a big row.

4 bring up for discussion or attention: *~ a new point/a question/a protest/an objection*.

5 grow or produce (crops); breed (sheep, etc); bring up (a family).

6 get or bring together; manage to get: *~ an army; ~ a loan; ~ money for a new swimming-pool*. □ *n* [C] (US) = rise¹(2).

raisin /'reɪzn/ *n* [C] dried sweet grape; as used

in cakes, etc.

ra-jah /'rɑ:dʒə/ *n* [C] Indian prince; Malayan chief.

rake¹ /reɪk/ *n* [C] long-handled tool with prongs used for drawing together straw, dead leaves, etc, for smoothing soil or gravel, etc. □ *vt, vi* **1** use a rake (on); make smooth with a rake: ~ *garden paths*; *raking together dead leaves*; ~ *the soil smooth for a seedbed*. **2** get (something together, up, out, etc) with or as with a rake: ~ *out a fire*, get the ashes or cinders out from the bottom of a grate, etc. **rake sth in**, (fig) earn, make, much money: *The firm is very successful—they're raking it in/ raking in the money*. **rake over/through sth**, search for facts, etc: ~ *through old manuscripts for information*. **rake sth up**, (esp) bring to people's knowledge (something which it is better not to remember): ~ *up old quarrels/the past*. **3** fire at with guns, from end to end: ~ *a ship*.

'rake-off, (sl) (usually dishonest) share of profits: *If I put this bit of business your way, I expect a ~-off*.

rake² /reɪk/ *n* [C] (dated) immoral man.

rake³ /reɪk/ *vi, vt* **1** (of a ship) project beyond the keel; (of the funnel, masts) (cause to) slope towards the stern. **2** (of the stage of a theatre, cinema) slope down (towards the audience). □ *n* [C] degree of slope.

rak-ish /'reɪkɪʃ/ *adj* **1** of or like a rake²: *a ~ appearance*. **2** on one side: *set one's hat at a ~ angle*.

rak-ish-ly *adv*

rally /'ræli/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp -lied) **1** (cause to) come together, esp after defeat or confusion, or in the face of threats or danger, to make new efforts: *The troops rallied round their leader. The leader rallied his men. They rallied to the support of the Prime Minister*. **2** give new strength to; (cause to) recover health, strength, firmness: ~ *one's strength/spirits*; ~ *from an illness*. □ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** gathering or assembly, esp to encourage fresh effort: *a political ~*; *a 'peace ~*, one to urge the ending or avoiding of war. **2** meeting of a number of car drivers or motor-cyclists for a competition, etc. (in tennis, etc) exchange of several strokes.

ram /ræm/ *n* [C] **1** uncastrated male sheep. **2** one of various implements or devices for striking or pushing with great force. **3** = battering ram. □ *vi* (-mm-) strike and push heavily: ~ *piles into a river bed*.

'ram-rod, iron rod for ramming the charge into old (muzzle-loading) guns.

Rama-dan /'ræmə'dɑ:n/ *US*: -dæn/ *n* ninth month of the Muslim year, when Muslims fast between sunrise and sunset.

ramble /'ræmbəl/ *vi* **1** walk for pleasure, with no special destination. **2** (fig) wander in one's talk, not keeping to the subject. **3** (of plants) grow with long shoots that extend up or

along: *rambling roses*. □ *n* [C] rambling walk: *go for a country ~*.

ram-bler, person or thing that rambles.

ram-bling *adj* (a) (esp of buildings, streets, towns), extending in various directions as if built without planning. (b) (of a speech, essay, etc) disconnected.

ramp /ræmp/ *n* [C] sloping way from one level to another, eg instead of stairs or steps.

ram-page /'ræmpedʒ/ *vi* rush about in excitement or rage. □ *n* **be/go on the ram-page**, be/go rampaging.

ram-pa-geous /ræm'peɪdʒəs/ *adj* (formal) excited and noisy.

ram-pant /'ræmpənt/ *adj* **1** (of plants, etc) luxuriant: *Rich soil makes some plants too ~*, causes them to spread too thickly, to have too much foliage, etc. **2** (of diseases, social evils, physical activity, etc) beyond control: *Revenge was ~ in the village*. **3** (of animals, esp of a lion in heraldry) on the hind legs.

ram-pant-ly *adv*

ram-part /'ræmpɑ:t/ *n* [C] wide bank of earth, often with a wall, built to defend a fort, etc.

ram-rod /'ræmrɒd/ ⇨ ram.

ram-shackle /'ræmjækəl/ *adj* almost collapsing: *a ~ house/old bus*.

ran /ræn/ *pt* of run².

ranch /rɑ:ntʃ/ *US*: ræntʃ/ *n* [C] (in N America) large farm, esp one with extensive lands for cattle, but also for fruit, chickens, etc.

'ranch house, (US) rectangular house without stairs.

rancher, person who owns, manages or works on, a ranch.

ran-cid /'rænsɪd/ *adj* with the smell or taste of stale, decaying fat or butter.

ran-cour (US = -cor) /'ræŋkə(r)/ *n* [U] (formal) deep and long-lasting feeling that one has been ignored, injured or insulted: *full of ~ (against him)*.

ran-cor-ous /'ræŋkərəs/ *adj*

ran-dom /'rændəm/ *n* [U] **1** *at random*, without reason, aim or purpose: *choosing children at ~ to help in the class*. **2** (as an adjective) done, made, taken, at random: *a ~ remark/sample/selection*.

rang /ræŋ/ *pt* of ring².

range¹ /reɪndʒ/ *n* [C] **1** row, line or series of things: *a magnificent ~ of mountains*; *a 'mountain ~*. **2** area of ground with targets for shooting at: *a 'rifle ~*. **3** area in which rockets and missiles are fired. **4** distance to which a gun will shoot or to which a missile, etc can be fired: *in/within/out of/beyond ~*. **5** distance at which one can see or hear, or to which sound will carry. **6** extent; distance between limits: *the ~ of an aircraft*, how far it can travel without refuelling; *the annual ~ of temperature*, eg from 0°C to 30°C; *a long ~ 'weather forecast*, for a long period; *a wide ~ of colours*. **7** (fig)

extent: *a subject that is outside my ~*, one that I have not studied; *a wide ~ of interests*. **8** (US) area of grazing or hunting ground. **9** area over which plants are found growing or in which animals are found living: *What is the ~ of the elephant in Africa?* **10** type of stove, with ovens, a coal boiler, and a surface for pans, kettles, etc.

range² /reɪndʒ/ *vi*, *vt* **1** place in a row or rows; put, take one's place, in an order, class or group; arrange (the usual word): *The general ~d his men along the river bank*. **2** go, move, wander: *animals ranging through the forests/over the hills*. **3** (fig) be extensive: *researches that ~d over a wide field*; *a wide-ranging discussion*. **4** extend, run in a line: *a boundary that ~s north and south/from A to B*. **5** vary between limits: *prices ranging from £7 to £10/between £7 and £10*. **6** (of guns, projectiles) carry: *This gun ~s over six miles*, can fire to this distance.

ranger /'reɪndʒə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (N America) forest guard. **2** (esp in Canada) one of a body of mounted troops employed as police (eg in thinly populated areas). **3** (GB) keeper of a royal park, who sees that the forest laws are observed.

rank /ræŋk/ *n* **1** [C] line of persons or things: *Take the taxi at the head of the ~*, the first one in the line. **2** number of soldiers placed side by side. **3** the ~s, ordinary soldiers, ie privates and corporals, contrasted with officers. **4** [C, U] position in a scale, distinct grade in the armed forces; category or class: *promoted to the ~ of captain*; *be in the ~s of the unemployed*. *vi*, *vt* **1** put or arrange in a rank: *A major ~s above a captain*. **2** have a place: *Would you ~ him among the world's great statesmen?*

rankle /'ræŋkl/ *vi* continue to be a painful or annoying memory: *The insult ~d in his mind*.

ransack /'rænsæk/ *US*: ræn'sæk/ *vt* **1** search (a place) thoroughly: *a drawer for money/to find money*. **2** rob: *The house had been ~ed of all that was worth anything*.

ransom /'rænsəm/ *n* [U] freeing of a person who has been kidnapped on payment; [C] sum of money, etc, paid for this. **hold a man to ransom**, keep him as a prisoner and ask for money. **worth a king's ransom**, a very large sum of money. *vi* obtain the freedom of (a person), set (a person) free, in exchange for ransom: *~ a kidnapped diplomat/politician*.

rant /rænt/ *vi*, *vt* use pompous, boasting, loud language: *~ing and raving on the stage*.

rap /ræp/ *n* [C] **1** (sound of a) light, quick blow: *I heard a ~ on the door*. **2** (informal) blame; consequences. **take the rap (for sth)**, (informal) be punished, etc (esp when innocent). *vi*, *vi* (-pp-) hit, strike quickly; make the sound of a rap: *~ (at) the door*.

ra-pa-cious /rə'peɪʃəs/ *adj* (formal) greedy (esp for money).

ra-pa-cious-ly *adv*

rape /reɪp/ *vt* commit the crime of forcing sexual intercourse on. *n* [C] act of raping.

ra-pist /'reɪpɪst/ *n*, person who rapes.

rapid /'ræpɪd/ *adj* **1** quick; moving, happening, with great speed: *a ~ decision*. **2** (of a slope) steep; descending steeply.

rap-id-ity /rə'pɪdəti/ *n* [U]

rap-id-ly *adv*

rap-ids /'ræpɪdz/ *n* *pl* part of a river where a steep slope causes the water to flow fast.

ra-pier /'reɪpiə(r)/ *n* [C] light sword used for thrusting in duels and the sport of fencing.

rapt /ræpt/ *adj* so deep in thought, so carried away by feelings, that one is unaware of other things: *listening to the news with ~ attention*; *~ in a book*.

rap-ture /'ræptʃə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] state of being ecstatic: *gazing with ~ at the face of the girl he loved*. **2** (*pl*) state of being extremely happy, full of joy and enthusiasm: *She went into ~s over the dresses they showed her*.

rap-tur-ous /'ræptʃərəs/ *adj*

rap-tur-ous-ly *adv*

rare¹ /rəə(r)/ *adj* (-r, -st) unusual; uncommon; not often happening, unseen, etc: *a ~ animal*. *It is very ~ for her to arrive late*.

rare-ly *adv* not often: *~ly seen*.

rare-ness *n* [U]

rare² /rəə(r)/ *adj* (of meat) cooked so that the redness and juices are kept: *a ~ steak*.

rarefy /'ræərɪfaɪ/ *vt*, *vi* (*pt*, *pp* -ied) make or become less dense; purify: *rarefied air*.

rar-ing /'ræərɪŋ/ *adj* (informal) full of eagerness: *They're ~ to go*.

rar-ity /'ræərɪti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] rareness. **2** [C] something uncommon or unusual (and so valuable): *The person who is always happy is a ~*.

ras-cal /'rɑːskl/ *US*: 'ræskl/ *n* [C] **1** dishonest person. **2** (playfully) naughty child.

rash¹ /ræʃ/ *adj* too hasty; done, doing things, without enough thought of the possible result: *a ~ act/statement/man*.

rash-ly *adv*

rash-ness *n* [U]

rash² /ræʃ/ *n* [C] **1** (appearance, patch, of) tiny red spots on the skin: *a 'heat-~*. **2** (fig) sudden spread: *a ~ of new bungalows on a country road*.

rasher /'ræʃə(r)/ *n* [C] slice of bacon.

rasp /rɑːsp/ *US*: ræsp/ *n* [C] **1** metal tool like a coarse file with a surface or surfaces having sharp points, used for scraping. **2** rough, grating sound produced by this tool. *vi*, *vt* **1** scrape with a rasp. **2** (fig) have an irritating effect on: *~ing my nerves*. **3** say in a way that grates or sounds like the noise of a rasp: *~ out orders/insults*. **4** make a harsh, grating sound: *a learner ~ing (away) on his violin*.

rasp-ing-ly *adv*

rasp-berry /'rɑ:zbəri/ *US*: /'ræzberi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** (bush with a) small, sweet yellow or red berry: (as an *adjective*) ~ *jam*. **2** (*sl*) noise made with the tongue and lips or by wind passing out of the anus, or a similar noise to show dislike or disapproval.

rat /ræt/ *n* [C] **1** animal like, but larger than, a mouse. **2** person who deserts a cause that he thinks is about to fail. **smell a rat**, suspect that something wrong is being done. **3** (*fig*) cowardly traitor, eg a strike-breaker. *□ vt* (-tt-) **1** hunt rats: *go ~ting*. **2 rat (on sb)**, (*sl*) break a promise to do something.

the 'rat race, endless and undignified competition for success in one's career, social status, etc.

rat-ty *adj* (-ier, -iest) (*informal*) irritable.

rat-able (also **rate-able**) /'reɪtəbl/ *adj* having to pay rates(3): *the ~ value of a house*, its value as assessed for the levying of rates.

rat-abil-ity (also **rate-**) /'reɪtə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

rate¹ /reɪt/ *n* **1** [C] standard or reckoning, obtained by bringing two numbers or amounts into relationship: *the 'birth-'death-~; walk at the ~ of 3 miles an hour. What is the letter postage ~ to foreign countries?* **2 at 'this/'that rate**, if this/thatis true, if this/thatis state of affairs continues. **at 'any rate**, in any case; at least: *At any ~, say you're sorry*. **3 (GB)** tax on property (land and buildings), paid to local authorities for local purposes. **4 speed**: *travelling/increasing at a great ~*. **5** (with ordinal numbers) class or grade: *first ~, excellent; second ~, fairly good; third ~, (rather) poor; (used as an adjective, with a hyphen): a first-~ teacher*.

the rates, payments of rates(3) collectively. **'rate of ex'change**, relationship of value between two currencies (eg dollars and francs).

'rate-payer, person paying rates(3).

rate² /reɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** judge or estimate the value or qualities of: *What do you ~ his wealth at?* *He was ~d as kind and hospitable*. **2 (GB)** value (property) for the purpose of assessing rates(3) on: *My property was ~d at £200 per annum*.

rather /'rɑ:ðə(r)/ *US*: /'ræ-/ *adv* **1** more willingly; by preference or choice: *I'd ~ fail the exam if I have to cheat. I would ~ you came tomorrow than today*. *A: 'Will you join us in a game of cards?' - B: 'Thank you, but I'd ~ not.'*, prefer not to. **2** more truly, accurately or precisely: *He arrived very late last night or ~ in the early hours this morning*. **3** (to be distinguished from fairly²) in a certain degree or measure; more (so) than not; (**a**) (with *adjectives*, preceding or following *a*, following *the*): *a ~ surprising result* ~ *a surprising result*. (**b**) (with *comparatives*): *My brother is ~ better today*. (**c**) (with *nouns*): *It's ~ a pity*. (**d**) (with *verbs*): *We were all ~ exhausted when we got to the top*

of the mountain.

rat-ify /'rætɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) confirm (an agreement) by signature or other formality.

rati-fi-ca-tion /'rætɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U]

rat-ing /'reɪtɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] act of valuing property for the purpose of assessing rates(3); amount or sum fixed. **2** [C] class, classification, eg motor-cars by engine capacity or horsepower. **3** [C] popularity of radio or TV programmes as estimated by asking a selected group. **4 (navy)** person's position or class as recorded in the ship's books; non-commissioned sailor: *officers and ~s*.

ratio /'reɪʃiəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) relation between two amounts determined by the number of times one contains the other: *The ~s of 1 to 5 and 20 to 100 are the same*.

ra-tion /'ræʃn/ *n* **1** [C] fixed quantity, esp of food, allowed to one person. **2** (*pl*) fixed allowance served out to, eg members of the armed forces: *go and draw ~s*. *□ vt* **1** limit (a person) to a fixed ration. **2** limit (food, water, etc): *We'll have to ~ the water*.

ra-tion-al /'ræʃnəl/ *adj* **1** of reason or reasoning. **2** able to reason; having the faculty of reasoning. **3** sensible; that can be tested by reasoning: ~ behaviour.

ra-tion-ally /-nəli/ *adv*

ra-tion-al-ity /'ræʃənəlɪti/ *n* [U]

ra-tion-ale /'ræʃənəl/ *n* [C] fundamental reason, logical basis (of something).

ra-tion-al-is-tic /'ræʃənəlɪstɪk/ *adj* sensible, accepting a reasonable argument.

ra-tion-al-ize (also **-ise**) /'ræʃnəlaɪz/ *vt* **1** make reasonable; treat or explain in a rational manner: ~ *one's fears/behaviour*. **2** reorganize (an industry, etc) so as to lessen or get rid of waste (in time, labour, expense, etc).

ration-al-iz-ation (also **-isation**) /'ræʃnəlɪz'eɪʃn/ *US*: /-lɪz-/ *n* [U]

rattle /'rætl/ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) make short, sharp sounds quickly, one after the other: *The windows were rattling in the wind. The hailstones ~d the tin roof*. *□ death rattle*. **2** talk, say or repeat (something) quickly and in a thoughtless way: *The boy ~d off the poem he had learnt*. **3** (*informal*) frighten; make nervous: *He was ~d by the accident*. *□ n* **1** [U] rattling sound: *the ~ of bottles in a milkman's van*. **2** [C] toy for producing a rattling sound. **'rattle-snake**, poisonous American snake that makes a rattling noise with its tail.

ratty *□ rat*.

rau-cous /'rɔ:kəs/ *adj* (of sounds) harsh; rough; hoarse: *the ~ cries of the crows*.

rau-cous-ly *adv*

rav-age /'rævɪdʒ/ *vt, vi* **1** destroy; damage badly: *forests ~d by fire*. **2** (of armies, etc) rob, plunder, with violence: *They had ~d the countryside*. *□ n* **1** [U] destruction. **2** (*pl*) destructive effects: *the ~s of time*, eg on a woman's face.

rave /reɪv/ *vi* **1** talk wildly, violently, angrily: *The patient (eg someone with a high fever) began to ~.* **2** (of the sea, wind, etc) roar; rage. **3** talk or act with (often) excessive enthusiasm: *She was raving about the food she had had in France.* **n** [C] **1** (informal) (often as an adjective) enthusiastic praise: *a ~ review*, eg of a book. **2** (sl) wild, exciting party, dance, etc. **3** (sl) great enthusiasm: *be in a ~ about him.*

raver, (informal) person who raves (3).

rav-ing *adj* talking wildly: *a raving lunatic.* **n** *adv* to the point of talking wildly: *You're raving mad!*

ravel /'rævl/ *vi, vi* (-ll-, US also -l-) **1** (of knitted or woven things) separate into threads. **2** (fig) make confused.

raven /'reɪvn/ *n* [C] **1** large, black bird like a crow. **2** (as an adjective) glossy, shining black: *~ black hair.*

rav-en-ous /'rævənəs/ *adj* **1** very hungry. **2** greedy: *a ~ appetite.*

rav-en-ous-ly *adv* hungrily; greedily: *eat ~ly after a long journey.*

ra-vine /'rævɪn/ *n* [C] deep, narrow valley.

ravi-oli /'rævɪ'əʊli/ *n* [U] flour paste (pasta) made in square pieces filled with chopped meat, etc.

rav-ish /'rævɪʃ/ *vi* **1** fill with delight: *~ed by the view.* **2** (dated) commit rape.

rav-ish-ing-ly *adv*

raw /rɔ:/ *adj* **1** uncooked: *~ meat.* **2** in the natural state, not manufactured or prepared for use: *the ~ materials of industry*, eg coal, ores. **in the raw**, (a) in the natural state. (b) (fig) naked. **3** (of persons) untrained; unskilled; inexperienced: *~ recruits*, for the army, etc. **4** (of the weather) damp and cold: *a ~ February morning.* **5** (of a place on the flesh) with the skin rubbed off; sore and painful. **6** (informal) unjust (esp) *a raw deal*, unfair or cruel treatment. **n** [C] raw place on the skin, esp of a horse.

raw-hide, (of) untanned hide.

ray /reɪ/ *n* [C] **1** line, beam, of radiant light, heat, energy: *the ~s of the sun*; *'X-~s.* **2** (fig) small sign: *a ~ of hope.* **3** any one of a number of lines coming out from a centre. **n** *vi, vi* send out or come out in rays.

ray² /reɪ/ *n* [C] (pl often unchanged) kinds of large sea-fish with a broad, flat body, eg skate.

rayon /'reɪon/ *n* [U] cloth like silk made from cellulose.

raze, rase /reɪz/ *vi* destroy (towns, buildings) completely, esp by making them level with the ground: *a city ~d by an earthquake.*

razor /'reɪzə(r)/ *n* [C] instrument with a sharp blade or cutters used for shaving hair from the skin.

razor-blade, \diamond blade (2).

re- /ri-/ *prefix* **1** again: *reappear.* **2** in a different way: *rearrange.*

reach /ri:tʃ/ *vi, vi* **1** stretch (out): *He ~ed (out*

his hand) for the knife. **2** stretch out the hand for and take; get and give (something) to: *Can you ~ that book for your brother?* **3** get to, go as far as: *~ London*; *~ the end of the chapter.* *When did the news ~ you?* **4** extend; go; pass: *My land ~es as far as the river.* **n** **1** (sing only) act of stretching out (a hand, etc): *a long ~.* **2** [U] extent to which a hand, etc can be reached out: *This boxer has a long ~.* *I have my reference books within my ~/within easy ~,* so near that I can get them quickly and easily. **3** [C] continuous extent, esp of a river or canal, that can be seen between two bends or locks² (3).

re-act /rɪ'ækt/ *vi* **1** have an effect (on the person or thing): *Applause ~s on/upon a speaker*, eg has the effect of giving him confidence. **2** behave differently, be changed, as the result of being acted on: *Do children ~ to kind treatment by becoming more self-confident?* **3** respond to something with feeling: *The people will ~ against the political system that oppresses them.* **4** (chem) (of one substance applied to another) have an effect: *How do acids ~ on metals?*

re-action /rɪ'ækʃn/ *n* [C,U] **1** action or state resulting from, in response to, something, esp a return to an earlier condition after a period of the opposite condition: *After these days of excitement there was a ~*, eg a period when life seemed dull. **2** opposition to progress or change: *The forces of ~ made reform difficult.* **3** response; opinion: *What was his ~ to your proposal?* **4** (science) action set up by one substance in another; change within the nucleus of an atom.

re-action-ary /rɪ'ækʃənəri/ *US: -neri/ n* [C] (pl -ies), *adj* (person) opposing progress or reform.

re-actor /rɪ'æktə(r)/ *n* = nuclear reactor.

read /ri:d/ *vi, vi* (pt, pp read /red/) **1** (used in the simple tenses or with *can/be able*) look at and (be able to) understand (something written or printed): *Can you ~ French/a musical score?* **2** reproduce mentally or vocally the words of (an author, book, etc): *She was ~ing the letter aloud/to herself/to the children.* *She ~ out the letter to all of us.* **3** study (a subject, esp at a university): *He's ~ing physics/~ing for a degree in physics/~ing for a physics degree.* **4** interpret mentally; learn the significance of: *~ a person's thoughts.* **5** give a certain impression; seem (good, etc) when read: *The play ~s better than it acts*, is better for reading than for performing. **6** find implications in (what is read, etc): *Silence mustn't always be ~ as consent.* **read between the lines**, \diamond line¹ (13). **read into sth**, add more than is justified: *You have ~ into her letter more sympathy than she probably feels.* **7** (of instruments, graphs,) show: *What does the thermometer ~?* **8** bring into a specified state by reading: *She ~ herself*

to sleep. **9** (*pp* with an *adverb*) having knowledge gained from books, etc: *a well-~ man*.
 □ *n* [C] period of time given to reading: *have a good ~ in the train*.

read-able /'ri:dəbl/ *adj* that is easy or pleasant to read.

read-abil-ity /'ri:də'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

re-ad-dress /rɪ:'ædres/ *vt* change the address on (a letter, etc).

reader /'ri:də(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who reads, esp one who spends much time in reading. **2** (GB) university teacher of a rank immediately below a professor: *R~ in English Literature*. **3** textbook for reading in class; book with selections for reading by students of a language: *a German R~*. **4** person who can interpret what is hidden or obscure, esp *a 'mind' 'thought'~*.

'reader-ship /-ʃɪp/, (a) position of a reader (2). (b) (of a periodical) number of persons who read it.

read-ily, readi-ness ⇨ *ready*.

read-ing /'ri:dɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] act of one who reads. ⇨ *play reading*. **2** [U] knowledge, esp of books: *a man of wide ~*. **3** [C] way in which something is interpreted or understood: *My ~ of the situation is...* **4** [C] figure of measurement, etc as shown on a dial, scale, etc: *The ~s on my thermometer last month were well above the average*.

'reading-lamp, shaded table-lamp used to read by.

'reading-room, room (eg in a public library) for reading.

re-ad-just /rɪ:'ædʒəst/ *vt* adjust again: *It's sometimes difficult to ~ (oneself) to life in England after working abroad*.

re-ad-just-ment *n* [C, U]

ready /'redi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** in the condition needed for use; willing: *~ for work*. *He's always ~ to help his friends*. **make ready**, prepare. **2** quick; prompt; *He always has a ~ answer*. **3** within reach; easily obtained: *keep a revolver ~, near at hand*. **4** (*adverbial* use, with *pp*) prepared beforehand: *buy food ~-cooked*. □ *n* (only in) **at the ready**, (a) (of a rifle) in the position for aiming and firing. (b) in the correct position, condition.

'ready-made *adj* ready to wear or use: *~ made 'clothes*.

'ready 'money, money in the form of coins or notes, which can be used for payment at the time when goods are bought (contrasted with *credit*).

'ready 'reckoner, book of answers to various common calculations needed in business, etc.

read-ily *adv* (a) without showing hesitation or unwillingness. (b) without difficulty.

readi-ness /'redɪnəs/ *n* [U] (a) **in readi-ness (for)**, in a ready or prepared state: *have everything in readiness for an early start*. (b) willingness: *a surprising readiness to accept the*

proposal.

re-af-firm /rɪ:'æfɜ:m/ *vt* affirm again: *~ one's loyalty*.

real /riəl/ *adj* existing in fact; not imagined or supposed; not made up or artificial: *Was it a ~ man you saw or a ghost? Things that happen in ~ life are sometimes stranger than in stories*. *Who is the ~ manager of the business? Tell me the ~ (= true) reason for your absence from work*.

'real estate, (*legal*) immovable property consisting of land, any natural resources, and buildings (contrasted with *personal estate*).

real-ism /'ri:əlɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** (in art and literature) showing of real life, facts, etc in a true way, omitting nothing that is ugly or painful, and idealizing nothing. **2** behaviour based on an honest opinion of the facts and disregard of emotion, convention, etc.

real-ist /-ɪst/ *n* [C] (esp) person who believes himself to be without illusions.

real-is-tic /rɪ:'ælɪstɪk/ *adj* (a) showing the true form. (b) practical: *realistic policies*.

real-is-ti-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

re-al-ity /rɪ:'æləti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] the quality of being real; real existence: *belief in the ~ of miracles*. **in reality**, in actual fact. **2** [C] something actually seen or experienced: *the grim realities of war*. **3** [U] (in art, etc) truth; lifelike resemblance to the original: *The TV broadcast described what was happening with extraordinary ~*.

real-ize (also -ise) /'ri:əlaɪz/ *vt* **1** be fully conscious of; understand: *Does he ~ his mistake yet?* **2** convert (a hope, plan, etc) into a fact: *~ one's hopes/ambitions/dreams*. **3** exchange (property, business shares, etc) for money: *Can these shares/bonds be ~d at short notice?* **4** (of property, etc) obtain as a price-for or as a profit: *How much did you ~ on the paintings you sent to the sale?*

real-iz-able (also -isable) /-əbl/ *adj*

real-iz-ation (also -isation) /rɪ:'ælə'zeɪʃn/ *US*: -lɪz-/ *n* (a) [U] realizing (of a plan, one's ambitions or hopes). (b) [C] act of exchanging property for money.

really /'ri:əli/ *adv* **1** in fact; without doubt; truly: *What do you ~ think about it? I'm ~ly sorry*. **2** (used to express interest, surprise, mild protest, doubt, etc according to context): *'We're going to Mexico next month.'* — 'Oh, ~!' *R~! This noise is terrible!*

realm /reɪlm/ *n* [C] **1** (*poetic or legal*) = kingdom: *the defence of the R~*. **2** (fig) region: *the ~ of the imagination*.

ream /ri:m/ *n* [C] **1** measure for paper, 480 (or US 500) sheets or 20 quires. **2** (pl) (*informal*) great quantity (of writing): *She has written ~s of verse*.

re-ani-mate /rɪ:'ænɪmeɪt/ *vt* fill with new strength, courage or energy.

reap /ri:p/ *vt, vi* **1** cut (grain, etc); collect in a

crop of grain from (a field, etc): *~ a field of barley; ~ the corn*. **2** (fig) gain; obtain: *~ the reward of virtue*.

reaper, person who, machine which, reaps.

re-appear /ˌri:ə'piə(r)/ *vi* appear again (after disappearing).

re-appear-ance /-rəns/ *n* [C,U]

re-appraisal /ˌri:ə'preɪz/ *n* [C] new examination and judgement: *a ~ of our relations with China*.

rear¹ /rɪə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** back part: *The kitchen is in/to the ~ of the house*. **2** (as an adjective) in or at the rear: *the ~ wheels/mirror*, of a car, etc. **3** last part of any army, fleet, etc: *attack the enemy in the ~*. **bring up the rear**, come/be last.

rear-admiral, naval officer below a vice-admiral.

rear-guard, body of soldiers given the duty of guarding the rear of an army.

rearguard action, fight between an army in retreat and the enemy.

rear-most /'ri:məʊst/ *adj* farthest back.

rear² /rɪə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** cause or help to grow; bring up: *~ poultry/cattle; ~ children*. ⇨ raise(5). **2** (esp of a horse) rise on the hind legs. **3** lift up: *The snake ~ed its head*.

re-arm /rɪ:'ɑ:m/ *vt, vi* supply (an army, etc) with weapons again, or with weapons of new types, etc.

re-arma-ment /rɪ:'ɑ:məmənt/ *n* [U]

re-ar-range /ˌri:ə'reɪndʒ/ *vt* arrange in a different way.

re-ason¹ /'ri:zn/ *n* 1 [C,U] (fact put forward or serving as a) cause of or justification for something: *Is there any ~ why you are late?* *The ~ why he's late is that/because there was a breakdown on the railway. He complains with ~ (= rightly) that he has been punished unfairly.* **by reason of**, because of: *He was excused by ~ of his age*. **2** [U] power of the mind to understand, form opinions, etc: *Only man has ~*.

lose one's reason, go mad. **3** [U] what is right or practicable; common sense; sensible conduct. **do anything (with)in reason**, anything sensible or reasonable. **listen to reason**, pay attention to common sense, sensible advice, etc. **without rhyme or reason**, ⇨ rhyme(1). **it stands to reason (that)...**, is obvious to sensible people; most people will agree...

rea-son² /'ri:zn/ *vi, vt* **1** make use of one's reason(2); exercise the power of thought: *Man's ability to ~ makes him different from animals*. **2 reason with sb**, argue in order to convince him: *She ~ed with me for an hour*. **3** say by way of argument: *He ~ed that if we started at dawn, we could arrive before noon*. **4** explain, argue, logically: *a well-~ed statement/manifesto*. **reason sth out**, find an answer by considering successive arguments, etc. **5** persuade by argument (not) to

do something: *~ a person out of his fears*.

reason-ing *n* [U] process of reaching conclusions by using one's reason: *There's no ~ing with that woman*. She won't listen to sensible advice, arguments.

rea-son-able /'ri:znəbl/ *adj* **1** having ordinary common sense; able to reason; acting, done, in accordance with reason; willing to listen to reason: *Is the accused guilty beyond ~ doubt?* **2** neither more or less than seems right or acceptable: *a ~ price/offer; a ~ excuse; be ~ in one's demands*.

rea-son-ably /-əblɪ/ *adv*

re-as-sure /ˌri:ə'sʃʊə(r)/ *vt* remove the fears or doubts of: *She felt ~d after her teacher told her she would pass the examination*.

re-as-surance /-rəns/ *n* [U]

re-as-sur-ing-ly *adv*

re-bate /'ri:beɪt/ *n* [C] sum of money by which a debt, tax, etc may be reduced: *There is a ~ of £1.50 if the account is settled before 31 Dec*.

rebel¹ /'rebl/ *n* [C] **1** person who takes up arms against, or refuses to accept, the established government; person who resists authority or control. **2** (used as an adjective) of the nature of a rebellion: *the ~ forces*.

re-bel² /rɪ'bel/ *vi* (-ll-) **1** take up arms to fight (against the government). **2** show resistance; protest strongly: *The children ~led against having three hours' homework each evening*.

re-bel-lion /rɪ'belɪən/ *n* 1 [U] rebelling, eg against a government: *rise in ~ (against the Union)*. **2** [C] instance of this: *a ~ against the dictator*.

re-bel-li-ous /rɪ'belɪəs/ *adj* **1** acting like a rebel; taking part in a rebellion: *~ members/behaviour*. **2** not easily controlled: *a child with a ~ temper*.

re-bel-li-ous-ly *adv*

re-birth /ˌri:'bɜ:θ/ *n* [C] **1** change in moral attitude, eg by religious conversion, causing a person to lead a new kind of life. **2** revival: *the ~ of learning*.

re-born /ˌri:'bɔ:n/ *adj* changed in spirit.

re-bound /ˌri:'baʊnd/ *vi* **1** spring or bounce back after hitting something: *The ball ~ed from the wall*. **2** happen as the consequence of one's own action: *The nasty things you say could ~ on yourselves*. ⇨ *n* /ˌri:'baʊnd/ **on the rebound**, (a) while bouncing back: *hit a ball on the ~*. (b) (fig) while still reacting to depression or disappointment: *She quarrelled with Paul and then married Peter on the ~*.

re-buff /rɪ'bu:f/ *n* [C] unkind or offensive refusal of, or show of indifference to (an offer of or request for help, friendship, etc). ⇨ *vt* give a rebuff to.

re-build /ˌri:'bɪld/ *vt* (pt, pp -built /-bɪlt/) build or put together again: *a rebuilt engine*.

re-buke /rɪ'bjʊ:k/ *vt* (formal) blame, speak severely to (eg officially): *~ an employee for being rude*. ⇨ *n* [C] blame (the usual word).

re-buk-ing-ly *adv*

re-but /rɪˈbʌt/ *vt* (-tt-) prove (a charge, piece of evidence, etc) to be false.

re-but-tal /-tl/ *n* [C] act of rebutting; evidence that proves a charge, etc to be false.

re-cal-ci-trance /rɪˈkælsɪtræns/ *n* [U] (formal) being disobedient.

re-cal-ci-trant /rɪˈkælsɪtrənt/ *adj* (formal) disobedient; opposing authority or discipline.

re-call /rɪˈkɔːl/ *vt* **1** ask to come back: ~ an ambassador (from his post/to his own country).

2 bring back to the mind; remember: I don't ~ his name/face/meeting him/where I met him. **3** take back; cancel (an order, a decision). □ **n** **1** [C] request to return (esp to an ambassador: letters of ~. **2** [U] ability to remember: instant ~, able to remember quickly. **beyond/past recall**, that cannot be taken back or cancelled. **3** [C] signal, eg a bugle call, to troops, etc to return.

re-cant /rɪˈkænt/ *vt, vi* give up (an opinion, a belief); take back (a statement) as being false: The torturers could not make him ~.

re-cap /rɪˈkæp/ *vt, vi, n* (informal abbr of) recapitulate, recapitulation.

re-cap-it-u-late /rɪˈkæpɪtʃuleɪt/ *vt, vi* repeat, go through again, the chief points of (something that has been said, discussed, argued about, etc).

re-cap-it-u-la-tion /rɪˈkæpɪtʃʊleɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

re-cap-ture /rɪˈkæptʃə(r)/ *vt* **1** capture again. **2** recall: try to ~ the past.

re-cast /rɪˈkɑːst/ *US: -kæst/ vt* **1** cast or fashion again: ~ a gun/a bell; ~ (= rewrite) a sentence/paragraph/chapter. **2** change the cast of a play, ie find different actors or give actors different parts.

re-cede /rɪˈsiːd/ *vi* **1** (appear to) go back (from an earlier position): As the tide ~d we were able to explore the beach. As our ship steamed out to sea the coast slowly ~d. **2** slope away from the front or from the observer: a receding chin. **3** withdraw (from an opinion, etc).

re-ceipt /rɪˈsiːt/ *n* **1** [U] receiving or being received: on ~ of the news. **2** (pl) money received (in a business, etc) (contrasted with expenditure). **3** [C] written statement that something (money or goods) has been received: get a ~ for money spent; sign a ~.

re-ceive-able /rɪˈsiːvəbl/ *adj* **1** that can be, fit to be, received. **2** (commerce) (of bills, accounts, etc) on which money is to be received.

re-ceive /rɪˈsiːv/ *vt, vi* **1** accept, take, get (something offered, sent, etc): When did you ~ the letter/news/telegram? He has ~d a good education. **2** take possession of stolen property: Smith was caught receiving soon after his release from prison. **3** allow to enter: He was ~d into the Church, admitted as a member.

re-ceiver /rɪˈsiːvə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who

receives, esp who knowingly receives stolen goods. **2** **R~**, official appointed to take charge of the property and affairs of a bankrupt, or to administer property in dispute. **3** part of an apparatus for receiving something, eg that part of a telephone that is held to the ear, apparatus for receiving broadcast signals: a radio~.

re-cent-ly /rɪˈsɪnt/ *adj* (having existed, been made, happened) not long before; begun not long ago: ~ news; a ~ event; within ~ memory.

re-cent-ly *adv* not long ago: until ~ly.

re-cep-tacle /rɪˈseptəkl/ *n* [C] container or holder in which things may be put.

re-cep-tion /rɪˈsepʃn/ *n* **1** [U] receiving or being received: prepare rooms for the ~ of guests; a ~ area/camp/centre, one where persons, eg evacuees, refugees, are received and accommodated. **2** [C] formal occasion on which guests are received: There was a ~ after the wedding ceremony. **3** [C] welcome or greeting of a specified kind; demonstration of feeling: The new book/minister had a favourable ~, was welcomed by the public, etc. **4** [U] receiving of radio, etc signals; degree of efficiency of this: Is radio ~ good in your district?

re-ception desk, (in a hotel) counter where guests ask for rooms, etc.

re-cep-tion-ist /-ʃənɪst/, person employed in a hotel, or by a doctor or other professional person, to receive clients.

re-cep-tive /rɪˈseptɪv/ *adj* quick or ready to receive suggestions, new ideas, etc: ~ to new ideas.

re-cep-tive-ly *adv*

re-cess /rɪˈses/ *US: -rɪses/ n* [C] **1** (US = vacation) period of time when work or business is stopped, eg when Parliament, the law courts, are not in session. **2** part of a room where the wall is set back from the main part. **3** secret place; place difficult to get in: the dark ~es of a cave. **4** (fig) deep, inner part: in the ~es of the mind. □ *vi* place in, provide with, a recess(2).

re-ces-sion /rɪˈseʃn/ *n* **1** [U] withdrawal; act of receding. **2** [C] slowing down of business and industrial activity: Did the recent ~ in Europe cause a lot of unemployment?

re-ces-sional /rɪˈseʃənl/ *n* [C] hymn sung while the clergy and choir go out after a church service. □ *adj* **1** of a recession: ~ music. **2** relating to a Parliamentary recess.

re-ces-sive /rɪˈsesɪv/ *adj* **1** tending to recede or go back. **2** (biology) showing the weak characteristics (the stronger ones are called dominant) which are passed on by means of genes to later generations, eg blue eyes and blond hair.

recipe /ˈresɪpi/ *n* [C] **1** explanation of how to prepare (food): a ~ for a fruit cake. **2** (fig) explanation, advice: Have you a ~ for happiness?

re-cipi-ent /rɪ'sɪpiənt/ *n* [C] (formal) person who receives something.

re-cip-ro-cal /rɪ'sɪprəkl/ *adj* **1** given and received in return: ~ affection/help. **2** corresponding, but the other way round: a ~ mistake, eg I thought he was a waiter and he thought I was a guest, but I was a waiter and he was a guest.

re-cip-ro-cally /-kli/ *adv*

re-cip-ro-cate /rɪ'sɪprəkeɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** give in return; give and receive, each to and from each: He ~d by wishing her a pleasant journey. **2** (of parts of a machine) (cause to) move backwards and forwards in a straight line: a reciprocating engine/saw.

reci-proc-ity /rɪ'sɪprəʊsəti/ *n* [U] (formal) principle or practice of give and take, of making mutual concessions; the granting of privileges in return for similar privileges: ~ in trade (between two countries).

re-cital /rɪ'saɪtl/ *n* [C] **1** detailed account of a number of connected events, etc: We were bored by the long ~ of his adventures. **2** performance of music by a soloist or small group, or of the works of one composer: a piano ~.

reci-ta-tion /rɪ'sɪteɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] the act of reciting(2): a boring ~ of his grievances. **2** [U] delivery in public of prose or poetry learnt by heart; [C] instance of this: a 'Dickens ~, of extracts from his novels. **3** [C] piece of poetry or prose (to be) learnt by heart and recited.

re-cite /rɪ'saɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** say (esp poems) aloud from memory: The little girl refused to ~ at the party. **2** give a list of, tell one by one, (names, facts, etc): ~ the names of all the capital cities of Europe.

reck-less /'reklɪs/ *adj* not thinking or caring about the effects, consequences: a ~ spender/driver.

reck-less-ness *n* [U]

reckon /'rekən/ *vt, vi* **1** find out (the quantity, number, cost, etc) by working with numbers: ~ the cost of a holiday. **2** reckon with sb, (a) deal with; settle with: When the fighting is over, we'll ~ with the enemy's sympathizers. (b) take into account; consider: He is certainly a man to be ~ed with, a man who cannot be ignored. **3** depend (on): I am ~ing on your help. **4** be of the opinion, suppose; consider: One-fourth of the country is ~ed to be/as unproductive. Do you still ~ him among/as one of your friends? **5** (US) (informal) assume: I ~ we'll have to go next week.

reck-on-er /'rekənə(r)/, person or thing that counts. ⇨ ready reckoner.

reck-on-ing /'rekənɪŋ/ *n* (a) [C] (old use) (tallied) account of items to be paid for: pay the ~ing. **day of reckoning**, time when one must be punished for doing something. (b) [U] calculation.

re-claim /rɪ'kleɪm/ *vt* **1** return (waste land, etc) to a useful condition, a state of cultiva-

tion, etc. **2** (formal) reform (a person): a ~ed drunkard. **3** demand that something be given back.

rec-la-ma-tion /rɪ'kleɪ'meɪʃn/ *n* [U]

re-cline /rɪ'klaɪn/ *vi, vt* place oneself, be, in a position of rest; lie back or down: reclining on a couch/in a chair.

re-cluse /rɪ'klus/ *n* [C] person who lives alone and avoids other people.

rec-og-ni-tion /rɪ'kɒɡnɪʃn/ *n* [U] recognizing or being recognized: He was given a cheque for £25 in ~ of his services. *R~ of the new State is unlikely*, It is unlikely that diplomatic relations will be established with it. **alter/change beyond/out of (all) recognition**, completely: The town has changed out of all ~ since I was there ten years ago.

re-cog-ni-zance (also **-isance**)

/rɪ'kɒɡnɪzəns/ *n* [C] (legal) **1** order by which a person must appear before a court of law at a certain time, or to observe certain conditions, and to forfeit a certain sum if he fails to do so. **2** sum of money (to be) paid as security for observing such an order.

rec-og-ni-ze (also **-ise**) /rɪ'kɒɡnaɪz/ *vt* **1** know, (be able to) identify again (a person or thing) that one has seen, heard, etc before: ~ a tune/an old friend. **2** be willing to accept (a person or something) as what he or it claims to be or has been in the past: refuse to ~ a foreign government. The Browns no longer ~ the Smiths, do not accept them as friends. **3** be prepared to admit; be aware: He ~d that he was not qualified for the post. **4** acknowledge: Everyone ~d him to be the greatest living poet.

rec-og-niz-able (also **-isable**) /-əbl/ *adj* that can be identified.

rec-og-niz-ably (also **-isably**) /-əbli/ *adv*

re-coil /rɪ'kɔɪl/ **1** draw or jump back: ~ from doing something (in fear, horror, disgust, etc). **2** (of a gun) move back quickly (when fired); (of a spring) close again. **3** (fig) react: Revenge may ~ on the person who takes it. *n* [C] act of recoiling.

rec-ol-lect /rɪ'kɒləkt/ *vt, vi* succeed in remembering: ~ childhood days.

rec-ol-lec-tion /rɪ'kɒləkʃn/ *n* **1** [U] act or power of remembering, time over which the memory goes back: It has not happened within my ~. **2** [C] that which is remembered: letters with many ~s of my father.

rec-om-mend /rɪ'kɒmənd/ *vt* **1** speak favourably of; say that one thinks something is good (for a purpose) or that a person is suitable (for a post, etc as...): I can ~ this soap. He has been ~ed for first class honours. Can you ~ Miss Hill as a typist? **2** suggest as wise or suitable; advise: Do you ~ raising the school-leaving age? **3** (of a quality, etc) cause to be or appear pleasing, satisfactory; make acceptable: Behaviour of that sort will not ~ you.

rec-om-men-da-tion /rɪ'kɒməndeɪʃn/ *n* (a)

[U] recommending: *speaking in ~ation of my secretary/the plan; buy it on the ~ation of a friend.* (b) [C] statement that is favourable: *The jury brought in a verdict of guilty, with a ~ to mercy.* (c) [C] something which causes a person to be well thought of: *Is good cooking a ~ation in a wife?*

rec-om-pense /'rekəmpens/ *vt* (formal) reward or punish; repay (for a loss, injury, etc): *~ a person for losing his pen.* □ *n* [C,U] (formal) reward; payment: *work hard without ~, Here is £1 in ~ for your help.*

rec-on-cile /'rekənsail/ *vt* 1 cause (persons) to become friends after they have quarrelled: *He refused to become ~d with his brother.* 2 settle, end, (a quarrel, difference of opinion, etc). 3 cause to agree with: *I can't ~ what you say with the facts of the case.* 4 overcome one's objections to; resign oneself to: *You must ~ yourself to a life of hardship and poverty.*

rec-on-cil-able /-əbl/ *adj*

rec-on-cili-ation /'rekənsɪleɪʃn/ *n* [U] reconciling or being reconciled; [C] instance of this: *bring about a reconciliation between friends who have quarrelled.*

re-con-dition /'rɪkən'dɪʃn/ *vt* put into good condition again: *a car with a ~ed engine.*

re-con-nais-sance /'rɪkənɪsəns/ *n* 1 [U] act of getting information (about an enemy): *~ in force, with many soldiers.* 2 [C] survey, made by troops or a group of scouting vessels or aircraft, of an enemy's position or whereabouts. 3 (fig) survey of any kind of work before it is started: *make a ~ of the planned publicity campaign.*

re-con-noître (US = -ter) /'rekə'nɔɪtə(r)/ *vt, vi* go to or near (a place or area occupied by enemy forces) to learn about their position, strength, etc: *~ the area.*

re-con-struct /'rɪkən'strʌkt/ *vt* 1 construct again. 2 build up a complete structure or description of (something of which one has only a few parts or only partial evidence): *~ a ruined abbey.* The detective tried to ~ the crime, provide an opinion of how it had been committed.

re-con-struc-tion /'rɪkən'strʌkʃn/ *n* [C,U]

rec-ord¹ /'rekɔ:d/ US: /'rekɔ:d/ *n* 1 [C] written account of facts, events, etc: *a ~ of school attendances/road accidents.* 2 [U] state of being recorded or preserved in writing, esp as authentic evidence: *I don't want to go on ~/ don't want you to put me on ~ as saying that I think the President a fool.*

off the rec-ord, (informal) not for publication or for recording: *What the President said at his press conference was off the ~, not to be repeated by the newspaper men there.* **put the record straight**, ⇨ straight¹ (3). 3 [C] facts known about the past of a person or something: *He has an honourable ~ of service/a good ~. That airline has a bad ~, eg its aircraft has had many accidents.* 4 [C] something that provides

evidence or information: *Our museums are full of ~s of past history.* 5 [C] disc on which sound has been registered; what is recorded on such a disc: 'gramophone ~s. ⇨ recording. 6 [C] limit, score, point, mark, etc (high or low), not reached before; (esp in sport) the best yet done: *Which country holds the ~ for the 5000 metres race? (as an adjective) There was a ~ rice crop in Thailand that year.* **break/beat the record**, do better than has been done before. Hence, 'record-breaking *adj.* ⇨ also smash (3).

'record-player, instrument for reproducing sound from discs.

re-cord² /rɪ'kɔ:d/ *vt* 1 preserve for use or for reference, by writing or in other ways, eg on a disc, magnetic tape, video-tape, film, etc: *This volume ~s the history of the regiment. The programme was ~ed.* 2 (of an instrument) mark or show on a scale: *The thermometer ~ed 40°C.*

re-corder /rɪ'kɔ:də(r)/ *n* [C] 1 judge who has criminal and civil responsibility in a borough or city. 2 apparatus that records. ⇨ tape recorder, video recorder. 3 wooden musical instrument like a flute.

re-cord-ing /rɪ'kɔ:dɪŋ/ *n* [C] (esp for radio, TV and for record-players, etc) programme, piece of music, etc registered on a disc, magnetic tape, film, etc for reproduction: *It wasn't a 'live' performance but a BBC ~.*

re-count /rɪ'kaʊnt/ *vt* (formal) give a description of; tell: *He ~ed to them the story of his adventures in Mexico.*

re-count /rɪ'ri: 'kaʊnt/ *vt* count again: *~ the votes.* □ *n* [C] /rɪ'ri: 'kaʊnt/ another count: *One of the candidates demanded a ~.*

re-coup /rɪ'ku:p/ *vt* pay (a person, oneself, for a loss, etc); *~ one's losses.*

re-course /rɪ'kɔ:s/ *n* (formal) [U] 1 act of seeking help from: *I still have ~ to the money-lenders.* 2 something turned to for help: *Your only ~ is legal action against them.*

re-cover¹ /rɪ'kʌvə(r)/ *vt, vi* 1 get back (something lost, etc); get back the use of: *~ what was lost; ~ consciousness* (after fainting); *~ one's sight/hearing.* 2 **recover from**, become well; get back to a former position of prosperity, state of health, mental condition, etc: *He is slowly ~ing from his illness. Has the country ~ed from the effects of the war yet?* 3 get control of oneself again; become calm or normal: *He almost fell, but quickly ~ed (himself).*

re-cover-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be recovered (1): *Is the deposit I've paid ~able?*

re-cov-ery *n* [U] recovering: *make a quick recovery, get well again quickly or quickly regain one's position.*

re-cover² /rɪ: 'kʌvə(r)/ *vt* supply with a new cover: *This chair needs to be ~ed.*

rec-re-ation /'rekrɪ'eɪʃn/ *n* [C,U] (form of) play or amusement; refreshment of body and

mind; something that pleasantly occupies one's time after work is done: *walk and climb mountains for ~.*

recreation ground, land, eg in a public park, set aside for games, etc.

recreational /-ʃənəl/ *adj*: ~al facilities.

re-crimi-nate /rɪ'krɪmɪneɪt/ *vi* accuse (a person) in return: ~ against my sister.

re-crimi-na-tion /rɪ'krɪmɪ'neɪʃn/ *n* [C,U] accusation made in return for one already made; (act of) doing this.

re-crimi-na-tory /rɪ'krɪmɪnətəri/ *US*: -tɔːri/ *adj* of recrimination.

re-cruit /rɪ'kruːt/ *n* [C] new member of a society, group, etc esp a soldier in the early days of his training: *gain a few ~s to one's political party.* □ *vt,vi* get new members for: *a ~ing officer.*

re-cruit-ment *n* [C,U] (instance of) getting new members; person who is recruited.

rec-tal /'rektl/ *adj* (*anat*) of the rectum.

rec-tangle /'rektæŋɡl/ *n* [C] four-sided shape with four right angles, esp one with adjacent sides unequal.

rec-tan-gu-lar /rek'tæŋɡjʊlə(r)/ *adj*

rec-tify /'rektɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt,pp* -ied) **1** put right; take out mistakes from: *mistakes that cannot be rectified.* **2** purify or refine by repeated distillation or other process: *rectified spirits.*

rec-ti-lin-ear /'rektɪ'lɪnə(r)/ *adj* in or forming a straight line; bounded by, characterized by, straight lines.

rec-tor /'rektə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (Church of England) clergyman in charge of a parish the taxes of which were not withdrawn. eg to a monastery or university, at or after the time when the English Church separated from the Church of Rome. ⇨ vicar. **2** head of certain universities, colleges or religious institutions.

rec-tory /'rektəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) rector's residence.

rec-tum /'rektəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) (*anat*) lower and final part of the large intestine.

re-cum-bent /rɪ'kʌmbənt/ *adj* (*formal*) (esp of a person) lying down: *a ~ figure on a tomb.*

re-cu-per-ate /rɪ'kju:pəreɪt/ *vt,vi* make or become strong again after illness, exhaustion or loss: ~ one's health; *go to the seaside (in order) to ~.*

re-cu-per-ation /rɪ'kju:pə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U]

re-cu-per-ative /rɪ'kju:pəreɪtɪv/ *US*: -reɪtɪv/ *adj* helping, relating to, recuperation.

re-cur /rɪ'kɜː(r)/ *vi* (-rr-) **1** come, happen, again; be repeated: *a problem/pain which ~s frequently.* **2** (of ideas, events etc) come back: *My first meeting with her often ~s to me/my memory.*

re-cur-rence /rɪ'kærəns/ *US*: /-kərəns/ *n* [C, U] repetition: *Let there be no ~rence of this error.*

re-cur-rent /-ənt/ *adj* (of events, fevers etc) happening again frequently or regularly.

re-cycle /rɪ'saɪkl/ *vt* treat (substances already used) so that further use is possible: ~ waste paper.

red /red/ *adj* (-der, -dest) **1** of the colour of fresh blood, rubies, human lips, the tongue, of shades varying from crimson to bright brown (as of iron rust): ~ with anger/embarassment, flushed in the face; *with ~ eyes*, eyes red with weeping. **paint the town 'red**, (*informal*) go out and have a lively, exciting time specially when celebrating. **see red**, lose control of oneself through anger or indignation. **2** Russian; Soviet; Communist: *The R ~ Army/Air Force.* □ **n** **1** [C,U] (shade of) red colour: *the ~s and browns of the woods in autumn.* **2** red clothes: *dressed in ~.* **3** person favouring or supporting Communism or the Soviet system. **4** debtor side of business accounts. **be/get into/out of the red**, have/get liabilities that (no longer) exceed assets.

'red-breast, (also *robin redbreast*) robin.

red 'carpet, one laid out for the reception of an important visitor.

Red 'Crescent, (emblem of an) organization in Muslim countries corresponding to the Red Cross.

Red 'Cross, (emblem of the) international organization concerned with the relief of suffering caused by natural disasters, etc and for helping the sick and wounded and those taken prisoner in war.

red deer, kind of deer native to the forests of Europe and Asia.

red 'ensign, red flag with the Union Jack in one corner, used by British merchant ships.

red 'flag, (a) flag used as a symbol of danger (eg on railways, by workers on the roads). (b) symbol of left wing revolution. (c) *(the Red Flag)* revolutionary song.

'red-head, person having red hair.

red 'herring, (esp) something doubtful or irrelevant to take attention from the subject being discussed.

red-'hot *adj* (*fig*) highly excited, furious: ~-hot en'thusiasm.

red-'letter day, (*fig*) memorable because something good happened.

'red meat, beef and mutton (contrasted with white meat, ie veal, pork, poultry).

red 'pepper, red fruit of the capsicum plant.

the Red Star, symbol of the USSR and other Communist States.

red 'tape, too much use of formalities in public business; too much attention to rules and regulations: ~ tape in government offices.

red-den /'redn/ *vt,vi* make or become red; blush.

red-dish /'redɪʃ/ *adj* a little red.

re-deem /rɪ'diːm/ *vt* **1** get (something) back by payment or by doing something: ~ a mortgage; ~ one's honour. **2** perform (a promise or obligation). **3** set free by payment: ~ a slave/

prisoner. 4 compensate: *his ~ing feature*, the feature or quality that balances his faults, etc.

re-deem-able /-əbl/ *adj*

the Re-dee-mer, Jesus Christ.

re-demp-tion /n'dempʃn/ *n* [U] (formal) redeeming or being redeemed: *the ~ of a promise*; *past/beyond ~*, too bad to be rescued from being evil.

re-de-ploy /rɪ'di'plɔɪ/ *vt* withdraw and rearrange (troops, workers) so as to use more efficiently.

re-de-ploy-ment *n*: *the ~ment of labour*.

re-do /rɪ'du:/ *vt* (pt -did /-dɪd/, pp -done /-dʌn/) do again: *We must have the house re-done*, redecorated, etc.

redo-lent /'redələnt/ *adj* (formal) having a strong smell, esp one that recalls something: *bed sheets ~ of lavender*.

re-double /rɪ'dʌbl/ *vt, vi* make or become greater or stronger: *They ~d their efforts*.

re-dress /rɪ'dres/ *vt* set (a wrong) right again; make up for, do something that compensates for (a wrong): *You should confess and ~ your errors*. **re-dress the 'balance**, make things equal again. □ *n* [U] redressing.

re-duce /rɪ'djuːs/ *US*: -dʌs/ *vt, vi* 1 make less; make smaller in size, number, degree, price, etc.: *reducing speed/pressure/costs*; ~ *one's expenses/weight*. 2 bring or get to a certain condition, way of living, etc.: ~ *a girl to tears*, make her cry; ~ *him to silence*, cause him to stop talking. *They were ~d to begging or starving*. They became so poor that they had either to beg or starve. 3 change (to another form): ~ *an equation/argument to its simplest form*.

re-duc-ible /-əbl/ *adj*

re-duc-tion /rɪ'dʌkʃn/ *n* 1 [U] reducing or being reduced; [C] instance of this: *a ~ in/of numbers*; *great ~s in prices*; *price ~s*. 2 [C] copy, on a smaller scale, of a picture, map, etc.: *a photographic ~*.

re-dun-dancy /rɪ'dʌndənsɪ/ *n* [U] being redundant: ~ *caused by the increasing use of computers*; [C] (pl -ies) instance of this: *more redundancies in the docks*.

re-dun-dant /rɪ'dʌndənt/ *adj* no longer needed, useful (used, for example, of somebody being made unemployed): ~ *adding-machines*. *When the factory closes down many workers will become ~*.

re-echo /rɪ'ekəʊ/ *vi, vt* echo again and again. □ *n* [C] (pl -es) echo of an echo.

reed /rɪd/ *n* 1 [C] (tall, firm stem or stalk of) kinds of coarse grasses growing in or near water; [U] (collective) mass of such grasses growing together. **a broken reed**, (fig) an unreliable person or thing. 2 [C] (in some wind-instruments, eg the oboe, bassoon, clarinet and in some organ-pipes) strip of metal, etc that vibrates to produce sound.

reef¹ /rɪf/ *n* [C] that part of a sail which can be rolled up or folded so as to reduce its area. □ *vt*

reduce the area of (a sail) by rolling up or folding a part.

'reef-knot, ordinary double knot.

reef² /rɪf/ *n* [C] ridge of rock, shingle, etc just below or above the surface of the sea: *a coral ~*.

reek /rɪk/ *n* [U] strong, bad smell: *the ~ of stale tobacco smoke*. □ *vi* **reek of**, smell unpleasantly of: *He ~s of whisky/garlic*.

reel¹ /rɪl/ *n* [C] 1 cylinder, roller or similar device on which cotton, thread, wire, photographic film, magnetic tape, hose (for water), etc is wound. 2 length of film rolled on one reel. □ *vi* 1 roll or wind (thread, a fishing-line etc) on to, or with the help of, a reel: ~ *in the fish*. 2 **reel sth off**, tell, say or repeat something without pause or apparent effort: ~ *off a list of names*.

reel² /rɪl/ *vi* 1 be shaken (physically or mentally) by a blow, a shock, rough treatment, etc: *His mind ~ed when he heard the news*. 2 walk or stand unsteadily, moving from side to side; sway: *He ~ed like a drunken man*. 3 appear to move, sway or shake: *The street ~ed before him as the bike hit him*.

reel³ /rɪl/ *n* [C] (music for a) lively Scottish dance, usually for two couples.

re-entry /rɪ'entri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) act of re-entering, eg the return of a spacecraft into the earth's atmosphere.

re-face /rɪ'feɪs/ *vt* put a new surface on.

re-fec-tion /rɪ'fekʃn/ *n* [U] (formal) refreshment in the form of food and drink.

re-fec-tory /rɪ'fektəri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) dining-hall (eg in a monastery or college).

re-fer /rɪ'fɜː(r)/ *vt, vi* (-rr-) 1 send, take, hand over (to, back to, a person or thing) to be dealt with, decided etc: *The dispute was ~ed to the United Nations*. *I was ~ed to the Manager*. 2 (of a speaker, what is said, etc) speak about; apply to: *When I said that some people are stupid I wasn't ~ing to you*. *Does that remark ~ to me?* 3 turn to, go to, for information, etc: *The speaker often ~ed to his notes*.

ref-er-able (also **ref-er-able**) /rɪ'fɜːrəbl/ *adj* that can be referred(4): *Lung cancer is ~able to smoking cigarettes*.

ref-eree /rɪ'fɜːri/ *n* [C] 1 person to whom disputes, eg in industry, between workers and employers, are referred for decision. 2 (in football, boxing, etc) person who controls matches, judges points in dispute, etc. ⇨ **umpire**. □ *vt, vi* act as a referee: ~ *a football match*.

ref-er-ence /rɪ'frens/ *n* 1 [C, U] (instance of) referring: *The book is full of ~s to places that I know well*. **terms of reference**, (of a commission, etc) scope or range given to an authority: *Is this question outside our terms of ~*, one that we are not required to investigate? 2 [C] (person willing to make a) statement about a person's character or abilities: *The clerk has excellent ~s from former employers*. 3 [C]

note, direction, etc telling where certain information may be found: *He dislikes history books that are crowded with ~s to earlier authorities.* **4** [U] *in/with reference to*, concerning; about.

'reference book, one that is not read through but consulted for information, eg a dictionary or encyclopaedia.

'reference library, one containing reference books.

'reference marks, mark, eg *, †, ‡, §, used to refer the reader to the place, eg a footnote, where information may be found. ⇨ cross-reference.

ref-er-en-tial /ˌrefə'renʃl/ *adj* (formal) having reference to.

ref-er-en-dum /ˌrefə'rendəm/ *n* [C] (pl ~s, -da /-də/) the referring of a political question to a direct vote of the electorate.

re-fill /ˌriːfɪl/ *vt* fill again. □ *n* [C] /ˌriːfɪl/ amount used to refill; a container: *two ~s for a ball-point pen.*

re-fine /ˌriːfaɪn/ *vt, vi* **1** free from other substances; make or become pure: *~ sugar/oil/ores.* **2** cause to become more cultured, polished in manners: *~d language/manners/speech/taste.* **3** make small improvements (to writing, etc).

re-fine-ment /ˌriːfaɪnmənt/ *n* **1** [U] refining or being refined. **2** [U] purity of feeling, taste, language, etc: *lack of ~*, ie vulgarity. **3** [C] clever or remarkable example of such purity of tastes, etc: *~s of meaning.* **4** small improvement (to writing, etc).

re-finer /ˌriːfaɪnə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person whose business is to refine something: *sugar ~s.* **2** machine for refining metals, sugar, etc.

re-finery /-nəri/ *n* [C] place, building, etc where something is refined: *a 'sugar ~y.*

re-fit /ˌriːfɪt/ *vt, vi* (-tt-) (of a ship, etc) make, be made, ready for use again by renewing or repairing parts. □ *n* /ˌriːfɪt/ [C] refitting.

re-fla-tion /ˌriːfleɪʃn/ *n* [U] inflation of currency after a deflation to restore the system to its previous condition.

re-plate /ˌriːfleɪt/ *vt* restore to a former economic or currency state: *plans to ~ the economy.*

re-reflect /ˌriːfleks/ *vt, vi* **1** (of a surface) throw back (light, heat, sound); (of a mirror) send back an image of: *Look at the trees ~ed in the lake. The sight of my face ~ed in the mirror never pleases me.* **2** show the nature of: *Her sad looks ~ed the thoughts passing through her mind.* **3** (of actions, results) bring (credit or discredit on): *The results ~ the greatest credit on all concerned.* **4** injure the good reputation of: *Your rude behaviour ~s only on yourself.* You are the only person whose reputation is hurt by it. **5** consider; think: *I must ~ on/upon what answer to give to/how to answer that question.*

re-flec-tion (GB also **re-flexion**) /ˌriːflekʃn/ *n* **1** [U] reflecting or being reflected: *the ~ of heat.* **2** [C] something reflected, esp an image reflected in a mirror or in water. **3** [U] thought (the usual word): *be lost in ~. on reflection,* after reconsidering the matter. **4** [C] expression of a thought in speech or writing: *~s on the pleasures of being idle.* **5** [C] something that brings discredit: *This is ~ on your honour.*

re-flec-tor /ˌriːflek-tə(r)/ *n* [C] something that reflects heat, light or sound, eg a piece of glass or metal for reflecting light, eg as used on the back of a bicycle.

re-flex /ˌriːfleks/ *adj* **1** bent backwards. **2** (of thought) directed back on itself or its own action. □ *n* [C] reflex action: *test one's ~es.*

'reflex action, one that is an involuntary response to a stimulation of the nerves, eg sneezing.

'reflex angle, one that is bigger than 180°.

'reflex camera, in which, by using a mirror, the image to be photographed can be focused up to the moment of exposure.

re-flexion /ˌriːflekʃn/ *n* = reflection.

re-flex-ive /ˌriːfleksɪv/ *adj, n* [C] (gram) (of a) word or form showing that the subject's action is on himself or itself.

reflexive pronoun, eg *myself, themselves.*

reflexive verb, showing that the subject and object are the same: *He cut himself.*

re-float /ˌriːfləʊt/ *vt, vi* cause (something) to float again after it has gone aground, been sunk, etc.

re-form¹ /ˌriːfɔ:m/ *vt, vi* make or become better by removing or putting right what is bad or wrong: *~ a sinner/one's character/the world.* □ *n* **1** [U] reforming; removal of vices, imperfections, etc: *demonstrate for social or political ~.* **2** [C] instance of reform: *a ~ in teaching methods.*

re-former, person active in trying to get or carrying out reforms.

re-form² /ˌriːfɔ:m/ *vt, vi* form again; (of soldiers) get into ranks, etc again.

re-for-ma-tion /ˌriːfɔ:'meɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

ref-or-ma-tion /ˌrefɔ:'meɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] reforming or being reformed; [C] radical change for the better in social, political or religious affairs. **2** **the R~**, the 16th-century movement for reform of the Roman Catholic Church, resulting in the establishment of the Protestant Churches.

re-fract /ˌriːfrækt/ *vt* cause (a ray of light) to bend where it enters water, glass, etc.

re-frac-tion /ˌriːfrækʃn/ *n* [U]

re-frain¹ /ˌriːfreɪn/ *n* [C] (formal) chorus(2).

re-frain² /ˌriːfreɪn/ *vi* (formal) not do something: *Please ~ from smoking/swearing.*

re-fresh /ˌriːfrefʃ/ *vt* **1** give new strength to; make fresh: *~ oneself with a warm bath.* **2** **refresh one's memory**, remember by referring to notes, etc. **3** (formal) take some-

thing to eat or drink: *They stopped at a pub to ~ themselves.*

re-fresh-ing *adj* (a) strengthening; giving rest and relief: *a ~ing breeze/sleep.* (b) welcome and interesting because rare or unexpected: *The news that the children were doing things to help the old man was ~ing.*

re-fresher /rɪ'frefʃə(r)/ *n* [C] (informal) refreshing drink.

refresher course, course providing instructions, eg to practising teachers, on modern methods, newer techniques, etc.

re-fresh-ment /rɪ'frefʃmənt/ *n* 1 [U] refreshing or being refreshed: *feel ~ of mind and body.* 2 (pl) food and drink: *R~s will be served during the interval.*

re-frig-er-ate /rɪ'frɪdʒəreɪt/ *vt* make cool or cold; keep (food) in good condition by making and keeping it cold.

re-frig-er-ation /rɪ'frɪdʒə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U] (esp) the cooling or freezing of food in order to preserve it: *the refrigeration industry.*

re-frig-er-ator /rɪ'frɪdʒə'reɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] (common abbr **fridge**) apparatus in which food and drinks are kept cold.

re-fuel /rɪ'fju:əl/ *vt* (-l-, US also -l-) supply with, take on, more fuel.

ref-uge /'refju:dʒ/ *n* [C,U] (place giving) shelter or protection from trouble, danger, pursuit, etc: *seek ~ from the floods.*

refu-gee /rɪ'fju:dʒi/ *US*: 'refju:dʒi/ *n* [C] person who has been forced to flee from danger, eg from floods, war, political persecution: *~s from the war zone; political ~s; (used as an adjective) ~ camps.*

re-fund /rɪ'fʌnd/ *vt* pay back (money): *~ the cost of postage.* □ *n* /rɪ'fʌnd/ [C,U] repayment: *obtain a ~ of a deposit/of £20.*

re-fur-bish /rɪ'fɜ:bɪʃ/ *vt* make clean or bright again, (as if) like new.

re-fusal /rɪ'fju:zəl/ *n* 1 [U] act of refusing; [C] instance of this: *We were surprised at his ~ to do what I asked.* 2 (also with *the*) right of deciding whether to accept or refuse something before it is offered to others: *If you ever decide to sell your car, please give me (the) first ~.*

ref-use /'refju:s/ *n* [U] waste or worthless objects, materials, etc (to be burnt, etc).

'refuse collector, = dustman.

re-fuse /rɪ'fju:z/ *vi, vi* 1 say 'no' to (a request or offer): *~ permission.* 1 ~ / 2 show unwillingness to accept (something offered), to do (something that one is asked to do): *refusing a gift; ~ to help.*

re-fute /rɪ'fju:t/ *vt* prove (a person, statements, opinions, etc) to be wrong or mistaken: *~ an argument/an opponent.*

re-fut-able /'refjutəbl *US*: rɪ'fju:-/ *adj* that can be proved wrong.

refu-ta-tion /rɪ'fju:tə'ʃi:n/ *n* [U] (formal) refuting; [C] argument against.

re-gain /rɪ'geɪn/ *vt* 1 get possession of again:

~ consciousness; ~ one's freedom. 2 get back to (a place or position): *~ one's footing, recover one's balance.*

re-gal /'ri:gl/ *adj* of, for, fit for, by, a monarch; *~ dignity/splendour/power.*

re-gally /-gəl/ *adv*

re-gale /rɪ'geɪl/ *vt* (formal) give pleasure or delight to: *regaling themselves on caviar.*

re-galia /rɪ'geɪliə/ *n* pl (often used with a *sing verb*) 1 emblems (crown, orb, sceptre, etc) of royalty, as used at coronations. 2 emblems or decorations of an order (10).

re-gard /rɪ'gɑ:d/ *n* 1 [U] attention; concern; consideration: *He has very little ~ for the feelings of others. More ~ must be paid to safety on the roads.* 2 [U] consideration; respect: *hold a person in high/low ~.* 3 (pl) kindly thoughts and wishes: *Please give my kind ~s to your brother, (eg at the end of a letter).* 4 (old use) long, steady or significant look: *He turned his ~ on the accused man.* 5 *in/with regard to*, with respect to; concerning.

re-gard-less *adj* paying no attention: *~less of expense.*

re-gard /rɪ'gɑ:d/ *vt* 1 be of the opinion: *~ her as a heroine; ~ torture as a crime.* 2 consider (a person, his behaviour) to be: *How is he ~ed locally? He is ~ed with disfavour/unfavourably.* 3 pay attention to: *He never ~s my advice.* (Note: usually *negative* or a question.) **as regards; regarding**, with reference to; about.

re-gatta /rɪ'gætə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) meeting for boat-races (rowing boats or yachts).

re-gency /rɪ'dʒənsi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) the (period of) office of a regent.

re-gen-er-ate /rɪ'dʒənə'reɪt/ *vt, vi* 1 reform spiritually or morally. 2 give new strength or life to. 3 grow again. □ *adj* /rɪ'dʒənə'reɪt/ spiritually reborn: *a ~ society.*

re-gen-er-ation /rɪ'dʒənə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U]

re-gent /rɪ'dʒənt/ *n* [C] 1 person appointed to perform the duties of a ruler who is too young, old, ill, etc or who is absent. 2 (US) governor (eg of a State university). □ *adj* (used after the *noun*) performing the duties of a regent: *the Prince R~.*

regi-cide /'redʒɪsaɪd/ *n* [C,U] (person taking part in the) crime of killing a king.

re-gime, ré-gime /rɛɪ'ʒɪm/ *n* [C] 1 method or system of government or of administration; usual system of things: *under the old ~, before the changes were made, etc.* 2 set of rules for diet, exercise, etc for improving one's health and physical well-being.

regi-men /'redʒɪmən/ *n* [C] 1 (old use) = regime(1). 2 = regime(2).

regi-ment /'redʒɪmənt/ *n* [C] 1 (cavalry and artillery) unit divided into squadrons or batteries and commanded by a colonel; (*GB* infantry) organization usually based on a city or county, with special traditions and dress, rep-

resented in the field by battalions: *the 1st battalion of the Manchester R~*. **2** *a regiment of*, (informal) a large number: *a ~ of children*. **□** *vt* organize; discipline: *~ the members of a Trade Union*.

regi-men-tal /ˈrɛdʒɪˈmentl/ *adj* of a regiment: *a ~ badge*. **□** *n* (pl) military uniform.

Re-gi-na /ˈrɪdʒɪna/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) (abbr **R**) reigning queen: *Elizabeth ~*; (legal) (used in titles of lawsuits): *~ v Hay*, the Crown against Hay.

re-gion /ˈrɪdʒən/ *n* 1 [C] area or division with or without definite boundaries or characteristics: *the 'Arctic ~s*; *the densely populated ~s of Europe*. **2** (pl) areas away from the capital: *live in the ~s*.

re-gional /-nl/ *adj* of a region or regions.

re-gion-ally /-nəli/ *adv*

reg-is-ter¹ /ˈrɛdʒɪstə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (book containing a) record or list: *the R~ of voters*, of persons qualified to vote at elections. **2** range of the human voice or of a musical instrument; part of this range: *the lower ~ of the clarinet*. **3** mechanical device for indicating and recording speed, force, numbers, etc. **⇒** cash register. **4** = registry. **5** vocabulary, etc used by a particular group, in a particular situation, etc eg legal, sports.

reg-is-ter² /ˈrɛdʒɪstə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** make a written and formal record of, in a list: *~ one's car*. *I am a foreigner here; must I ~ (myself) with the police?* **2** put or get a person's name, one's own name, on a register, eg at a hotel. **3** (of instruments) indicate; record: *The thermometer ~ed only two degrees above freezing-point*. **4** show (emotion, etc): *Her face ~ed surprise*. **5** send (a letter or parcel) by special post, paying an extra charge which promises compensation if it is lost: *Send your money by ~ed post*.

reg-is-trar /ˈrɛdʒɪˈstra(r)/ *n* [C] person whose duty is to keep records or registers, eg for a town council or a university.

reg-is-tra-tion /ˈrɛdʒɪˈstreɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] registering; recording: *~ of letters*; *~ of students for an examination/an academic course*. **2** [C] entry; record of facts.

regis-tration mark, numbers and letters on the front and back of a motor-vehicle used to identify it.

reg-is-try /ˈrɛdʒɪstri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** (sometimes register) place where registers are kept: *a ship's port of ~*. **2** [U] = registration.

'registry office, (esp) where a marriage is conducted without a religious ceremony: *They had a ~ office wedding*.

re-gress /rɪˈɡres/ *vi* return to an earlier or more primitive form or state: *~ mentally/culturally*.

re-gres-sion /rɪˈɡresn/ *n* [C, U] regressing.

re-gres-sive *adj* tending to regress.

re-gret¹ /rɪˈɡret/ *n* 1 [U] feeling of being sorry or sad at the loss of something, or of annoy-

ance of disappointment because something has or has not or cannot be done: *hear with ~ that a friend is ill*. *Much to my ~ I am unable to accept your kind invitation*. **2** (pl) (in polite expressions of refusal, etc): *I have no ~s*, do not feel sorry (about what I did, etc).

re-gret-ful /-fl/ *adj* sad; sorry.

re-gret-fully /-fəli/ *adv* sadly; with regret.

re-gret² /rɪˈɡret/ *vt* (-tt-) **1** be sorry for the loss of; wish to have again: *~ lost opportunities*. **2** feel sorry for; be sorry (to say, etc that...): *I ~ that I cannot help*.

re-gret-table /-əbl/ *adj* to be regretted: *~ table failures*.

re-gret-tably /-əbli/ *adv*

re-group /ˈrɪːɡrup/ *vt, vi* form again into groups. **2** form into new groups.

reg-ular /ˈrɛɡjələ(r)/ *adj* **1** evenly arranged; symmetrical; systematic: *~ teeth*; *a ~ wall-paper design*. **2** coming, happening, done, again and again at even intervals: *keep ~ hours*, eg leaving and returning home, getting up and going to bed, at the same times every day. *He has no ~ work*, no continuous occupation. **3** properly qualified; recognized; trained; full-time or professional: *~ soldiers*, not volunteers; *the ~ army*, made up of professional soldiers. **4** in agreement with what is considered correct procedure or behaviour: *I doubt whether your methods would be considered ~ by the Customs officials*. **5** (gram) (of verbs, nouns, etc) having normal inflections: *The verb 'go' is not ~*. **6** (informal) thorough; complete: *He's a ~ nuisance*. **7** (US) normal: *Do you want king size cigarettes or ~ size?* **□** *n* [C] **1** soldier of the regular army. **2** (informal) frequent customer or client, eg at a pub.

regu-lar-ity /ˈrɛɡjələˈrɪti/ *n* [U] state of being systematic, on time, etc: *win a prize for ~ of attendance at school*.

reg-ular-ly *adv* in a proper manner; at frequent intervals or times: *as ~ly as clockwork*, always at the same time.

regu-lar-iz-ation (also -isation) /ˈrɛɡjələraɪˈzeɪʃn/ *US*: -rɪˈz-/ *n* [U]

regu-lar-ize (also -ise) /ˈrɛɡjələraɪz/ *vi* make lawful or correct: *~ the proceedings*.

regu-late /ˈrɛɡjuleɪt/ *vt* **1** control using rules; cause to obey a rule or standard: *~ one's expenditure*; *~ the traffic*. **2** adjust (an apparatus, mechanism) to get the desired result: *~ the speed of a machine/clock*.

regu-la-tion /ˈrɛɡjəˈleɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] regulating or being regulated: *the ~ of affairs/of a clock*. **2** [C] rule; order; authoritative direction: *'safety ~s*, eg in factories; *'traffic ~s*, made by the police for drivers of vehicles. **3** (as an adjective) as required by rules: *~ dress/size*; *the ~ speed*, eg 30 miles per hour in British towns.

re-gur-gi-tate /rɪˈɡɑːdʒɪteɪt/ *vi, vt* **1** (of liquid, etc) rush back. **2** bring (swallowed

food) up again to the mouth.

re-ha-bili-tate /ˌrɪ:həˈbɪlɪteɪt/ vt **1** restore (eg old buildings) to a good condition. **2** restore (a person) to former rank, position or reputation: *He has been ~d in public esteem.* **3** bring back (a person who is physically or mentally disabled) to a (more) normal life by special treatment.

re-ha-bili-ta-tion /ˌrɪ:həˈbɪlɪˈteɪʃn/ n [U]

re-hearsal /ˌrɪ:həˈsɜːl/ n **1** [U] rehearsing: *put a play into ~.* **2** [C] trial of a play or other entertainment. ⇨ dress rehearsal.

re-hearse /ˌrɪ:həˈs/ vt, vi practise (a play, music, programme, etc) for public performance: *rehearsing (the parts in) a play.*

re-house /ˌrɪˈhaʊz/ vt provide with a new house: *be ~d after the fire.*

reign /reɪn/ n [C] (period of) sovereignty, rule: *during five successive ~s; in the ~ of King George.* □ vi **1** hold office as a monarch: *The king ~ed over the country for ten years.* **2** exist at the present time: *the ~ing champion*, eg in tennis. **3** (formal) exist: *Silence ~ed everywhere.*

re-im-burse /ˌrɪːmˈbɜːs/ vt pay back (to a person who has spent money, the money spent): *You will be ~d for your expenses.*

re-im-burse-ment n [C,U] repayment (of expenses).

rein /reɪn/ n (often pl in the same sense as the sing) long, narrow strap fastened to the bit of a bridle for controlling a horse. **give free rein to sb/sth**, allow freedom to: *give free ~ to one's imagination.* **hold/take the reins**, (fig) have/take control: *hold the ~s of government.* **keep a tight rein on sb/sth**, allow little freedom to. □ vt control (as) with reins: *~ in a horse*, restrain it.

re-in-car-nate /ˌrɪːɪnˈkɑːneɪt/ vt give a new body to (a soul). □ adj /ˌrɪːɪnˈkɑːneɪt/ born again in a new body.

re-in-car-na-tion /ˌrɪːɪnˈkɑːneɪʃn/ n [U] religious doctrine that the soul enters, after death, into another (human or animal) body; [C] instance of this.

rein-deer /ˈreɪndɪə(r)/ n [C] (pl unchanged) kind of large deer with branched antlers, used in Lapland for transport and kept in herds for its milk, flesh and hide.

re-in-force /ˌrɪːɪnˈfɔːs/ vt **1** make stronger by adding or supplying more men or material: *~ an army/a fleet.* **2** increase the size, thickness, of something so that it supports more weight, etc: *reinforcing a bridge.*

re-in-forced concrete, concrete which is strengthened with steel bars or metal netting.

re-in-force-ment n [U] (a) reinforcing or being reinforced. (b) (esp pl) (esp) soldiers, ships, etc sent to reinforce.

re-in-state /ˌrɪːɪnˈsteɪt/ vt replace (a person) (in a former position): *~ the chairman.*

re-in-state-ment n [C,U]

re-in-sure /ˌrɪːɪnˈʃʊə(r)/ vt insure again.

re-in-sur-ance /-rəns/ n [U]

re-is-sue /ˌrɪːɪʃuː/ vt issue(2) again after temporary discontinuance: *~ stamps/books.* □ n [C] something reissued.

re-iter-ate /ˌrɪːɪtəreɪt/ vt say or do again several times: *~ a command.*

re-iteration /ˌrɪːɪtəˈreɪʃn/ n [C,U]

re-ject¹ /ˌrɪːdʒekt/ n [C] something rejected: *export ~s*, made for export but rejected because of an imperfection.

re-ject² /ˌrɪːdʒekt/ vt **1** put aside, send back, throw away, as not good enough: *~ fruit that is overripe.* **2** refuse to accept: *~ an offer of help/of marriage.* *The army doctors ~ed him*, would not accept him as medically fit. *The judge ~ed her evidence.* *The meter ~ed the bent coin.* *I applied for the job but I was ~ed.*

re-jection /ˌrɪːdʒekʃn/ n [U] rejecting or being rejected: [C] instance of this; something rejected.

re-joice /ˌrɪːdʒɔɪs/ vt, vi **1** feel great joy; show signs of great happiness: *rejoicing over a victory*, ~ at her success. (Note: be glad, be pleased are more common.) **2** make glad; cause to be happy: *The boy's success ~d his mother's heart.* (Note: gladden, please are more usual.)

re-joic-ing n [U] happiness; joy.

re-join¹ /ˌrɪːdʒɔɪn/ vt, vi (formal) answer; reply.

re-join-der /-dɔː(r)/ n [C] (formal) what is said in reply.

re-join² /ˌrɪːdʒɔɪn/ vt join the company of again: *~ one's regiment/ship.*

re-join-er /ˌrɪːdʒɔɪn/ vt join (together) again.

re-ju-ven-ate /ˌrɪːdʒuːvɪneɪt/ vt, vi make or become young or active again in nature or appearance.

re-ju-ven-ation /ˌrɪːdʒuːvɪneɪʃn/ n [U]

re-kinde /ˌrɪːkɪndl/ vt, vi **1** kindle again: *~ a fire.* **2** (fig) (cause to) be active again: *Our hopes ~d.*

re-laid /ˌrɪːleɪd/ ⇨ relay².

re-lapse /ˌrɪːləps/ vi fall back again (into bad ways, error, heresy, illness, silence etc). □ n [C] falling back, esp after recovering from illness: *The patient has had a major ~.*

re-late /ˌrɪːleɪt/ vt, vi **1** (formal) tell (a story); give an account of (facts, adventures etc): *He ~d to us some amusing stories about his employer.* **2** connect in thought or meaning: *It is difficult to ~ these results with/to any known cause.* **3 relate to**, have reference (to): *She is a girl who notices nothing except what ~s to herself.* **4 be related (to)**, be connected by family (to): *She says she is ~d to the royal family.*

re-la-tion /ˌrɪːleɪʃn/ n **1** [U] the act of relating(1,2) or telling: *the ~ of his adventures.* **2** [C] that which is told; tale or narrative. **3** [U] = relationship(c): *The effort and expense needed for this project bore no ~/were out of all*

~ to the results. **in/with relation to**, as regards; concerning. **4** (usually *pl*) dealings; affairs; what one person, group, country etc, has to do with another: *have business ~s with a firm in Stockholm; the friendly ~s between my country and yours; diplomatic ~s*. ⇨ **public relations**. **5** [C] relative(2): *All his poor ~s came to spend their holidays at his home.* ⇨ **distant**(2), **near**¹(2).

re-la-tion-ship *n* (a) [C] what there is between one thing, person, idea, etc and another or others: *He said his affair with Susan could never develop into a lasting ~ship.* (b) [U] condition of belonging to the same family; being connected by birth or marriage. (c) [C] instance of being related: *the ~ship between oil and water/of oil to water.*

rela-tive /'relatɪv/ *adj* **1** comparative: *the ~ advantages of gas and electricity for cooking. They are living in ~ comfort*, ie compared with other people or with themselves at an earlier time. **2** **relative to**, referring to; having a connection with: *the facts ~ to this problem.* □ *n* [C] **1** relative word, esp a pronoun. **2** person to whom one is related, eg an uncle or aunt, a cousin, a nephew or niece. ⇨ **distant**(2), **near**¹(2).

relative adverb, eg *where* in 'the place where the accident occurred'.

relative clause, one joined by a *relative pronoun* or *relative adverb*.

relative pronoun, eg *who* in 'the man who came yesterday'.

rela-tive-ly *adv* comparatively; in proportion to: *The matter is ~ly unimportant.*

re-lax /rɪ'læks/ *vt, vi* **1** cause or allow to become less tight, stiff, strict or rigid: *~ one's grip/hold on something; ~ing the muscles.* **2** become less tense, rigid, energetic, strict: *His face ~ed in a smile. Let's stop working and ~ for an hour.*

re-lax-a-tion /rɪ'læks'eɪʃn/ *n* (a) [U] relaxing or being relaxed: *~ation of the muscles.* (b) [C,U] (something done for) recreation: *Fishing is his favourite ~ation.*

re-lay¹ /rɪ'leɪ/ *n* [C] **1** gang or group of men, supply of material, to replace tired or worn ones: *working in/by ~s.* **2** (in telegraphy, broadcasting) device which receives messages, radio programmes, etc and transmits them with greater strength to increase the distance over which they are carried. **3** (short for a) relay race: *the 400 metres ~.* □ *vt* /rɪ'leɪ/ (*pt, pp* ~ed) send out (a broadcast programme received from another station).

'relay race, one between two teams, each member of the team running one section of the total distance.

'relay station, place from which radio programmes are broadcast after being received from another station.

re-lay² /rɪ:'leɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -laid /-'leɪd/) lay (a

cable, carpet, etc) again.

re-lease /rɪ'liːs/ *vt* **1** allow to go; set free; unfasten: *~ one's grip/a man from prison; ~ a bomb (from an aircraft), allow it to fall.* **2** allow (news) to be known or published; allow (a film) to be exhibited or (goods) to be placed on sale: *recently ~d films/records.* **3** (legal) give up or surrender (a right, debt, property) to another. □ **n** **1** [U] releasing or being released; [C] instance of this: *an order for his ~ from prison; a 'press ~, ie of a news item to the newspapers; the newest ~es, eg films/records.* **on general release**, (of cinema films) available for seeing at local cinemas. **2** [C] handle, lever, etc that releases part of a machine: *the 'carriage ~ (on a typewriter).*

rel-egate /'relɪɡeɪt/ *vt*, **1** delegate. **2** dismiss to a lower position or condition: *Will our team be ~d to the second division?*

rel-ega-tion /rɪ'lɪɡeɪʃn/ *n* [U].

re-lent /rɪ'lent/ *vi* become less severe; give up unkind or cruel intentions: *At last mother ~ed and let us to stay up and watch TV.*

re-lent-less *adj* without pity: *suffer ~less persecution.*

re-lent-less-ly *adv*.

rel-evance /'reləvəns/ *n* [U] state of being relevant: *What ~ does your theory have to the facts?*

rel-evant /'reləvənt/ *adj* connected with the topic, problem, person, etc receiving attention: *have all the ~ documents.*

rel-evant-ly *adv*

re-li-able /rɪ'laɪəbl/ *adj* that may be relied on depended on: *~ tools/assistants/information/witnesses.*

re-li-ably /-əblɪ/ *adv*

re-li-a-bil-ity /rɪ'laɪəbɪləti/ *n* [U]

re-li-ance /rɪ'laɪəns/ *n* **1** [U] trust; confidence: *Do you place much ~ on/upon your doctor?* **2** person or thing depended on.

re-li-ant /-ənt/ *adj* trusting.

relic /rɪ'lɪk/ *n* [C] **1** something that belonged to a saint or was connected with him, kept as an object of reverence, and in some cases said to have miraculous powers. **2** something from the past that serves to keep memories alive: *a ~ of early civilization.* **3** (*pl*) person's dead body or bones; what has survived destruction or decay.

re-lief¹ /rɪ'liːf/ *n* [U] (used with the *a*, *an* as in examples, but not normally in the *pl*) **1** lessening, ending or removal of pain, distress, anxiety, etc: *The doctor's treatment gave/brought some/lot much ~. It was a great ~ to find the children safe.* **2** help given to those in need; food, clothes, money, etc for persons in trouble: *send ~ to people made homeless by floods; provide ~ for refugees; a ~ fund.* **3** something that makes a change from monotony or that relaxes tension: *Shakespeare introduced comic scenes into his tragedies by*

way of ~. **4** help given to a besieged town; raising (of a siege): *The troops hastened to the ~ of the fortress.* **5** (replacing of a person, persons, on duty by a) person or persons appointed to go on duty: (as an adjective) *a ~ driver.*

re-lief /rɪ'li:f/ *n* **1** [U] method of carving or moulding in which a design stands out from a flat surface: *a profile of Mozart in ~.* **2** [C] design or carving made in this way. **3** [U] (in drawing, etc) appearance of being done in relief by the use of shading, colour, etc. **4** [U] distinctness of outline.

re-lief map, one showing hills, valleys, etc by shading or other means, not only by contour lines.

re-lieve /rɪ'li:v/ *vt* **1** give or bring relief¹ to; lessen or remove (pain or distress): *We were ~d to hear that you had arrived safely. The fund is for relieving distress among the flood victims.* **2** take one's turn on duty: ~ the guard/the watch/a sentry. **3** take something from somebody: *Let me ~ you of your suitcase, carry it (which is more usual).* **4** dismiss from: *He was ~d of his duties.*

re-lig-ion /rɪ'lidʒən/ *n* **1** [U] belief in the existence of a supernatural ruling power, the creator and controller of the universe. **2** [C] one of the various systems of faith and worship based on such belief: *the great ~s of the world*, eg Christianity, Islam, Buddhism. **3** [U] life as lived under the rules of a monastic order: *Her name in ~ is Sister Mary, This is her name as a nun.*

re-lig-ious /rɪ'lidʒəs/ *adj* **1** of religion. **2** (of a person) devout; having faith. **3** of a monastic order: *a ~ house*, a monastery or convent. **4** conscientious: *do one's work with ~ care.*

re-lig-ious-ly *adv*

re-line /rɪ'laɪn/ *vt* put a new lining in, eg a coat.

re-lin-quish /rɪ'liŋkwɪʃ/ *vt* **1** give up: ~ a hope/a habit/a belief. **2** surrender: ~ one's rights/shares to a partner.

rel-ish /rɪ'liʃ/ *n* **1** [C,U] (something used to give, or which has, a) special flavour or attractive quality: *Olives and sardines are ~s. Some pastimes lose their ~ when one grows old.* **2** [U] liking (for): *I have no further ~ for camping now that I am 90.* □ *vt* enjoy; get pleasure out of: *She won't ~ having to get up before 5am!*

re-live /rɪ'li:v/ *vt* live through, undergo, again: *It's an experience I don't want to ~.*

re-lo-cate /rɪ'li:əu'keɪt/ *US*; /rɪ'li:ləkeɪt/ *vt,vi* establish, become established, in a new place or area.

re-lo-ca-tion /rɪ'li:əu'keɪʃən/ *n* [U]

re-luc-tance /rɪ'lʌktəns/ *n* [U] being reluctant.

re-luc-tant /rɪ'lʌktənt/ *adj* (slow to act because) unwilling or not wanting to: *He seemed ~ to join us.*

re-luc-tant-ly *adv*

re-ly /rɪ'laɪ/ *vi* (*pt,pp* -lied) depend (on) with confidence, look to for help: *He can always be relied on/upon for help.*

re-main /rɪ'meɪn/ *vi* **1** be still present after a part has gone or has been away: *After the fire, very little ~ed of my house. If you take 3 from 8, 5 ~s.* **2** continue in some place or condition; continue to be: *How many weeks will you ~ (= stay) here? He ~ed silent.*

re-main-der /rɪ'meɪndə(r)/ *n* [C,U] that which remains; persons or things that are left over: *Twenty people came in and the ~ (= the rest, the others) stayed outside.*

re-mains /rɪ'meɪnz/ *n pl* **1** what is left: *the ~s of a meal; ancient ~s of Rome.* **2** dead body; corpse: *His mortal ~s are buried in the churchyard.*

re-make /rɪ'meɪk/ *vt* (*pt,pp* -made /-meɪd/) make again. □ *n* /rɪ'meɪk/ [C] something made again: *a ~ of a film.*

re-mand /rɪ'mɑ:nd/ *US*; -mænd/ *vt* send (an accused person) back (from a law court) into custody so that more evidence may be obtained: *be ~ed for a week.* □ *n* [U] remanding or being remanded: *detention on ~.*

re-mark /rɪ'mɑ:k/ *vt,vi* **1** (formal) notice; see: *Did you ~ the similarity between them?* **2** say (that): *He ~ed that he would be absent the next day.* **3** say something by way of comment: *It would be rude to ~ on/upon her appearance.* □ **n** **1** [U] notice; looking at: *There was nothing worthy of ~ at the Flower Show.* **2** [C] comment: *pass rude ~s about her; make a few ~s, give a short talk.*

re-mark-able /-əbl/ *adj* out of the ordinary; deserving or attracting attention: *a ~able event/boy.*

re-mark-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

re-marry /rɪ'mæri/ *vt,vi* (*pt,pp* -ied) marry again.

re-medial /rɪ'mi:diəl/ *adj* providing, or intended to provide, a remedy: ~ education/ classes, eg for less able children.

re-medi-able /rɪ'mi:diəbl/ *adj* that can be remedied.

rem-edy /rɛmɪdi/ *n* [C,U] (*pl* -ies) cure (for a disease, evil, etc), method of, something used for, putting something right: *a good ~ for colds. Your only ~ (= way to get satisfaction) is to go to law.* □ *vt* (*pt,pp* -ied) put right; provide a cure for (evils, defects): *Your faults of pronunciation can be remedied.*

re-mem-ber /rɪ'membə(r)/ *vt,vi* **1** call back to mind the memory of: *Can you ~ where you were? I ~ed (= did not forget) to post your letters.* **2** have, keep in the mind: *I shall always ~ her (= picture her in my mind) as a slim young girl.* **3** make a present to: *I hope you'll ~ me in your will, leave me something.* **4** convey greetings: *Please ~ me to your brother.*

re-mem-brance /rɪ'membərəns/ *n* **1** [U] remembering or being remembered; memory

have no ~ of something; a service in ~ of those killed in the war. **2** [C] something given or kept in memory of a person or thing: *He sent us a small ~ of his visit.* **3** (pl) (dated) regards; greetings (the usual words): *Give my kind ~s to your parents.*

re-mind /rɪ'maɪnd/ *vt* cause (a person) to remember (to do something, etc); cause (a person) to think (of something). *Please ~ me to answer that letter. He ~s me of his brother. That ~s me.... What you have just said makes me remember.... I've just remembered.... etc.*

re-minder, something (eg a letter) that helps a person to remember something: *He hasn't paid the money yet—I must send him a ~er.*

remi-nisce /rɛmɪ'nɪs/ *vi* think or talk (about past events and experiences).

remi-nis-cence /rɛmɪ'nɪsnəs/ *n* **1** [U] recalling of past experiences. **2** (pl) remembered experiences (thought, spoken or written): *~s of my days in the Navy.* **3** something that reminds one (of something, somebody else): *There is a ~ of his father in the way he walks.*

remi-nis-cent /rɛmɪ'nɪsnt/ *adj* reminding one of, recalling, past experiences.

remi-nis-cent-ly *adv*

re-miss /rɪ'mɪs/ *adj* (formal) negligent: *That was very ~ of you.*

re-mis-sion /rɪ'mɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] pardon or forgiveness (of sins, by God). **2** [U] freeing (from debt, punishment, etc): *~ of a claim;* [C] instance of this: *get a ~ (from a prison sentence) for good conduct.* **3** [U] lessening or weakening (of pain, disease, efforts, etc): *~ of a fever.*

re-mit /rɪ'mɪt/ *vt, vi* (-tt-) **1** (of God) forgive (sins). **2** excuse payment (of a debt, a punishment): *Your fees cannot be ~ted.* **3** send (money, etc) by post: *Kindly ~ by cheque, send a cheque for the sum owing.* **4** make or become less: *~ one's efforts.* **5** take or send (a question to be decided) (to some authority): *The matter has been ~ted to a higher tribunal.*

re-mit-tance /-təns/ *n* [U] the sending of money; [C] sum of money sent.

re-mit-tent /rɪ'mɪtənt/ *adj* (esp of a fever) that is less severe at intervals.

rem-nant /rɛm'nənt/ *n* [C] **1** small part that remains: *~s of a meal;* *~s of former glory.* **2** (esp) length of cloth offered cheaply after the greater part has been sold.

re-mon-strate /rɛmən'streɪt/ *vi* (formal) make a protest; argue in protest: *~ against cruelty to children.*

re-morse /rɪ'mɔ:s/ *n* [U] deep, bitter regret for doing wrong: *feel/be filled with ~ for one's failure to help her; in a fit of ~; without ~, merciless(ly).*

re-morse-ful /-fl/ *adj* feeling remorse.

re-morse-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

re-morse-less *adj* without mercy.

re-morse-less-ly *adv*

re-mote /rɪ'məʊt/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** far away in

space or time: *in the ~st parts of Asia; live in a house ~ from any town or village.* **2** widely separated (in feeling, interests, etc from): *Some of your statements are too ~ from the subject we are discussing.* **3** distant in manner. **4** (often used in the superlative) slight: *a ~ possibility. I haven't the ~st idea of what you mean.*

remote control, control of apparatus, eg an aircraft, a rocket, from a distance by means of radio signals.

re-mote-ly *adv* distantly: *~ly related.*

re-mote-ness *n* [U]

re-mount¹ /rɪ'maʊnt/ *vt, vi* (esp) get on (a horse, bicycle, etc) again.

re-mount² /rɪ'maʊnt/ *vt* **1** supply (a man, a regiment) with a fresh horse or horses. **2** put (a photograph, etc) on a new mount. **□ n** [C] /rɪ'maʊnt/ fresh horse; supply of fresh horses.

re-moval /rɪ'mu:v/ *n* [U] act of removing: *the ~ of furniture;* (used as an adjective) *a ~ van* (for furniture); [C] instance of removal.

re-move /rɪ'mu:v/ *vt, vi* **1** take off or away (from the place occupied); take to another place: *~ the cloth from the table.* **2** get rid of: *~ doubts/fears. What do you use for removing ink from clothes?* **3** dismiss: *~ a Civil Servant.* **4** go to live in another place (*move* is more usual): *We're removing from London to the country.* **5** **removed from**, distant or remote from: *an explanation far ~d from the truth.*

removed, (of cousins) different by a generation: *first cousin once ~d*, first cousin's child.

re-mov-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be removed:

re-mover /rɪ'mu:və(r)/ *n* **1** [C] (esp) person whose business is moving furniture when people move house. **2** (used in compounds) something that removes (2): *a ~stain ~r.*

re-mun-er-ate /rɪ'mju:nə'reɪt/ *vi* (formal) pay (a person) (for work or services).

re-mun-eration /rɪ'mju:nə'reɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

re-mun-er-ative /rɪ'mju:nə'reɪtɪv/ *US*: -reɪt-/ *adj* profitable (the usual word).

re-nais-sance /rɪ'neɪsns/ *US*: 'renə:səns/ *n* **1** **the R~**, (period of) revival of art and literature in Europe in the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries: (used as an adjective) *~ art.* **2** [C] any similar revival.

re-nal /rɪ'nəl/ *adj* (anat) of or in the (region of the) kidneys: *~ artery.*

re-name /rɪ'neɪm/ *vt* give a new name to; name again.

re-nas-cence /rɪ'næsns/ renaissance (2).

re-nas-cent /-snt/ *adj* reviving; being reborn.

rend /rend/ *vt* (pt, pp *rent* /rent/) (literary) **1** pull or divide forcibly; penetrate: *a country rent (in two) by civil war. Loud cries rent the air.* **2** tear or pull (off, away) violently: *Children were rent away from their mothers' arms by the brutal soldiers.*

ren-der /rɛndə(r)/ *vt* **1** give in return or exchange, or as something due: *~ thanks to God; ~ good for evil; ~ help to those in need; ~ a*

service to him/ ~ him a service; a reward for services ~ed. **2** present; offer; send in (an account for payment): *You will have to ~ an account of your expenditure.* **3** cause to be (in some condition): *be ~ed helpless by an accident.* **4** give a performance of; express in another language: *The piano solo was well ~ed. There are many English idioms that cannot be ~ed into other languages.* **5** melt and make clear: ~ down fat/lard.

ren-der-ing /'rendərɪŋ/ *n* [C] way of performing, playing, translating, something: ~ings of Chaucer. ⇨ 4 above.

ren-dez-vous /'rɒndivʊː/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) **1** (place decided on for a) meeting at a time agreed on. **2** place where people often meet: *This café is a ~ for writers and artists.* □ *vi* meet at a rendezvous.

ren-di-tion /ren'dɪʃn/ *n* [C] (*formal*) interpretation or performance (of a song, etc).

ren-egade /'renɪgeɪd/ *n* [C] person who changes his religious beliefs, esp from Christianity; person who deserts his political party; traitor: (used as an *adjective*) *a ~ priest.* □ *vi* become a renegade.

re-new /rɪ'njuː/ *US*: -nuː/ *vt* **1** make (as good as) new; put new life and strength into; restore to the original condition: ~ acquaintance with an old friend; begin again with ~ed enthusiasm. **2** get, make, say or give, again: ~ a lease/contract; ~ one's subscription to a periodical. **3** replace (with the same sort of thing, etc): *We must ~ our supplies of coal.*

re-new-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be renewed: *Is the lease ~able?*

re-newal /-əl/ *n* (a) [U] renewing or being renewed: *urban ~al*, eg the provision of better housing. (b) [C] something renewed, eg an insurance premium.

re-nounce /rɪ'naʊns/ *vt* **1** declare formally that one will no longer have anything to do with, that one no longer recognizes (a person or thing): ~ one's faith/one's family; ~ the world, give up meeting people socially, etc. **2** consent formally to give up (a claim, right, possession): *renouncing one's claim to an inheritance.* **3** refuse to recognize: *He ~ed his sons because they were criminals.*

reno-vate /'renəveɪt/ *vt* restore, eg old buildings, oil paintings, to a good or strong condition.

reno-va-tion /,renə'veɪʃn/ *n* [U] renovating; (*pl*) instances of this.

re-nown /rɪ'naʊn/ *n* [U] fame: *win ~*; *a man of high ~.*

re-nowned *adj* famous; celebrated: *He was ~ed for his skill.*

rent /rent/ *n* [C,U] regular payment for the use of land, a building, a room or rooms, machinery, etc; sum of money paid in this way: *You owe me three weeks' ~.* □ *vt, vi* **1** occupy or use (land, buildings, etc) for rent: *We don't*

own our house, we ~ it from Mr Gay. **2** allow (land, buildings, etc) to be used or occupied in return for rent: *Mr Hill ~s this land to us at £50 a year.*

'rent-collector, person who goes from house to house to collect rents.

'rent-free *adj, adv*: *a ~free 'house*, for which no rent is charged to the tenant.

'rent-rebate, rebate, based on earnings, given by a local government authority to the lower paid, esp council tenants.

rent-able /-əbl/ *adj* able to be rented.

ren-tal /rentl/ *n* [C] amount of rent paid or received.

rent² /rent/ *n* [C] **1** torn place in cloth, etc: *a ~ in the balloon.* **2** (*fig*) division or split (in a political party, etc).

rent³ /rent/ *pt, pp* of rend.

re-nunci-ation /rɪ,nʌnsɪ'eɪʃn/ *n* [U] renouncing; self-denial.

re-open /rɪ:'əʊpən/ *vt, vi* open again after closing or being closed: ~ a shop; ~ a discussion. *School ~s on Monday.*

re-or-gan-ize (also **-ise**) /rɪ:'ɔ:gənaɪz/ *vt, vi* organize again or in a new way.

re-orien-tate /rɪ:'ɔ:rɪənteɪt/ (also **re-orient** /rɪ:'ɔ:rɪənt/) *vt, vi* orient(ate) again or anew.

rep /rep/ *n* [C] (*informal*) (common abbr of) repertory; representative *n*.

re-pair¹ /rɪ'peə(r)/ *vt* **1** restore (something worn or damaged) to good condition: ~ the roads/a watch. **2** put right again: ~ an error. □ *n* **1** [U] repairing or being repaired: *road under ~.* **2** (*sing* or *pl* but not with *a, an*) work or process of repairing: *The shop will be closed during ~s.* **3** [U] condition for using or being used: *This machine is in a bad state of ~/in good ~.*

re-pair-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be repaired.

re-pairer, person who repairs things: *'shoe ~ers.*

re-pair² /rɪ'peə(r)/ *vi* (*formal*) (esp) go frequently, go in large numbers to: ~ to the seaside for the summer.

rep-ar-able /'reɪərəbl/ *adj* (of a loss, etc) that can be made good.

rep-ar-ation /,reɪpə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U] act of compensating for loss or damage; (*pl*) compensation for war damages demanded from a defeated enemy.

rep-ar-tee /,repa:'tiː/ *n* [C] witty, clever reply; [U] the making of such remarks.

re-past /rɪ'pɑːst *US*: -'pæst/ *n* [C] (*formal*) meal: *a luxurious ~ in the banqueting hall.*

re-pat-ri-ate /rɪ:'pætri'eɪt *US*: -'peɪt-/ *vt* send or bring (a person) back to his own country: ~ refugees after a war. □ *n* [C] repatriated person.

re-pat-ri-ation /,rɪ:pætri'eɪʃn *US*: -peɪt-/ *n* [U]

re-pay /rɪ'peɪ/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -paid /-'peɪd/) **1** pay back (money): *If you'll lend me 75p, I'll ~ you*

next week. **2** give in return: *How can I ~ Jim for his kindness.*

re-pay-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can or must be repaid.

re-pay-ment *n* [U] repaying; [C] instance of this.

re-peal /rɪ'pi:l/ *vt* cancel, annul, (a law, etc). □ *n* [C, U] repealing.

re-peat /rɪ'pi:t/ *vt, vi* **1** say or do again: ~ a word/mistake. **2** say (what somebody else has said or what one has learnt by heart): *You must not ~ what I've told you; it's very confidential.* **3** (of food) continue to be tasted after being eaten: *Do you find that onions ~?* **4** (of numbers, eg decimals) recur: *The last figure is ~ed.* **5** supply a further amount, order, etc: *We regret that we cannot ~ this article.* □ *n* [C] another supply, performance, etc: *There will be a ~ (= another broadcast) of this talk on Friday. This is a ~ performance.*

re-peat-ed-ly *adv* again and again.

re-pel /rɪ'pel/ *vt* (-ll-) **1** drive back or away; refuse to accept: ~ the enemy/temptation. **2** cause a feeling of dislike in: *His long, rough beard ~led her.*

re-pel-lent /-ənt/ *adj* unattractive; uninviting: ~lent work/food/manners. □ *n* [C] something that causes something else to go or stay away: ~insect ~.

re-pent /rɪ'pent/ *vi, vt* think with regret or sorrow of; be full of regret; wish one had not done (something): *Don't you ~ (of) having wasted your money so foolishly?*

re-pent-ance /-əns/ *n* [U] regret for doing wrong: *show ~ance (for ...).*

re-pent-ant /-ənt/ *adj* feeling or showing regret.

re-pent-ant-ly *adv*

re-per-cus-sion /rɪ'pɜ:kʌʃn/ *n* **1** [U] springing back; driving or throwing back. **2** [C] something thrown or driven back; echoing sound: *the ~ of the waves from the rocks.* **3** [C] (usually *pl*) far-reaching and indirect effect (of an event, etc): *The assassination of the President was followed by ~s throughout the whole country.*

re-per-toire /'repɑ:twa:(r)/ *n* [C] all the plays, songs, pieces, etc which a company, actor, musician, etc is prepared to perform: *She has a large ~ of songs.*

re-per-tory /'repɑ:təri/ *US*: -tɔ:rɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) = repertoire.

'repertory company/theatre, (common abbr **rep**) one in which the actors or plays are changed regularly.

rep-eti-tion /rɛpɪ'tʃn/ *n* **1** [U] repeating or being repeated; [C] instance of this: *after numerous ~s.* **2** [C] another repeat: *Let there be no ~ of this, Don't do it again.* **3** [C] piece (of poetry, etc) set to be learnt by heart and repeated.

re-peti-tive /rɪ'petətɪv/ (also **rep-eti-tious**

/rɛpɪ'tʃəs/) *adj* characterized by repeated action: *the repetitive work typical of modern industry.*

re-phrase /rɪ:'freɪz/ *vt* say again using different words: ~ a question.

re-place /rɪ'pleɪs/ *vt* **1** put back in its place: *replacing a dictionary on the shelf;* ~ the receiver, ie after telephoning. **2** take the place of: *Can anything ~ a mother's love and care?* **3** supply as a substitute for: ~ coal by/with oil.

re-place-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be replaced.

re-place-ment *n* [U] replacing or being replaced; [C] person or thing that replaces: *get a ~ment while one is away on holiday.*

re-play /rɪ:'pleɪ/ *vt* play (eg a football match that was drawn) again. □ *n* /rɪ:'pleɪ/ [C] replaying of a record, a football match etc.

re-plen-ish /rɪ'plenɪʃ/ *vt* (*formal*) fill up again; get a new supply of or for.

re-plete /rɪ'pli:t/ *adj* (*formal*) filled with; holding as much as possible: ~ with food; *feeling ~.*

re-ple-tion /rɪ'pli:n/ *n* [U] (*formal*) state of being or feeling replete.

rep-lica /'replɪkə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) exact copy (esp one made by an artist of one of his own pictures).

re-ply /rɪ'plaɪ/ *vi, vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) give an answer to, in words or action: *He failed to ~ (to my question).* 'Certainly, sir', he replied. □ *n* [C] act of replying; what is replied: *He made no ~. What was said in ~?* **reply paid**, (eg of a telegram) with the cost of replying paid by the sender.

re-port¹ /rɪ'pɔ:t/ *n* **1** [C] account of, statement about, something heard, seen, done, etc: *the annual ~ of a business company;* 'law ~s, ie of trials, etc in the law courts; *a school ~, eg by teachers about a pupil, with his examination marks, etc; newspaper ~s.* **2** [U] rumour: *R~ has it that....* People are saying that....; [C] piece of gossip. **3** [C] sound of an explosion: *the loud ~ of a gun.*

re-port² /rɪ'pɔ:t/ *vi, vi* **1** give an account of (something seen, heard, done, etc); give as news: *The discovery of a new planet has been ~ed.* **2** write down (eg in shorthand) the words of speeches, etc for newspapers, etc: ~ a speech/a Parliamentary debate. **3** give news or information concerning: ~ on/upon a meeting. **4** go (somewhere), and announce that one has come, that one is ready for work, duty, etc: ~ for duty at the office; ~ to the Manager. **5** make a complaint against a person (to authorities): ~ an official for insolence. *I shall have to ~ your lateness.*

reported speech, = indirect speech.

re-porter, person who supplies news to a newspaper, for radio or TV.

re-pose¹ /rɪ'pəʊz/ *vt* (*formal*) place (trust, confidence, etc) in: *Don't ~ too much confidence in his honesty.*

re-pose² /rɪ'pəʊz/ *vt, vi (formal)* **1** rest; give rest or support to: *a girl posing on a cushion.* **2** be based or supported (*on*). □ *n* [U] (*formal*) **1** rest; sleep: *Her face is beautiful in ~.* **2** peaceful, restful or quiet behaviour, manner or appearance.

re-pository /rɪ'pɒzɪtri/ *US: -tɔ:ri/ n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (*formal*) place where things are or may be stored: *Desks are repositories for all sorts of useless papers.*

rep-re-hend /,repri'hend/ *vt (formal)* disapprove of strongly: *~ his conduct.*

rep-re-hen-sible /,repri'hensəbl/ *adj* deserving to be strongly disapproved of.

rep-re-sent¹ /,repri'zent/ *vt* **1** be, give, make, a picture, sign, symbol or example of: *Phonetic symbols ~ sounds. This painting ~s a hunting scene.* **2** declare to be; describe (*as*): *He ~ed himself as an expert.* **3** explain; make clear: *Let me try to ~ my ideas to you in another way.* **4** express: *They each ~ed their grievances to the headmaster.* **5** act or speak for (eg as a lawyer); be MP for; be an agent for: *members (ie MP's) ~ing several Welsh constituencies.*

rep-re-sen-ta-tion /,repri'zentəʃn/ *n* (a) [U] representing or being represented; [C] that which is represented: *no taxation without ~ation*, ie citizens should not be taxed without being represented (in Parliament, etc). ⇨ *proportional representation.* (b) [C] (*esp*) polite protest: *make ~ations to the Inspector of Taxes about an excessive assessment.*

re-present² /,ri:prɪ'zent/ *vt* submit again: *Please ~ your cheque when you have funds in your account.*

rep-re-sen-ta-tive /,repri'zentətɪv/ *adj* **1** serving to show; serving as an example of a class or group; containing examples of a number of classes or groups: *a ~ collection of French Impressionist paintings.* **2** consisting of elected deputies; based on representation by such elected deputies: *~ government/institutions.* □ *n* [C] **1** example; typical specimen (*of*). **2** person elected or appointed to represent or act for others: *send a ~ to a conference; our ~ (= MP) in the House of Commons.*

the House of Representatives, the lower house of the US Congress or of a state legislature.

re-press /rɪ'pres/ *vt* keep or put down or under; prevent from finding an outlet: *~ a revolt; ~ed emotions.*

re-pres-sion /rɪ'preʃn/ *n* [U]

re-pres-sive /rɪ'presɪv/ *adj* serving or tending to repress: *~ive legislation.*

re-prieve /rɪ'pri:v/ *vt* **1** postpone or delay punishment (*esp* the execution of a person condemned to death). **2** (*fig*) give relief for a short time (from danger, trouble, etc). □ *n* [C] (order giving authority for the) postponement or

cancelling of punishment (*esp* by death): *grant a prisoner a ~.*

re-pri-mand /,repri'ma:nd/ *US: -'mænd/ vt* express disapproval to (a person) severely and officially (because of a fault, etc). □ *n* /'repri'ma:nd/ *US: -mænd/ [C]* official expression of disapproval.

re-prisal /rɪ'praɪz/ *n* **1** [U] paying back injury with injury: *do something by way of ~.* **2** (*pl*) such acts, *esp* of one country on another during a war.

re-proach /rɪ'prəʊtʃ/ *vt* find fault with (a person, usually with a feeling of sorrow, or suggesting the need for sorrow): *~ one's son for being late home.* □ *n* **1** [U] reproaching: *a term/look of ~.* **2** [C] instance, word, phrase, etc of reproach. **above/beyond reproach**, perfect, blameless: *She/Her behaviour is beyond ~.* **3** [C] something that brings disgrace or discredit (*to*): *slums that are a ~ to the city council.*

re-proach-ful /-fl/ *adj* full of, expressing, reproach: *a ~ful look.*

re-proach-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

re-pro-duce /,ri:prə'dju:s/ *US: -'dʊ:s/ vt, vi* **1** cause to be seen, heard, exist, etc again: *~ music from magnetic tape; ~ copies of an original painting.* **2** bring forth as offspring; bring about a natural increase: *plants that ~ easily.* **3** grow anew (a part that is lost, etc): *Can lizards ~ their tails?*

re-pro-ducer, person who, that which, re-produces.

re-pro-duc-ible /-əbl/ *adj* that can be re-produced.

re-pro-duc-tion /,ri:prə'dʌkʃn/ *n* [U] process of reproducing; [C] something reproduced, *esp* a work of art.

re-pro-duc-tive /,ri:prə'dʌktɪv/ *adj* reproducing; for, relating to, reproduction (*esp* (2)): *the reproductive organs.*

re-proof¹ /rɪ'pru:f/ *n* **1** [U] blame (the more usual word); disapproval: *a glance of ~; conduct deserving of ~.* **2** [C] expression of blame or disapproval.

re-proof² /,ri:pru:f/ *vt* make (a coat, etc) waterproof again.

re-prove /rɪ'pru:v/ *vt* find fault with; disapprove of strongly: *The priest ~d the people for not attending church services.*

re-proving-ly *adv*

rep-tile /'reptail/ *US: -tl/ n* [C] cold-blooded animal that lays eggs, eg a lizard, tortoise, crocodile, snake.

rep-til-ian /rep'tɪliən/ *adj* of, like, a reptile.

re-pub-lic /rɪ'pʌblɪk/ *n* [C] (country with a) system of government in which the elected representatives of the people are supreme, and with an elected head (the President): *a constitutional ~*, eg the US.

re-pub-li-can /rɪ'pʌblɪkən/ *adj* of, relating to, supporting the principles of, a republic. □ *n*

[C] 1 person who favours republican government. 2 **R~**, member of one of the two main political parties in the US (the other is *Democrat*).

re-pudi-ate /rɪ'pjʊ:diət/ vt (formal) 1 say that one will have nothing more to do with: ~ a wicked son. 2 refuse to accept or acknowledge: ~ the authorship of an article, declare that one did not write it. 3 refuse to pay (a debt).

re-pudi-ation /rɪ'pjʊ:di'eɪʃn/ n [U]

re-pug-nance /rɪ'pʌɡnəns/ n [U] (formal) strong dislike or distaste: a great ~ to accept charity.

re-pug-nant /rɪ'pʌɡnənt/ adj (formal) causing a feeling of dislike or opposition: I find his views/proposals ~.

re-pulse /rɪ'pʌls/ vt 1 drive back (the enemy); resist (an attack) successfully. 2 refuse to accept (a person's help, friendly offers, etc); discourage (a person) by unfriendly treatment. □ n [U] repulsing or being repulsed.

re-pul-sion /rɪ'pʌlʃn/ n [U] (a) feeling of dislike or distaste: feel repulsion for him. (b) (physics) tendency of bodies to repel each other (opp of attraction).

re-pul-sive /rɪ'pʌlsɪv/ adj 1 causing a feeling of disgust: a ~ sight. 2 (physics) showing repulsion (b): ~ forces.

re-pul-sive-ly adv

repu-table /'repjʊtəbl/ adj respected; of good reputation: ~ occupations.

repu-tably /-əbli/ adv

repu-ta-tion /'repjʊ'teɪʃn/ n [U] (used with a, an as in examples) the general opinion about the character, qualities, etc of a person or thing: have a good ~ as a doctor; make a ~ for oneself. **live up to one's reputation**, act in the way that people expect (good or bad).

re-pute /rɪ'pjʊt/ vt 1 **be reputed as/to be**, be generally considered or reported (to be), be thought of as: He is ~ed (to be) very wealthy. He is ~d (as/to be) the best surgeon in Paris. 2 (as an adjective) generally considered to be (but with some element of doubt): the ~d father of the child. □ n [U] 1 reputation (good or bad): know a man by ~. 2 good reputation: a doctor of ~.

re-put-ed-ly /-ədli/ adv by reputation.

re-quest /rɪ'kwest/ n 1 [U] asking or being asked: We came at your ~/at the ~ of Mr Brown. Buses stop here by ~, if signalled to do so. This is a ~ stop. Samples will be sent on ~. 2 [C] expression of desire for something: repeated ~s for help. 3 [C] thing asked for: All my ~s were granted. □ vt make a request: Visitors are ~ed not to touch the paintings.

requiem /'rekwiəm/ n [C] (musical setting for a) special mass for the repose of the souls of the dead.

re-quire /rɪ'kwaɪə(r)/ vt 1 need (the usual

word); depend on for success, etc: We ~ extra help. 2 (formal) order; demand; insist on as a right or by authority: Students are ~d to take three papers in English literature. I have done all that is ~d by law.

re-quire-ment n [C] (formal) something needed: meet his ~ments, do what he wants done.

requi-site /'rekwi:zɪt/ n [C], adj (thing) needed or required by circumstances or for success: We supply every ~ for travel/all travelling ~s.

requi-si-tion /'rekwi:zɪʃn/ n 1 [U] act of requiring or demanding. 2 [C] formal, written demand: a ~ for supplies/that the supplies should be sent. □ vt make a demand for: ~ a cheque for £100.

re-run /'ri:ʌn/ n [C] (cinema and TV) reshooting of a film or recorded programme. □ vt (-nn-) show a film, etc again.

re-scind /rɪ'sɪnd/ vt (legal) repeal, cancel (a law, contract, etc).

res-cue /'reskju:/ vt make safe (from danger, attack, etc); set free: rescuing a child (from drowning). □ n 1 [U] rescuing or being rescued: John came to my ~ at the meeting, supported me. 2 [C] instance of this: three ~s from drowning.

res-cuer, person who rescues a person or thing.

re-search /rɪ'sɜ:tʃ/ US: 'rɪsɜ:tʃ/ n [U] (and with a, an, and in the pl, but not usually with many or numerals) investigation undertaken in order to discover new facts, get additional information, etc: be engaged in ~; much ~ work; carry out a ~/~es into the causes of cancer. His ~es have been successful. □ vi (a problem, etc): She is ~ing into the causes of cancer.

re-searcher, person engaged in research.

re-seat /rɪ'si:t/ vt supply with a new seat: ~ an old pair of trousers/a cane chair.

re-sem-biance /rɪ'zembəns/ n [C,U] (point of) likeness, similarity: There's very little ~ between them.

re-semble /rɪ'zembl/ vt be like; be similar to: She ~s her mother.

re-sent /rɪ'zent/ vt feel bitter, indignant or angry at: ~ criticism. He ~s my being here.

re-sent-ful /-fl/ adj feeling or showing resentment.

re-sent-fully /-fəli/ adv

re-sent-ment n [U] feeling that one has when insulted, ignored, injured, etc: bear/feel no ~ment against anyone.

res-er-va-tion /'rezə'veɪʃn/ n 1 [U] keeping or holding back; failure or refusal to express something that is in one's mind; [C] that which is kept or held back: accept a plan without ~, wholeheartedly, completely; accept a plan with ~s, with limiting conditions. 2 [C] the central ~ of a motorway, land dividing the two carriageways. 3 [C] (US) area of land reserved for

a special purpose: *the Indian ~s*, land for the exclusive use of the Indians. **4** [C] arrangement to keep something for somebody, eg a seat in a train, a room in a hotel: *My travel agents have made all the ~s for my journey.*

re-serve¹ /rɪ'zɜ:v/ **n** 1 [C] something that is being or has been stored (for later use): *a ~ of food*; *the bank's ~s*, ie of money. **2** (sing or pl) (mil) military forces kept back for use when needed. **3** [U] *in reserve*, kept back unused, but available if needed: *have/hold a little money in ~*. **4** [C] place or area reserved for some special use or purpose: *a 'game ~*, eg in Africa, for the preservation of wild animals. **5** [C,U] (instance of) limitation or restriction; condition that limits or restricts: *We accept your statement without ~*, believe it completely. **6** [U] self-control in speech and behaviour: *break through his ~*, get him to talk and be sociable. **7** [C] (in football, etc) player who is officially allowed to replace another player during a game.

re-serve² /rɪ'zɜ:v/ **vi** 1 store, keep back, for a later occasion: *Re~ your strength for the climb.* The judge ~d his judgement, deferred announcing it until a future time. 2 keep for the special use of, or for a special purpose: *We are reserving these seats for special guests.* 3 secure possession of, or the right to use, eg by advance payment: *~ rooms at a hotel.*

re-served *adj* (of a person, his character) slow to show feelings or opinions; shy: *He is too ~d to be popular.*

re-serv-ed-ly /-ɔdli/ *adv*

res-er-voir /'rezəvwa:(r)/ **n** [C] 1 place (often an artificial lake) where water is stored, eg for supplying a town. 2 (fig) supply (of facts, knowledge, etc).

re-set /rɪ'set/ **vi** (pt, pp reset; -tt-) 1 place in position again: *~ a diamond in a ring*; *~ a broken bone*. ⇨ **set**²(9) 2 (of a book, etc) prepare the type(3) again. 3 sharpen (a saw) again.

re-settle /rɪ'setl/ **vi, vi** (esp of refugees) (help to) settle in a new country: *~ European refugees in Canada.*

re-settle-ment **n** [C,U]

re-shuffle /rɪ'sʃʌfl/ **vi** 1 mix (playing-cards) again. 2 redistribute (Cabinet responsibilities). ⇨ **n** [C] change the positions again: *a Cabinet ~*.

re-side /rɪ'zaɪd/ **vi** (formal) 1 live (the more usual word), have one's home: *residing abroad*. 2 (of power, rights, etc) be the property of, be present in: *The supreme authority ~s in the President.*

resi-dence /'rezɪdəns/ **n** (formal) 1 [U] residing: *take up ~ in a new house.* *in residence*, (a) (of an official, etc) living in the house officially provided for him. (b) (of members of a university) living in a college or other part of a university. 2 place where one lives: *this desir-*

able family ~ for sale.

resi-dent /'rezɪdənt/ *adj* having a home (in the place mentioned or indicated): *the ~ population of the town* (contrasted with visitors, tourists, etc). ⇨ **n** [C] person who lives in a place (not a visitor).

resi-den-tial /'rezɪdəntʃl/ *adj* 1 of residence: *the ~ qualifications for voters*, ie requiring that they should live in the constituency. 2 of, with, private houses: *~ parts of the town* (contrasted with business or industrial parts).

re-sid-ual /rɪ'zɪdʒʊəl/ *adj* remaining: *~ income after tax.*

resi-due /'rezɪdju: *US* -du:/ **n** [C] that which remains after a part is taken or used.

re-sign /rɪ'zaɪn/ **vi, vi** 1 give up (a post, claim, etc): *~ one's job*; *~ from the Committee*. 2 (formal) hand over: *I ~ my children to your care*. 3 be ready to put up with or accept without complaining: *be ~ed to one's fate.*

re-signed *adj* having or showing patient acceptance: *with a ~ed look.*

re-sign-ed-ly /-ɔdli/ *adv*

res-ig-na-tion /'rezɪg'neɪʃn/ **n** 1 [U] resigning(1); [C] instance of this; letter (to one's employers, superior, etc) stating this: *offer/send in/hand in one's ~*. 2 [U] state of being resigned to, accepting, conditions, etc: *accept failure with ~*.

re-sil-i-ence /rɪ'zɪliəns/ (also **re-sil-i-ency** /-nsɪ/) **n** 1 [U] quality or property of quickly recovering the original shape or condition after being pulled, pressed, crushed, etc: *the ~ of rubber*. 2 (fig) power of recovering quickly: *the ~ of the human body.*

re-sil-i-ent /-ənt/ *adj*

resin /'rezɪn/ **n** [C,U] 1 sticky substance flowing from most plants when cut or injured, esp from fir and pine trees, hardening in air, used in making varnish, lacquer, etc. 2 similar substance (plastics) made chemically, widely used in industry.

re-sist /rɪ'zɪst/ **vi, vi** 1 oppose; use force against in order to prevent the advance of: *~ the enemy/an attack/authority/the police*. 2 be undamaged or unaffected by: *a kind of glass that ~s heat*, that does not break or crack. 3 try not to give in to, to take or use: *~ temptation*. *She can't ~ chocolates.*

re-sis-ter, person who resists: *passive ~ers.*

re-sis-tance /rɪ'zɪstəns/ **n** 1 [U] (power of) resisting: *make/offer no/not much ~ to the enemy's advance*. 2 **the ~**, (in a country occupied by an enemy) group of people organized to oppose the enemy. 3 [U] opposing force: *An aircraft has to overcome the ~ of the air.* **choose/follow/take the line of least resistance**, ⇨ **line**¹(11). 4 [C,U] desire to oppose: *'sales ~*, unwillingness of the public to buy.

re-sis-tant /rɪ'zɪstənt/ *adj* offering resistance: *insects that have become ~ to DDT.*

re-sis-tor /rɪ'zɪstə(r)/ *n* [C] device to reduce the power in an electric circuit.

re-sole /rɪ:'səʊl/ *vt* put a new sole on (a shoe).

res-ol-ute /rɪ'zəlu:t/ *adj* (formal) determined: *a ~ man*.

re-sol-ute-ly *adv*

res-ol-ution /rɪ'zəʊlu:ʃn/ *n* 1 [U] quality of being determined: *show great ~*; *a man with no ~*. 2 [C] something that is decided; formal expression of opinion by a legislative body or a public meeting; proposal for this: *pass/carry/adopt/reject a ~ (for/against/in favour of that...)*. 3 [C] something one makes up one's mind to do: *a New Year ~*, something a person is determined to do in a new year, eg to give up smoking. 4 [U] resolving, solution (of a doubt, question, etc). ⇨ *resolve* (3).

re-solve /rɪ'zɒlv/ *vt, vi* 1 decide; determine: *He ~d that nothing should prevent him from succeeding. He ~d to succeed*. 2 (of a committee, public meeting, legislative body) pass by formal vote the decision (that): *The House of Commons ~d that...* 3 put an end to (doubts, difficulties, etc) by supplying an answer. 4 break up, separate (into parts); convert, be converted: *~ a problem into its elements*. □ *n* [C] something that has been decided: *keep one's ~*.

re-solv-able /-əbl/ *adj* that may be resolved.

res-on-ance /rɪ'zɒnəns/ *n* [U] quality of being resonant.

res-on-ant /rɪ'zɒnənt/ *adj* 1 (of sound) resounding; continuing to resound: *a deep, ~ voice*. 2 (of places) resounding: *Alpine valleys ~ with the sound of church bells*.

res-on-ate /rɪ'zɒneɪt/ *vt, vi* produce or show resonance.

re-sort /rɪ'zɔ:t/ *vi* 1 make use of for help or to gain one's purpose, etc: *If other means fail, we shall ~ to force*. 2 frequently visit: *The police watched the cafés to which the wanted man was known to ~*. □ *n* 1 [U] resorting(1): *Can we do it without ~ to force? in the/as a last resort*, when all else has failed, as a last means of finding help or relief. 2 [C] person or thing that is resorted(1) to: *Because it was raining and the last bus had gone, an expensive taxi was the only ~ left*. 3 [C] place often visited for a particular purpose: *a seaside/health ~*.

re-sound /rɪ'zaʊnd/ *vi, vt* 1 (of a voice, instrument, sound, place) echo and re-echo: *The organ ~ed. The hall ~ed with the fans' screaming*. 2 (fig) (of fame, an event) be much talked of; spread far and wide: *The film was a ~ing success*.

re-sound-ing-ly *adv*

re-source /rɪ'sɔ:s US: 'rɪ:sɔ:rs/ *n* 1 (pl) wealth, supplies of goods, raw materials, etc which a person, country, etc has or can use: *the natural ~s of our country*, its mineral wealth, potential water power, etc. 2 [C] something which helps in doing something, that

can be turned to for support, help, consolation: *Leave him to his own ~s*, to amuse himself, find his own way of passing the time. 3 [U] skill in finding resources(2): *a man of ~*.

re-source-ful /-fl/ *adj* good or quick at finding resources(2): *a ~ful mind*.

re-source-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

re-spect¹ /rɪ'spekt/ *n* 1 [U] honour; high opinion or regard for a person or quality: *The Prime Minister is held in the greatest ~*. *Children should show ~ for their teachers*. 2 [U] consideration; attention: *We must have ~ for/pay ~ to the needs of the general reader*, think about his requirements or preferences. 3 [U] reference; relation. **with/without respect to**, concerning, paying no attention to. 4 [C] detail; particular aspect. **in respect of**, as regards: *Your action was admirable in ~ of the courage you showed*. **in some/any/no, etc respects**, with regard to some aspect(s), detail(s): *They resemble one another in some/a few ~s*. 5 (pl) regards; polite greetings: *My father sends you his ~s*.

re-spect² /rɪ'spekt/ *vt* show respect for; treat with consideration: *He is ~ed by everyone. We must ~ his wishes*.

re-spec-ter *n* (only in) **no respecter of persons**, person or thing paying little or no attention to wealth, social rank, etc: *Death is no ~er of persons*.

re-spect-able /rɪ'spektəbl/ *adj* 1 deserving respect: *act from ~ motives*. 2 (of persons) of good character and fair social position; having the qualities associated with such social position. 3 (of clothes, appearance, behaviour, etc) suitable for such persons: *Is she/her appearance ~?* 4 of considerable size, merit, importance, etc: *He earns a ~ income*.

re-spect-ably /-əbli/ *adv* in a respectable manner: *respectably dressed*.

re-spect-ful /rɪ'spektfəl/ *adj* (formal) showing respect: *They stood at a ~ distance from the President*.

re-spect-ive /rɪ'spektɪv/ *adj* for, belonging to, each of those in question: *The men were given work according to their ~ abilities*.

re-spect-ive-ly *adv* separately or in turn, and in the order mentioned: *Rooms for men and women are on the first and second floors ~ly*, ie for men on the first floor and for women on the second.

res-pir-ation /rɪ'spə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U] breathing; [C] single act of breathing in and breathing out. ⇨ *artificial respiration*.

res-pir-a-tor /rɪ'spə'reɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] apparatus for breathing through, eg by firemen, to filter the air of smoke and fumes.

res-pir-at-ory /rɪ'spɪrətəri US: 'respɪrətɔ:ri/ *adj* of breathing: *~ diseases*, eg bronchitis, asthma.

respiratory tract, system of organs for breathing.

re-spire /rɪ'spaɪə(r)/ *vi* (formal) breathe (the usual word).

res-pite /ˈrespait/ *US*: /ˈrespɪt/ *n* [C] **1** time of relief or rest (from toil, suffering, anything unpleasant): *work without (a) ~*. **2** permitted postponement or delay in punishment, having to do something, etc.

re-splen-dent /rɪ'splɛndənt/ *adj* very bright; looking rich and colourful: *a ~ display by the Household Cavalry*.

re-splen-dent-ly *adv*

re-spond /rɪ'spɒnd/ *vi* **1** answer: *~ to a speech of welcome*. **2** act in answer to, or because of, the action of another: *When Tom insulted the referee, he ~ed by ordering him off the field*. **3** react (to); be affected (by): *The illness/patient quickly ~ed to treatment*.

re-sponse /rɪ'spɒns/ *n* [C] answer: *My letter of inquiry brought no ~*. **2** [C,U] reaction: *My appeal to her pity met with no ~*. **3** [C] (in a church service) part of the liturgy said or sung by the congregation alternately with the priest.

re-spon-si-bil-ity /rɪ'spɒnsə'bɪləti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] being responsible; being accountable: *I'll lend you my camera if you will take full ~ for it*. **2** [C] something for which a person is responsible; duty: *the heavy responsibilities of the Prime Minister*.

re-spon-sible /rɪ'spɒnsəbl/ *adj* **1** (of a person) legally or morally having to carry out a duty, care for a person or thing; in a position where one may be blamed for loss, failure, etc: *The pilot of an airliner is ~ for the safety of the passengers. Who is ~ for the education of our children?* **2** involving the obligation to make decisions for others and bear the blame for their mistakes: *I've made you ~ and you must decide what to do*. **3** who can be relied on: *Give the task to a ~ man*. **4** *be responsible for sth*, be the cause or source of: *Who's ~ for this mess in the kitchen?*

re-spon-sibly /-əblɪ/ *adv*: *I would expect a man of your age to act responsibly, to be reliable, trusted*.

re-spon-sive /rɪ'spɒnsɪv/ *adj* **1** answering: *a ~ gesture*. **2** answering easily or quickly: *~ to affection/treatment*.

re-spon-sive-ly *adv*

rest ¹ /rest/ *n* [U] condition of being free from activity, movement, disturbance; quiet; sleep: *R~ is necessary after hard work. She had a good night's ~, sleep*. **at rest**, (a) free from movement. (b) dead, *be laid to rest*, be buried. **come to rest**, (of a moving body) stop moving. **set sb's mind at rest**, ⇨ *mind*¹(2). **2** [C] that on which something is supported: *an 'arm-~*. **3** [C] (music) (sign marking an) interval of silence. **4** (used as an adjective) place where people may recuperate from illness, etc: *a ~ home/centre*.

'rest-cure, course of treatment for persons

suffering from nervous disorders.

'rest room, public lavatory; cloakroom.

rest-ful /-fl/ *adj* quiet; peaceful; giving (a feeling of) rest: *a ~ful scene; colours that are ~ful to the eyes*.

rest-less *adj* never still or quiet; unable to rest: *the ~less waves; spend a ~less night*.

rest-less-ly *adv*

rest-less-ness *n* [U]

rest² /rest/ *n* (always **the** ~) **1** what remains; the remainder: *Take what you want and throw the ~ away. Her hat was red, like the ~ of her clothes*. **for the rest**..., as regards other matters... **2** (used with a pl verb) the others: *John and I are going to play tennis; what are the ~ of you going to do?*

rest³ /rest/ *vi*, *vt* **1** be still or quiet; be free from activity, movement, disturbance, etc: *We ~ed (for) an hour after lunch. He ~s (= is buried) in the churchyard. He will not ~ (= will have no peace of mind) until he knows the truth*. **2** give rest or relief to: *He stopped to ~ his horse. These dark glasses ~ my eyes*. **3** (cause to) be supported (on/against something): *She ~ed her elbows/Her elbows were ~ing on the table. R~ the ladder against the wall*.

'resting-place, (esp) place of burial.

rest⁴ /rest/ *vi* **1** continue to be in a specified state: *You may ~ assured that everything possible will be done*. **2** *rest with*, be left in the hands or charge of: *It ~s with you to decide. It is your responsibility*. **3** depend, rely: *His fame ~s on/upon his plays more than his novels*.

re-state /rɪ:'steɪt/ *vt* state again or in a different way.

re-state-ment *n* [C,U] (instance of) restating.

res-taur-ant /ˈrestɔrənt *US*: -tɔrənt/ *n* [C] place where meals can be bought and eaten.

res-ti-tu-tion /ˌrestɪ'tjuːʃn *US*: -'tʃuː- / *n* [U] **1** restoring (of something stolen, etc) to its owner: *~ of property*. **2** = *reparation*.

res-tive /ˈrestɪv/ *adj* **1** (of a horse or other animal) refusing to move forward; moving backwards or sideways. **2** (of a person) reluctant to be controlled or disciplined; unable to lie still (and sleep).

re-stock /rɪ:'stɒk/ *vt* put fresh stock into: *~ the shelves in a shop*.

res-to-ra-tion /ˌrestɔ'reɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] restoring or being restored: *~ to health and strength; ~ of stolen property*. **2** **the R~**, (the period of) the re-establishment of the monarchy in England in 1660, when Charles II became king: *R~ poetry/comedy*. **3** [C] model representing the original form of an extinct animal, ruined building, etc; building formerly ruined and now rebuilt.

re-stor-a-tive /rɪ'stɔ:rətɪv/ *adj* tending to restore health and strength. ⇨ *n* [C,U] restorative food, medicine, etc.

re-store /rɪ'stɔ:(r)/ *vt* **1** give back: *restoring*

stolen property/borrowed books. **2** bring back into use; reintroduce: ~ *old customs*. **3** make well or normal again; bring back (to a former condition): *quite ~d to health*; *feel completely ~d*. *Law and order have been ~d*. **4** repair; rebuild as before: ~ *a ruined abbey*. **5** place in or bring back to the former position, etc: ~ *an employee to his old post/an officer to his command*.

re-storer, person who, that which, restores, eg old oil paintings.

re-strain /rɪ'streɪn/ *vt* hold back; keep under control; prevent (a person or thing from doing something): ~ *a child from (doing) mischief*; ~ *one's anger*.

re-strained *adj* (esp) not emotional or wild; kept under control.

re-straint /rɪ'streɪnt/ *n* **1** [U] restraining or being restrained. **without restraint**, freely; without control. **2** [U] (in art, literature, etc) avoidance of excess or exaggeration. **3** [C] that which restrains; check; controlling influence: *the ~s of poverty*.

re-strict /rɪ'strɪkt/ *vt* limit; keep within limits: *Discussion at the meeting was ~ed to the agenda*. *We are ~ed to 30 miles an hour in built-up areas*.

re-strict-ion /rɪ'strɪkʃn/ *n* (a) [U] restricting or being restricted: ~ion of expenditure. (b) [C] instance of this; something that restricts: *currency ~ions*, eg on the sums that a person may use for foreign travel.

re-strict-ive /rɪ'strɪktɪv/ *adj* tending to restrict: ~ive practices (in industry), practices that prevent effective use of labour, etc.

re-strict-ive-ly *adv*

re-style /rɪ'staɪl/ *vt* **1** give a new name to: *The chairman has been ~ed 'the President'*. **2** redesign: *They have ~d the seats for the new model of this car*.

re-sult /rɪ'zʌlt/ *vi* **1 result from**, come about, happen, because of: *Any damage ~ing from negligence must be paid for by the borrower*. **2** bring about; have as a consequence: *Their diplomacy ~ed in war*. **3** end in a manner which is stated: *Their efforts ~ed badly*. □ *n* **1** [C,U] that which is produced by an activity or cause; outcome; effect: *work without (much) ~*; *announce the ~s of a competition*, the names of prize-winners, etc. **2** [C] answer (to a mathematical problem, etc).

re-sult-ant /-ənt/ *adj* coming as a result, esp as the total outcome of forces or tendencies from different directions. □ *n* [C] product or outcome (of something).

re-sume /rɪ'zju:m/ *US*: 'zu:m/ *vi* **1** go on after stopping for a time: ~ *one's work/a story*. **2** take or occupy again: ~ *one's seat*.

ré-sumé /re:zu:'meɪ/ *US*: 'rezu:'meɪ/ *n* [C] summary.

re-sump-tion /rɪ'zʌmpʃn/ *n* [U] resuming; [C] instance of this.

re-sur-face /rɪ'sʌ:fɪs/ *vi*, *vt* **1** put a new surface on (a road, etc). **2** (of a submarine) come to the surface again. **3** (fig) (of persons, ideas, etc) reappear, come back.

re-sur-gence /rɪ'sɜ:dʒəns/ *n* [U] revival; return of energy, etc.

re-sur-gent /rɪ'sɜ:dʒənt/ *adj* (formal) reviving, coming back to activity, strength, etc (after defeat, destruction, etc): ~ *hopes*.

res-ur-rect /rɪzə'rekt/ *vi*, *vt* bring back into use; revive the practice of: ~ *an old word/custom*.

res-ur-rec-tion /rɪzə'rekʃn/ *n* [U] **1 the R~**, (a) the rising of Jesus from the tomb; anniversary of this. (b) the rising of all the dead on the Last Day. **2** revival from disuse, inactivity, etc: *the ~ of hope*.

re-sus-ci-tate /rɪ'sʌsɪteɪt/ *vi*, *vt* bring or come back to consciousness: ~ *a person who has been nearly drowned*.

re-sus-ci-ta-tion /rɪ'sʌsɪ'teɪʃn/ *n* [U]

re-tail /rɪ'teɪl/ *n* [C] sale of goods to the general public, not for resale: *sell goods (by) ~*; (used as an adjective) ~ *prices*. ⇨ *wholesale*. □ *adv* by retail: *Do you buy wholesale or ~?* □ *vi*, *vt* **1** sell (goods) by retail; (of goods) be sold retail: *an article that is ~ed at/that ~s at seventy pence*. **2** (formal) repeat (what one has heard, esp gossip) bit by bit or to several persons in turn: ~ *a criticism to the man affected*.

re-tailer, tradesman who sells by retail; shopkeeper.

re-tain /rɪ'teɪn/ *vi* **1** keep; continue to have or hold; keep in place: *This dyke was built to ~ the flood waters*. *She ~s a clear memory of her schooldays*. **2** get the services of (esp a barrister) by payment (a ~ing fee).

re-tainer *n* [C] (a) (legal) fee paid to retain the services of, eg a barrister. (b) (old use) servant of somebody of high rank: *the duke and his ~ers*.

re-take /rɪ'teɪk/ *vt* (pt -took /-tʊk/, pp -taken /-teɪkən/) take, capture, photograph, again. □ *n* /rɪ'teɪk/ [C] (esp, cinema, TV) re-photographed scene.

re-tali-ate /rɪ'tæliət/ *vi* return the same sort of treatment, usually bad, that one has received: *He ~d by kicking the other boy on the ankle*. *If we raise our import duties on their goods, they may ~ against us*.

re-tali-ation /rɪ'tæli'eɪʃn/ *n* [U] retaliating: *in retaliation for being critical*.

re-tali-at-ive /rɪ'tæliətɪv/ *US*: -teɪt-, *re-tali-at-ory* /rɪ'tæliətɪ/ *US*: -tɔ:ri/ *adj* returning (bad) treatment for (bad) treatment; of or for retaliation: *retaliatory punches*.

re-tard /rɪ'tɑ:d/ *vi* check; hinder: ~ *progress/development*; *a mentally ~ed child*, one whose mental or emotional development has been slowed down or stopped.

retch /retʃ/ *vi* make (involuntarily) the sound and physical movements of vomiting but

without bringing up anything from the stomach.

re-tell /rɪˈtɛl/ *vt* (*pt,pp* -told /-ˈtɒld/) tell again; tell in a different way or in a different language: *old Greek tales retold for children.*

re-ten-tion /rɪˈtɛnʃn/ *n* [U] retaining or being retained: *the ~ of funds for emergency use.*

re-ten-tive /rɪˈtɛntɪv/ *adj* having the power of retaining (1) things: *a ~ memory.*

re-think /rɪˈθɪŋk/ *vt,vi* (*pt,pp* -thought /-ˈθɒt/) think about again; reconsider: *They will have to ~ their policy towards China.*

reti-cence /ˈretɪsəns/ *n* [U] being reticent; [C] instance of this.

reti-cent /ˈretɪsənt/ *adj* in the habit of saying little; not saying all that is known or felt: *She was ~ about/on what Tom had said.*

re-ti-cent-ly *adv*

ret-ina /ˈretɪnə *US*: ˈretənə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or -nae /-ni:/) layer of membrane at the back of the eyeball, sensitive to light.

reti-nue /ˈretɪnjuː *US*: ˈretənuː/ *n* [C] number of persons (staff, officers, etc) travelling with a person of high rank.

re-tire /rɪˈtaɪə(r)/ *vi,vt* **1** withdraw; go away: *He ~d to his cabin.* **2** (*formal*) go to bed: *My wife usually ~s at 10 o'clock.* **3** (of an army) withdraw; go back: *Our forces ~d to prepared positions.* **4** give up one's work, position, business, etc: *He will ~ on a pension at 65.* **5** cause (a person) to retire (3,4): *~ the head clerk.* **6** ~ from the world, enter a monastery or become a hermit. **retire into oneself**, become unwilling to meet people or talk. □ *n* [C] signal to troops to withdraw: *sound the ~, ie on the bugle.*

re-tired *adj* having retired (4): *a ~d civil servant.*

re-tir-ing *adj* (a) (of persons, their way of life, etc) avoiding meeting people or talking. *a girl of a retiring nature.* (b) about to retire: *the retiring chairman.*

re-tire-ment *n* (a) [U] retiring or being retired; seclusion: *~ment from the world, eg in a convent.* (b) [U] condition of being retired (4): *be/live in ~ment.* **go into retire-ment**, retire (esp 4 and 6 above). (c) [C] instance of this: *There have been several ~ments in my office recently.*

'retirement pension, ⇨ pension¹.

re-tort /rɪˈtɔːt/ *vt,vi* answer back quickly, cleverly or angrily (esp to an accusation or challenge): *'It's entirely your fault,' he ~ed.* □ *n* [U] retorting: *say something in ~; [C] retorting answer: make an insolent ~.*

re-touch /rɪˈtʌtʃ/ *vt* improve (a photograph, painting, etc) by adding a little paint with a brush, etc.

re-trace /rɪˈtreɪs/ *vt* **1** go back over or along: *~ one's steps.* **2** go over (past actions, etc) in the mind: *retracing her movements.*

re-tract /rɪˈtrækt/ *vt,vi* **1** take back or with-

draw (a statement, offer, opinion, etc): *Even when confronted with proof the accused man re-fused to ~ his statement.* **2** draw in or back; move back or in; be capable of doing this: *A cat can ~ its claws.*

re-tract-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be retracted: *a ~able undercarriage, (in an aircraft) wheels, etc which can be drawn up into the body of the aircraft during flight.*

re-trac-tion /rɪˈtrækʃn/ *n* [C,U]

re-tread /rɪˈtred/ *vt* (*pt,pp* ~ed) put a new tread (3) on (an old tyre). □ *n* /rɪˈtred/ [C] tyre that has been retreaded.

re-treat /rɪˈtri:t/ *vi* (esp of an army) go back; withdraw: *force the enemy to ~; ~ on (ie towards) the capital.* □ *n* **1** [U] act of retreating: *The army was in full ~. We made good our ~, withdrew safely.* **2** [C] signal for this: *sound the ~, eg on a bugle.* **3** [C] instance of retreating: *after many advances and ~s.* **beat a (hasty) retreat**, ⇨ beat² (1). **4** [C,U] (place for a) period of quiet and rest: *a quiet country ~/~ in the country.* **go into retreat**, eg temporary retirement for religious purposes.

re-trial /rɪˈtraɪəl/ *n* [C] act of trying again in a law court.

ret-ri-bu-tion /rɪˈtrɪbjʊːʃn/ *n* [U] deserved punishment: *R ~ for immoral acts does not always come in this life.*

re-tri-bu-tive /rɪˈtrɪbjʊtɪv/ *adj* inflicted or coming as a penalty for doing wrong.

re-triev-able /rɪˈtri:vəbl/ *adj* that may be retrieved.

re-trieval /rɪˈtri:vəl/ *n* [U] **1** act of retrieving: *the ~ of one's fortunes.* **2** possibility of recovery: *beyond/past ~.*

re-trieve /rɪˈtri:v/ *vt,vi* **1** get possession of again: *~ a lost umbrella; reirieving information from a computer.* **2** put or set right; make amends for: *~ an error/a loss/disaster/defeat.* **3** rescue (from); restore: *~ a person from ruin; ~ one's honour/fortunes.* **4** (of specially trained dogs) find and bring in (killed or wounded birds, etc).

re-triever, breed of dog used for retrieving (4).

retro-ac-tive /rɪˈtrɔʊˈæktɪv/ *adj* (of laws, etc) = retrospective (b).

retro-ac-tive-ly *adv*

retro-grade /ˈrɛtrəɡreɪd/ *adj* **1** directed backwards: *~ motion.* **2** deteriorating, likely to cause worse conditions: *a ~ policy.*

retro-gress /rɪˈtrɔʊˈɡres/ *vi* (*formal*) go or move backwards.

retro-gres-sion /rɪˈtrɔʊˈɡresjən/ *n* [U] return to a less advanced state.

retro-gres-sive /rɪˈtrɔʊˈɡresɪv/ *adj* returning, tending to (cause a) return, to a less advanced state; becoming worse.

retro-rocket /ˈrɛtrəʊˈrɒkɪt/ *n* [C] jet engine fired to slow down or alter the course of a missile, spacecraft, etc.

retrospect /'rɛtrəspekt/ *n* **in retrospect**, looking back at past events, etc.

retro-spection /,rɛtrə'spekʃn/ *n* (formal) [U] action of looking back at past events, scenes, etc; [C] instance of this: *indulge in dreamy ~ions*.

retro-spective /,rɛtrə'spektɪv/ *adj* (a) looking back on past events, etc. (b) (of laws, payments, etc) applying to the past: *~ive legislation*; *a ~ive* (= backdated) *wage increase*.

retro-spective-ly *adv*

ret-ro-ver-sion /,rɛtrəʊ'vɜːʃn/ *US*: -ʒn/ *n* [U] state of being turned backwards; turning backward.

re-turn /rɪ'tʌːn/ *n* 1 [C,U] coming, going, giving, sending, putting, back: *on my ~*, when I got/get back; *the ~ of spring*. **by return**, by the next post out: *Please send a reply by ~*. **in return (for)**, as repayment (for). **Many happy returns (of the day)**, phrase used as a greeting on somebody's birthday. **point of no return**, (fig) stage of an activity, etc at which withdrawal, stopping, is not possible. 2 (as an adjective) involving going back or coming back, etc: *the ~ voyage*. 3 [C] (often *pl*) profit on an investment or undertaking: *small profits and quick ~s*, large sales and quick turnover. 4 [C] official report or statement: *make one's ~ of income* (to the Inspector of Taxes).

return fare, needed for the journey back.

return half, the ticket for the journey back.

return match, one played between teams which have already played one match.

return ticket, one giving a traveller the right to go to a place and back to his starting-point (*two-way ticket* in US).

re-turn /rɪ'tʌːn/ *vi*, *vt* 1 come or go back: *~ home*; *~ to Paris from London*. *I shall ~ to this point later in my lecture*. 2 pass or go back (to a former state): *He has ~ed to his old habits*. 3 give, put, send, pay, carry, back: *When will you ~ the book I lent you?* *She ~ed the compliment*, said something pleasant after a compliment had been paid to her. 4 (of a constituency) elect (a person) as representative to Parliament. 5 state or describe officially, esp in answer to a demand: *~ the details of one's income* (for taxation purposes). *The jury ~ed a verdict of guilty*.

returning officer, official in charge of a Parliamentary election and announcing the name of the person elected.

re-turn-able /-əbl/ *adj* that may be sent, given back.

re-un-ion /rɪ:'juːniən/ *n* 1 [U] reuniting or being reunited. 2 [C] (esp) meeting of old friends, former colleagues, etc after separation: *a family ~ at Christmas*.

re-unite /rɪ:'juːnaɪt/ *vi*, *vi* bring or come together again: *~d after long years of separation*.

rev /rev/ *vt*, *vi* (-vv-) (informal) increase the speed of revolutions in (eg a car engine): *Don't ~ up (the engine) so hard*. ⇨ also *revolution* (2).

re-value /rɪ'væljuː/ *vt* 1 value again or anew. 2 increase the value of: *~ the currency*.

re-valuation /rɪ'væljuː'eɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

re-vamp /rɪ'væmp/ *vt* (informal) reconstruct; renew; revise: *~ an old book with new illustrations*.

re-veal /rɪ'viːl/ *vt* 1 allow or cause to be seen; display: *Bikinis ~ more than swimming-costumes*. 2 make known: *One day the truth about these events will be ~ed*. *The doctor did not ~ to him his hopeless condition*.

re-veille /rɪ'væli/ *US*: 'revəli/ *n* [C] (in the armed forces) bugle signal to men to get up in the morning: *sound (the) ~*.

revel /'revl/ *vi* (-ll; *US* also -l-) 1 have a gay, lively time: *They ~ed until dawn*. 2 **revel in**, take great delight in: *~ in one's success*; *people who ~ in gossip*. □ *n* [C,U] (occasion of) joyous festivity.

rev-el-er, (*US* = **rev-eler**) /'revələ(r)/, person who revels.

rev-el-ation /,revə'leɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] making known of something secret or hidden. 2 [C] that which is revealed, esp something that causes surprise: *It was a ~ to John when Mary said she had married him for money*.

rev-elry /'revlri/ *n* [U] (or *pl*; -ies) noisy, happy festivity and merrymaking: *when the ~/revelries ended*.

re-venge /rɪ'vendʒ/ *vt* 1 do something to get satisfaction for (an offence, etc to oneself or another): *~ an injustice/insult*. 2 get satisfaction by deliberately causing injury in return for a person or oneself suffering: *~ a friend*; *be ~ed on a persecutor*. ⇨ **avenge**. □ *n* [U] 1 deliberate injury to the person(s) from whom injury has been received: *thirsting for ~*; *take ~ on*; *have/get one's ~ (on a person)*; *do it out off in ~ (for)*. 2 [U] revenging.

re-venge-ful /-fl/ *adj* feeling or showing a desire for revenge.

re-venge-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

rev-enue /'revɛnjuː/ *US*: -nuː/ *n* 1 [U] income, esp the total annual income of the State; government department which collects money for public funds. ⇨ **Inland Revenue**. 2 (*pl*) separate items of revenue put together: *the ~s of the City Council*.

re-ver-ber-ate /rɪ'vɜːbəreɪt/ *vt*, *vi* (esp of sound) send or throw back, be sent back, again and again: *The roar of the train ~d/was ~d in the tunnel*.

re-ver-ber-ation /rɪ'vɜːbə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U] reverberating or being reverberated; (*pl*) echoes; effects (of an event).

re-vere /rɪ'viə(r)/ *vt* have deep respect for; regard as sacred: *my ~d grandfather*.

rev-er-ence /'revərəns/ *n* [U] deep respect;

feeling of wonder and awe: *a bishop who was held in ~ by everyone.*

rev-er-end /'revərənd/ *adj* deserving to be treated with respect (because of age, character, etc). □ *n* **the R-** (usual abbr **Rev'd**) used as a title of a clergyman.

Reverend Mother, Mother Superior of a convent.

rev-er-ent /'revərənt/ *adj* feeling or showing reverence.

rev-er-ent-ly *adv*

rev-er-en-tial /,revə'renʃl/ *adj* caused or marked by reverence.

rev-erie /'revəri/ *n* [C,U] (instance of, occasion of) a condition of being lost in dreamy, pleasant thoughts.

re-vers /rɪ'vɜ:(r)/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) turned-back edge of a coat, etc showing the reverse side, as on a lapel.

rev-er-sal /rɪ'vɜ:sl/ *n* 1 [U] reversing or being reversed. 2 [C] instance of this: *a ~ of the normal procedure.*

re-verse¹ /rɪ'vɜ:s/ *adj* contrary or opposite in character or order; inverted: *the ~ side of a coin.* **in reverse order**, from the end to the start, or in the opposite order.

re-verse² /rɪ'vɜ:s/ *n* 1 [U] (with *the*) opposite; contrary: *do the ~ of what one is expected to do.* 2 [C] reverse side (of a coin, medal, disc, etc): *The Queen's head is on this side; what is on the ~?* 3 [C] mechanism or device that reverses: *Most cars have three forward gears and (a) ~.* **Put the car into ~.** 4 [C] defeat; change to bad fortune: *Our forces/My finances have suffered a slight ~.*

re-verse³ /rɪ'vɜ:s/ *vt, vi* turn (something) the other way round or up or inside out: *~ a procedure; ~ one's policy.* 2 (cause to) go in the opposite direction: *~ one's car into the garage.* 3 change the order or position of: *Their positions are now ~d; Tom is poor and Ben is rich.* 4 cancel, annul: *~ the decision of a lower court; ~ a decree.* 5 make (the charge for a telephone call) payable by the person who receives it: *~ charges.*

re-vers-ible /-əbl/ *adj* that can be reversed, eg of a coat, either side of which can be used on the outside.

re-ver-sion /rɪ'vɜ:ʃn/ *US*: -ʒn/ *n* 1 [U] reverting (of property, etc). ⇨ **revert** (2). 2 [C] right to possess property in certain circumstances.

re-vert /rɪ'vɜ:t/ *vi* 1 return (to a former state, condition, topic, etc): *The fields have ~ed to moorland, have gone out of cultivation, etc.* *R~ing to your original statement, I think...* 2 (legal) (of property, rights, etc) return at some named time or under certain conditions (to the original owner, the State, etc): *If he dies without an heir, his property will ~ to the State.*

re-view /rɪ'vju:/ *vt, vi* 1 consider or examine again; go over again in the mind: *~ the past; ~ last week's lesson.* 2 inspect formally

(troops, a fleet, etc). 3 write an account of (new books, etc) for newspapers and other periodicals: *His new novel has been favourably ~ed.* □ *n* 1 [U] act of reviewing (1). **come under review**, be considered or examined; [C] instance of this: *a ~ of the year's sporting events.* 2 [C] inspection of military, naval, etc forces: *hold a ~.* 3 [C] article that critically examines a new book, etc: *write ~s for the monthly magazines.* 4 [C] periodical with articles on recent events, reviews of books, etc. **re-viewer**, person who writes reviews (3).

re-vile /rɪ'vaɪl/ *vt, vi* (formal) swear at; use abusive language: *~ one's persecutors.*

re-vise /rɪ'vaɪz/ *vt* reconsider; read carefully through, esp in order to correct and improve: *~ one's estimates; ~ one's opinion.*

re-viser, person who revises.

re-vi-sion /rɪ'vɪʒn/ *n* (a) [U] revising or being revised; [C] instance of this: *Several more revisions have been made.* (b) [C] that which has been revised; corrected version.

re-vision-ist /rɪ'vɪʒənɪst/ *n* [C] person who supports a review of the basic principles and beliefs of a political ideology.

re-vital-ize (also **-ise**) /rɪ'vaɪtəlaɪz/ *vt* put new life into; restore power; strength, etc.

re-vital-ization (also **-isation**) /,rɪ;vaɪtəlaɪzəʃn/ *US*: -lɪ'z-/ *n* [U]

re-vival /rɪ'vaɪvl/ *n* 1 [U] reviving or being revived; bringing or coming back into use or knowledge; [C] instance of this: *a ~ of trade.* 2 [C] (series of meetings intended to produce an) increase of interest in religion: *a religious ~; ~ meetings.*

re-vival-ist /rɪ'vaɪvəlɪst/ *n* [C] person who organizes or conducts revival meetings.

re-vive /rɪ'vaɪv/ *vi, vt* 1 come or bring back to consciousness, health or an earlier state: *~ a person who has fainted; ~ an old play,* produce it for the theatre after many years. 2 come or bring into use again: *customs which have never been ~d.*

re-viv-ify /rɪ'vɪvɪfaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp **-ied**) (formal) give new life or liveliness to.

revo-cable /'revəkəbl/ *adj* that can be revoked.

revo-ca-tion /,revə'keɪʃn/ *n* [U] revoking or being revoked; [C] instance of this.

re-voke /rɪ'vəʊk/ *vt, vi* 1 repeal; cancel; withdraw (a decree, consent, permission, etc): *~ a driving licence.* 2 (of a player at such card-games as whist and bridge) fail to follow suit (ie not play a card of the same suit as that led by another player although he could do so). □ *n* [C] failure of this kind.

re-volt /rɪ'vəʊlt/ *vi, vt* 1 rise in rebellion: *The people ~ed against their rulers.* 2 be filled with disgust or horror: *Human nature ~s at/from/against rape.* 3 fill with disgust or horror: *scenes that ~ed all who saw them.* □ *n* 1 [U] act of revolting; state of having revolted (1): *a*

period of ~; stir the people to ~. **2** [C] rebellion or rising: ~s against authority.

re-volt-ing /rɪ'vɔʊltɪŋ/ *adj* disgusting.

re-volt-ing-ly *adv* in a way that disgusts: a ~ly dirty child.

rev-ol-ution /rɪ'vɔʊlʃn/ *n* **1** [C] act of revolving or going round: the ~ of the earth round the sun. **2** [C] complete turn of a wheel, etc: sixty-five ~s (or, informally, revs) a minute. **3** [C, U] (instance of a) complete change (in conditions, ways of doing things, esp in methods of government when caused by the overthrow of one system by force): the Russian R~ (in 1917); ~s in our ways of travelling, eg the development of supersonic aircraft.

re-vol-ution-ary /rɪ'vɔʊlʃənəri/ *US*: -nerɪ/ *adj* **1** of a revolution (2). **2** bringing, causing, favouring, great (and perhaps violent) changes: ~ ideas. □ *n* [C] supporter of a (political) revolution.

re-vol-ution-ize (also -ise) /rɪ'vɔʊlʃənaɪz/ *vt* **1** fill with revolutionary principles. **2** make a complete change in; cause to be entirely different: The use of nuclear energy will ~ the lives of coming generations.

re-volve /rɪ'vɒlv/ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) go round in a circle: The earth ~s round/about the sun. The life of the home ~s around the mother, is centred on her. **2** think about all sides of (a problem, etc): revolving a problem in one's mind.

re-volver /rɪ'vɒlvə(r)/ *n* [C] pistol with a revolving mechanism that makes it possible to fire it a number of times without reloading.

re-vue /rɪ'vju:/ *n* [C] theatrical entertainment which consists of dialogue, dance and song, usually making fun of current events, people etc; [U] this form of entertainment: to appear/perform in ~.

re-vul-sion /rɪ'vʌlʃn/ *n* [U] (often with a, an) sudden and complete change of feeling to hatred or opposition: a ~ against slavery.

re-ward /rɪ'wɔ:d/ *n* **1** [U] recompense for service or merit: work without hope of any ~. **2** [C] that which is offered, given or obtained in return for work or services, or the restoration of lost or stolen property, the capture of a criminal, etc: offer a ~ of £10 for information about a stolen necklace. □ *vt* give a reward to: ~ a man for his honesty.

re-wire /rɪ:'waɪə(r)/ *vt* provide, eg a building, with new wiring (for electric current).

re-word /rɪ:'wɔ:d/ *vt* express again in different words: If we ~ the telegram we can save one-third of the cost.

re-write /rɪ:'raɪt/ *vt* write again in a different style, etc.

rex /reks/ *n* (abbr **R**) reigning king. ⇨ Regina.

rhap-so-dize (also -ise) /'ræpsədəɪz/ *vi* talk or write with great enthusiasm: ~ over Previn's conducting.

rhap-sody /'ræpsədi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** enthu-

siastic expression of delight (in speech, poetry, etc): Everyone went into rhapsodies over Olivier's performance as Othello. **2** (music) composition in irregular form: Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsodies.

rhet-oric /'retərɪk/ *n* [U] **1** (art of) using words impressively in speech and writing. **2** language with much ornamentation (often with the implication of insincerity and exaggeration): the ~ of politicians.

rhe-tori-cal /rɪ'tɔrɪkl/ *US*: -tɔr- / *adj* in a style designed to impress or persuade; artificial or exaggerated in language.

rhetorical question, one asked for the sake of effect, to impress people, no answer being needed or expected.

rhe-tori-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

rheu-matic /ru:'mætɪk/ *adj* relating to, causing, caused by, suffering from, rheumatism: ~ fever, serious form of rheumatism, chiefly in children. □ *n* [C] person who suffers from rheumatism.

rheu-ma-tism /ru:'mætɪzəm/ *n* [U] (kinds of) painful disease with stiffness and inflammation of the muscles and joints.

rheu-ma-toid /ru:'mætɔɪd/ *adj* of rheumatism: ~ arthritis.

rhinal /'raɪnəl/ *adj* (anat) of the nose or nostrils.

rhino /'raɪnəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s, or, collectively, ~) (informal) (abbr of) rhinoceros.

rhi-noc-eros /raɪ'nɒsərəs/ *n* [C] (pl ~es or, collectively, ~) thick-skinned, heavy animal of Africa and Asia with one or two horns on the nose.

rhomb-oid /'rɒmbɔɪd/ *adj* of the shape of a rhombus. □ *n* [C] rhombus with only its opposite sides equal.

rhomb-us /'rɒmbəs/ *n* [C] (pl ~es) four-sided figure with equal sides, and angles which are not right angles (eg diamond or lozenge shape).

rhu-barb /ru:'bɑ:b/ *n* [U] **1** (garden plant with) thick, pink stalks which are cooked and eaten like fruit. **2** (informal) noisy talk of many speakers; confused discussion.

rhyme (US also **rim**) /raɪm/ *n* **1** [U] sameness of sound of the endings of two or more words at the ends of lines of verse, eg say, play; measure, pleasure; puff, rough. **without rhyme or reason**, without meaning or explanation. **2** [C] word which provides a rhyme: Is there a ~ to/for 'hiccups'? **3** [C] verse or verses with rhyme. ⇨ nursery rhyme. **4** [U] the use of rhyme: The story should be written in ~. □ *vi, vi* **1** put together to form a rhyme: Can we ~ 'hiccups' with 'pick-ups'? **2** (of words or lines of verse) be in rhyme: 'Ship' doesn't ~ with 'sheep'.

rhyming slang, style of slang using words that rhyme to replace other words, eg a terrible boat-race (= an ugly face).

rhythm /'rɪðəm/ **n** 1 [U] regular succession of weak and strong stresses, accents, sounds or movements (in speech, music, dancing, etc). 2 [U] regular recurrence of events, processes, etc: *the ~ of the tides*, their regular rise and fall. 3 [C] particular kind of such regular succession or recurrence.

rhythmic /'rɪðmɪk/, also **rhythmical** /'rɪðmɪkl/ *adj* marked by, having, rhythm: *the ~ical noise of a typewriter*.

rib /rɪb/ **n** [C] 1 any one of the 12 pairs of bones extending from the backbone round the chest to the front of the body in man; corresponding bone in an animal. 2 (of various things like ribs) vein of a leaf; mark left on sand on the sea-shore by waves. 3 (pattern of a) raised line in a piece of knitting. □ *vt* (-bb-) 1 supply with, mark off in, ribs: *~bed patterns*. 2 (US) (informal) tease.

ribald /'rɪbəld/ *adj* (dated) (of a person) using indecent or irreverent language or humour; (of language, laughter, etc) coarse: *~ jests/songs*. □ **n** [C] (dated) person who uses such language.

ribaldry /-dri/ **n** [U] such language.

rib-bon /'rɪbən/ **n** 1 [C, U] (piece or length of) cotton or other material woven in a long, narrow strip or band, used for ornamenting, for tying things, etc: *She had a ~ in her hair*. *Typewriter ~s provide ink for typing*. 2 [C] piece of ribbon of a special design, colour, etc worn to show membership of an order, as a military decoration (when medals are not worn). 3 [C] long, narrow strip: *His clothes were hanging in ~s*, were very torn or worn.

ribbon-development, (the building of) long lines of houses along main roads leading out of a town.

rice /raɪs/ **n** [U] (plant with) white grain used as food.

rich /rɪʃ/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 having much money or property: *~ people*. 2 (of clothes, jewels, furniture, etc) costly; luxurious. 3 **rich in**, producing or having much or many: *a country ~ in minerals*. 4 (of food) containing a large proportion of fat, oil, butter, eggs, etc: *a ~ fruit cake*. 5 (of colours, sounds, etc) full; deep; mellow; strong: *the ~ colours of the national flags*; *the ~ voice of the baritone*. □ **n** *the ~*, rich people.

rich-ly *adv* (a) in a rich manner: *~ly dressed*. (b) thoroughly; fully: *He ~ly deserved the punishment he received*.

rich-ness, quality or state of being rich (but not in the sense of 1 above).

riches /'rɪʃɪz/ **n** *pl* wealth; being rich: *from rags to ~*, from poverty to being rich.

rick /rɪk/ **n** [C] regular stack of hay, straw, corn, etc (in a field). □ *vt* make (hay, etc) into a rick.

rick-ets /'rɪkɪts/ **n** *pl* (used with a *sing* or *pl verb*) disease of childhood, marked by soft-

ening and malformation of the bones, caused by deficiency of vitamin D as found in fresh food, eg milk, butter.

rick-ety /'rɪkɪti/ *adj* likely to break and collapse: *~ furniture*.

rickshaw /'rɪkʃəʊ/ **n** [C] two-wheeled carriage for one or two passengers, pulled by a man.

rico-chet /'rɪkəʃeɪ/ *US*: /'rɪkəʃeɪ/ **n** [U] movement in a new direction (of a stone, bullet, etc) after hitting the ground, a solid substance or the surface of water; [C] hit made in this way. □ *vi, vt* (-t- or -tt-) (of a shot, etc) (cause to) rebound or move away sharply: *The bullet ~ed off his helmet*.

rid /rɪd/ *vt* (*pt, pp* rid) make free: *~ oneself of debt/a country of bandits*. **be/get rid of**, *be/ become free of*: *These shoes are difficult to get ~ of*, eg are difficult to sell.

rid-dance /'rɪdəns/ **n** [U] (usually **good rid-dance**) state of being rid of something unwanted or undesirable: *Good ~ to bad rubbish*, (said of an undesirable thing or person now finished, gone, etc).

riddle 1 /'rɪdl/ **n** [C] 1 question, statement or description, intended to make a person think hard in order to know the answer or meaning: *know the answer to a ~*. 2 mysterious person, thing, situation, etc: *the ~ of the universe*.

riddle 2 /'rɪdl/ **n** [C] coarse sieve (for stones, earth, gravel, cinders etc). □ *vt* 1 pass (soil, ashes, etc) through a riddle. 2 make many holes in (something), eg by firing bullets into it: *~ a man with bullets*. 3 (*pp*) (*fig*) full of: *writing ~d with mistakes*.

ride 1 /raɪd/ **n** [C] 1 period of riding; journey on horseback, on a bicycle, bus, etc: *It's a ten-penny ~ on the bus*. **take sb for a ride**, (informal) deceive, or humiliate him. 2 road or track for the use of persons on horseback and not for vehicles.

ride 2 /raɪd/ *vi, vt* (*pt* rode /rəʊd/, *pp* ridden /'rɪdn/) 1 sit on a horse, etc and be carried along; sit on a bicycle, etc and cause it to go forward: *He jumped on his horse and rode off away*. *He was riding fast*. 2 sit on and control: *~ a horse/pony/bicycle*. 3 be in, be carried in, a bus or another (public) vehicle: *~ in a bus/taxi*. 4 compete in, on horseback, etc: *~ a race*. 5 (allow to) sit or be on something as if on a horse: *The boy was riding on his father's shoulders*. 6 go out regularly on horseback (as a pastime, for exercise, etc): *I've given up riding*. 7 go through or over on horseback, etc: *~ the desert*. 8 float on: *a ship riding the waves*; float on water: *a ship riding at anchor*; be supported by: *an albatross riding (on) the wind*. **ride out a storm**, ⇨ storm(3). **let sth ride**, (informal) take no action on it. 9 **ride up**, eg of an article of clothing, shift or move upwards.

rider /'raɪdə(r)/ **n** [C] 1 person who rides, esp

one who rides a horse: *Miss White is no ~*. **2** additional observation following a statement, verdict, etc: *The jury added a ~ to their verdict recommending mercy.*

ridge /rɪdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** raised line where two sloping surfaces meet: *the ~ of a roof*. **2** long mountain range. **3** long, narrow stretch of high land between the tops of a line of hills: *a ~ walk*, along this high land. **4** (in ploughed land) raised part between two furrows.

ridi-cule /'rɪdɪkjʊl/ *n* [U] being made fun of; derision: *She has become an object of ~*. **hold sb up to ridicule**, make fun of him. □ *vi* make fun of; cause to appear foolish: *Why do you ~ my proposal?*

rid-icu-lous /rɪ'dɪkjʊləs/ *adj* deserving to be laughed at; absurd: *You look ~ in that old hat. What a ~ idea!* *old man!*

rid-icu-lous-ly *adv*

rid-ing-breeches /'raɪdɪŋ brɪtʃɪz/ *n* *pl* trousers fastened below the knee, worn for riding on horseback.

rife /raɪf/ *adj* widespread; common: *Is superstition still ~ in the country?*

rifle /'rɪfl/ *vt, vi* **1** mix playing-cards quickly.

2 turn over (the pages of a book, etc) quickly.

rifle¹ /'raɪfl/ *vt* cut spiral grooves in (a gun, its barrel or bore). □ *n* [C] gun with a long barrel, to be fired from the shoulder.

'rifle-range, (a) place where men practise shooting with rifles. (b) distance that a bullet from a rifle will travel: *within/out of ~range*.

'rifle-man /-mən/, soldier of a regiment using rifles.

rifle² /'raɪfl/ *vt* search thoroughly in order to steal from: *The thief ~d every drawer in the room.*

rift /rɪft/ *n* [C] **1** split or crack: *a ~ in the clouds*. **2** (fig) disagreement, quarrel, (eg between two (groups of) friends, etc).

'rift-valley, steep-sided valley caused by sinking of the earth's crust.

rig¹ /rɪg/ *vt* (-gg-) **1** supply (a ship) with masts, rigging, sails, etc; (of a ship) be supplied with these things; prepare for sea in this way. **2** provide (a person) with necessary clothes, equipment, etc: *~ the children out with rainwear*. **3** *rig sth up*, (a) put together or adjust parts (of aircraft, etc). (b) make, put together, quickly or with any materials that may be available: *They ~ged up some scaffolding for the workmen*. □ *n* [C] **1** way in which a ship's masts, sails, etc are arranged. **2** equipment put together for a special purpose. ⇨ oil-rig.

'rig-out, (informal) person's clothes, etc: *What a queer ~out!*

rig-ging *n* [U] all the ropes, etc which support a ship's masts and sails.

rig-ger, (a) person who rigs ships, etc. (b) person whose work is to put together and adjust the parts of aircraft, etc.

rig² /rɪg/ *vt* (-gg-) manage fraudulently for private profit or gain: *~ an election*, use dishonest methods to be successful.

right¹ /raɪt/ *adj* (1 to 3 contrasted with *wrong*) **1** (of conduct, etc) just; morally good; required by law or duty: *Always do what is ~ and honourable. You were quite ~ to refuse*. **2** true; correct; satisfactory: *What's the ~ time? Have you got the ~ (= exact) fare?* **put sth right**, restore to order, good health, a good condition, etc: *put a watch ~*, ie to the correct time. *This medicine will put you ~*. **all right**, ⇨ all² (3) and 4 below. **3** most suitable; best in view of the circumstances, etc: *Are we on the ~ road? He is the ~ man for the job. Which is the ~ side* (ie the side meant to be seen or used) *of this cloth?* **get on the right side of sb**, win his support, approval. **4** in healthy condition: *Do you feel all ~?* **not in one's right mind**, ⇨ mind¹ (2). **right as rain**, (informal) perfectly sound or healthy. **5** (of an angle) of 90° (ie neither acute nor obtuse): *at ~ angles/at a ~ angle*.

'right-minded *adj* having opinions or principles based on what is right: *All ~minded people will agree with me*.

right-ly *adv* justly; justifiably; correctly; truly: *She has been sacked, and ~ly so*.

right-ness *n* [U]

right² /raɪt/ *adv* **1** straight; directly: *Put it ~ in the middle*. **right away/now**, at once, without any delay. **2** all the way (to/round, etc); completely (off/out, etc): *Go ~ to the end of this road, and then turn left. There's a fence ~ round the building. The pear was rotten ~ through. The prisoner got ~ away. He turned ~ round*. **right, left and 'centre**, in all directions; everywhere. **3** justly; correctly, satisfactorily; properly: *if I remember ~*. **Right on!** (informal) (used to show approval). **It serves him right**, It is what he deserves, etc.

right³ /raɪt/ *n* [U] that which is good, just, honourable, true, etc: *know the difference between ~ and wrong*. **be in the right**, have justice and truth on one's side. **2** [U] proper authority or claim; the state of being justly entitled to something. **3** [C] something one may do or have by law, authority, social acceptance, etc: *human ~s*, ⇨ human. *What gives you the ~ to say that?* **by right(s)**, if justice were done: *The property is not mine by ~(s)*. **in one's own 'right**, because of a personal claim, qualification, etc: *She's a peeress in her own ~*, ie not by marriage. **right of way**, (a) right of the general public to use a path, road, etc: *Is there a ~ of way across these fields?* (b) (in road traffic) right to proceed before others: *It's my ~ of way, so that lorry must stop or slow down until I've passed it*. **4** (pl) true state: **set/put things to rights**, put them in order; give an accurate explanation.

right⁴ /raɪt/ *vt* put, bring or come back, into

the right or an upright condition: *The ship ~ed herself after the big wave had passed.*

right⁵ /raɪt/ *adj* (contrasted with *left*) of the side of the body which is toward the east when a person faces north: *my ~ hand/leg.* In *Great Britain traffic keeps to the left, not the ~, side of the road.* □ *adv* to the right hand or side: *He looked neither ~ nor left. Eyes ~!* (used as a military command). □ *n* [U] **1** side or direction on one's right hand: *Take the first turning to the ~.* **2** (politics) **the R~**, ⇨ **Right Wing**: *members of the R~.*

right-about /'tʌrn/'feɪs/, *right turn* continued until one is facing in the opposite direction.

right-handed *adj* (of a person) using the right hand more, or more easily, than the left.

right-turn, *turn into a position at right angles (90°) with the original one.*

(the) right (wing), conservative or reactionary political group(s), party or parties: (as an adjective) *~wing demonstrators.*

right-ist /-ɪst/ *n* member of a right-wing political party. □ *adj* of such a party: *~ist sympathizers.*

right-eous /'raɪtʃəs/ *adj* **1** doing what is morally right; obeying the law. **2** morally justifiable: *~ anger.*

right-eous-ly *adv*

right-eous-ness *n* [U]

right-ful /'raɪtfl/ *adj* **1** according to law and justice: *the ~ owner of the land.* **2** (of actions, etc) fair; justifiable.

right-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

rigid /'rɪdʒɪd/ *adj* **1** stiff; that cannot be bent: *a ~ support for a tent.* **2** firm; strict; not changing; not to be changed: *a ~ disciplinarian; practise ~ economy.*

rigid-ly *adv*

rig-id-ity /'rɪdʒɪdɪti/ *n* [U] **1** inflexibility: *the ~ of his religious beliefs.* **2** strictness.

rig-ma-role /'rɪgmərəʊl/ *n* [C] long, incoherent account or description.

rigor mor-tis /'rɪgɔː/ *n* (Latin) the stiffening of the muscles after death.

rig-or-ous /'rɪgərəs/ *adj* **1** stern; strict; determined: *a ~ search for drugs.* **2** harsh; severe: *a ~ climate.*

rig-or-ous-ly *adv*

rig-our (US = **rigor**) /'rɪgə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] sternness; strict enforcement (of rules, etc): *use the ~ of the law.* **2** (often *pl*) severe conditions: *the ~s of prison life.*

rile /raɪl/ *vt* (informal) annoy; cause anger in: *It ~d him that no one believed him.*

rim /rɪm/ *n* [C] circular edge of the framework of a wheel, round the lenses of spectacles, etc; edge, border or margin of something circular: *the ~ of a cup/bowl.* □ *vt* (-mm-) provide with a rim; be a rim for.

rind /raɪnd/ *n* [U] hard, outside skin or cover-

ing (of some fruits, eg melons, or of bacon and cheese); [C] piece or strip of this skin.

ring¹ /rɪŋ/ *n* [C] **1** circular band worn round a finger as an ornament, or as a token: *an en-gagement ~; a ~ wedding ~;* similar band for other parts of the body: *a ~ ear~.* **2** circular band of any kind of material, eg metal, wood, ivory: *a ~ key~*, one for carrying keys on. **3** circle: *a ~ of light round the moon; the ~s of a tree*, seen in wood when the trunk is cut across, showing the tree's age. **make/run rings round sb**, argue, do things, better than he does. **4** combination of persons (traders, politicians, etc) working together for their own advantage, eg to keep prices up or down, to control policy: *a ~ of dealers at a public auction.* **5** (also 'circus-~), circular enclosure or space for circus performances. **6** roped area for a boxing-match. □ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp ~ed*) **1** surround: *~ed about with enemies.* **2** put a ring in the nose of (a bull, etc) or on the leg of (a bird, eg a homing pigeon). **3** make, draw, a ring round (something), eg with a pencil.

'ring-finger, third finger of the left hand.

'ring-leader, person who leads others in a rising against authority.

'ring-master, man who directs performances in a circus.

'ring road, road round, and through the outskirts of, a large town, for the use of traffic passing through.

'ring-side, place near to the ring of a circus, a boxing-ring, etc: *have a ~side seat*, be favourably placed for seeing an event, etc.

'ring-worm, contagious skin disease, esp of children, producing round, red patches.

ring² /rɪŋ/ *vt, vi* (*pt rang /ræŋ/, pp rung /rʌŋ/*) **1** give out a clear, musical sound as when metal vibrates: *How long has that telephone (bell) been ~ing?* **2** produce a certain effect when heard. **ring 'true**, seem sincere. **3** cause a bell to sound, as a summons, warning, etc: *She rang for the porter.* **4** cause something, esp a bell, to ring: *~ the church bells; ~ the bell for the steward.* **ring a bell**, (informal) bring something vaguely back to mind: *Ah! That name ~s a bell!* **5** resound; echo: *The children's playground rang with happy shouts. A shot rang out, The noise of a gun, etc was heard.* **6** stay in one's hearing or memory: *His last words are still ~ing in my ears.* **7 ring (up)**, get into communication by telephone: *I'll ~ you (up) this evening.* (US = *call (up)*.) **ring off**, end a telephone conversation. **8** (of a chime of bells) announce (the hour, etc); strike the hours. **9** give a signal by ringing a bell, etc: *Did the cyclist ~ his bell?* **ring the alarm**, give one by ringing. **ring the changes (on)**, (fig) put or arrange things, do things, in as many different ways as possible. **ring the curtain up/down**, (in a theatre) give the signal for it to be raised/lowered. **10 ring up**, record (a

slae) on a cash-register. □ **n** 1 (sing only) sound produced by a bell or piece of metal when it is struck: *This coin has a good ~.* 2 (sing only) loud and clear sound: *the ~ of happy voices.* 3 (sing only) effect of sincerity, etc: *There was a ~ of truth in his statement.* 4 [C] act of ringing; sound of a bell: *There was a ~ at the door. I'll give you a ~ this evening, will telephone you.*

ringing tone, sound heard on a telephone when there is a connection with the number that has been dialled.

ring-let /'rɪŋlɪt/ **n** [C] small curl of hair: *She arranged her hair in ~s.*

rink /rɪŋk/ **n** [C] specially prepared area of ice for skating or hockey, or floor for roller-skating.

rinse /rɪns/ **vt** 1 wash with clean water in order to remove unwanted substances, etc: *rinse soap out of the clothes; ~ the clothes; ~ (out) the mouth*, eg while being treated by a dentist. 2 **rinse sth down**, help (food) down with a drink: *R~ it down with a glass of beer.* □ **n** [C] 1 act of rinsing: *Give your hair a good ~ after you've used shampoo.* 2 solution for tinting the hair: *the blue ~ used by some elderly women.*

riot /'raɪət/ **n** 1 [C] violent outburst of lawlessness: *R~s during the election were dealt with put down by the police.* 2 [U] noisy, uncontrolled behaviour, eg by students celebrating, etc. **run riot**, (a) lose all discipline. (b) (of plants) be out of control by growing fast and in wrong places. 3 (sing only, with a, an) great supply: *The flowerbeds in the park were a ~ of colour.* 4 (sing only) unrestrained display of something: *a ~ of emotion.* □ **vi** 1 take part in a riot (1,2): *They were ~ing all night after the elections.* 2 **riot in**, indulge or revel (in): *The tyrant ~ed in cruelty.*

rioter, person who riots.

riotous /-əs/ **adj** likely to cause a riot; disorderly; running wild: *a ~ous assembly; ~ous behaviour.*

riotously **adv**

rip /rɪp/ **vt, vi** (-pp-) 1 pull, tear or cut (something) quickly and with force (to get it off, out, open, etc): *~ open a letter; ~ off the cover; ~ out (= remove) worn bricks and replace them; ~ a pocket.* 2 (of material) tear; be ripped. 3 go forward, rush along. **Let her/it rip**, (informal) (of a boat, car, machine, etc) allow it to go at its maximum speed. **let things rip**, let things take their natural course. 4 **rip off sb/sth**, (sl) rob; steal: *~ off books from the library.* Hence **'rip-off** **n** instance of robbing or stealing. □ **n** [C] torn place; long cut: *bad ~s in my tent.*

'rip-cord, cord which, when pulled during a descent, releases a parachute from its pack.

'rip-saw, saw used for ripping (2).

ripe /raɪp/ **adj** (-r, -st) 1 (of fruit, grain, etc) ready to be gathered and used: *~ fruit; cherries not ~ enough to eat.* 2 matured and ready

to be eaten or drunk: *~ cheese/wine.* 3 fully developed: *a person of ~(r) years*, past the stage of youth. 4 **ripe for**, ready, fit, prepared: *land that is ~ for development*, eg for building houses or factories. **when the time is ripe**, at the most suitable moment.

ripe-ly **adv**

ripe-ness **n** [U]

ripen /'raɪpən/ **vt, vi** make or become ripe.

riposte /rɪ'pɒst/ **n** [C] 1 quick return or thrust in fencing. 2 (formal) quick, sharp reply or retort. □ **vi** deliver a riposte.

ripple /'rɪpl/ **n** [C] (sound of) small movement(s) on the surface of water, etc, eg made by a gentle wind, or of soft voices or laughter: *A long ~ of laughter passed through the audience.* □ **vt, vi** (cause to) move in ripples; (cause to) rise and fall gently: *The wheat ~d in the breeze.*

rip-tide /'rɪp taɪd/ **n** [C] tide causing strong currents and rough water.

rise /raɪz/ **n** [C] 1 small hill; upward slope: *on the ~ of a hill; a ~ in the ground.* 2 increase (in value, temperature, etc): *a ~ in prices; have a ~ in wages (US = raise).* 3 upward progress: *a ~ in social position; the ~ and fall of the tide.* 4 (literary) coming up (of the sun, etc): *at ~ of the sun/day*, (more usually sunrise). 5 movement of fish to the surface of water: *I fished two hours without getting a ~.* 6 **take the rise out of sb**, tease him. 7 origin; start: *The river has/takes its ~ among the hills.* 8 **give rise to**, be the cause of; suggest: *Such conduct might give ~ to misunderstandings.*

riser, (a) an early/late ~r, person who gets up early/late. (b) vertical part of a step, connecting two treads of a staircase.

rise /raɪz/ **vi** (pt rose /rəʊz/, pp risen /'rɪzn/) 1 (of the sun, moon, stars) appear above the horizon: *The sun ~s in the East.* ⇨ **set** (1). 2 get up from a lying, sitting or kneeling position: *The wounded man fell and was too weak to ~.* 3 *The horse rose on its hind legs.* 4 get out of bed; get up (which is more usual): *He ~s very early.* 5 come to life (again): *Jesus Christ rose (again) from the dead. He looked as though he had ~n from the grave.* 6 go, come, up or higher; reach a high(er) level or position: *The river/flood has ~n a metre. His voice rose in anger/excitement, became high, louder. Prices continue to ~.* 7 *The temperature is rising. New office blocks are rising in our town.* ⇨ **high-rise**. 8 come to the surface: *Bubbles rose from the bottom of the lake.* 9 slope upwards: *rising ground.* 10 have as a starting-point: *Where does the Nile ~?* 11 become or be visible above the surroundings: *A range of hills rose on our left.* 12 develop greater intensity: *The wind is rising.* 13 reach a higher position in society; make progress (in one's profession, etc): *~ in the world; a rising politician/lawyer.* 14 (of meetings, etc) cease to be held: *Parliament will*

~ on *Thursday next*, will stop for a recess. **13** *rise to the occasion*, ⇨ occasion(1). **14** *rise up against*, rebel (against the government, etc).

ris-ing, (esp) armed rebellion. ⇨ uprising.

risk /rɪsk/ n **1** [C, U] (instance of a) possibility or chance of meeting danger, suffering loss, injury, etc: *There's no/not much ~ of injury if you obey the rules.* **at risk**, threatened by uncertainties (such as failure, loss, etc): *Is the Government's income policy seriously at ~?* **at one's own risk**, accepting responsibility, agreeing to make no claims, for loss, injury, etc. **at the risk of; at risk to**, with the possibility of loss, etc: *He was determined to get there even at the ~ of his life.* **run a/the risk of; take risks**, put oneself in a position where there is risk: *She's too sensible to take ~s when she's driving. He was ready to run the ~ of being taken prisoner by the enemy.* **2** [C] amount for which a person or thing is insured; the person or thing insured: *He's a good/poor ~.* □ vt **1** expose to risk: ~ one's health in the jungle. **risk one's neck**, ⇨ neck(1). **2** take the chances of: *We mustn't ~ getting caught in a storm.*

risky adj (-ier, -iest) full of danger: *a ~y undertaking.*

ri-sotto /rɪ'zɒtəʊ/ n [U] dish of rice cooked with butter, cheese, onions, etc.

ris-qué /'rɪskeɪ/ US: rɪ'skeɪ/ adj (of a story, remark, situation in a drama, etc) likely to be considered indecent.

ris-sole /'rɪsəʊl/ n [C] small, fried, ball of minced meat, fish, etc.

rite /raɪt/ n [C] ceremony (esp in religious services): *burial ~s.*

rit-ual /'rɪtʃʊəl/ n **1** [U] all the rites or forms connected with a ceremony; way of conducting a religious service: *the ~ of the Catholic Church*; [C] particular form of ritual. **2** [C] any procedure regularly followed, as if it were a ritual: *He went through his usual ~ of cutting and lighting his cigar.* **3** (pl) ceremonial observances. □ adj of religious rites; done as a rite: *the ~ dances of an African tribe.*

ri-val /'raɪvl/ n [C] person who competes with another (because he wants the same thing, or to be or do better than the other): *'business ~s; ~s in love*; (as an adjective) ~ business firms. □ vt (-ll-, US also -l-) be a rival of; claim to be (almost) as good as: *Can cricket ~ football in excitement?*

ri-valry /'raɪvlrɪ/ n [C, U] (pl -ies) (instance of) being rivals: *the ~ries between the political parties.*

river /'rɪvə(r)/ n [C] **1** natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea or to a lake, etc or joining another river: *the R~ Thames.* **sell sb down the river**, (fig) betray him. **2** great flow: *a ~ of lava; ~s of blood*, great bloodshed (as in war).

'river-basin, area drained by a river and its tributaries.

'river-bed, ground over which a river flows.

'river-side, ground along a river bank: *a ~side walk.*

rivet /'rɪvɪt/ n [C] metal pin or bolt for fixing metal plates (eg in a ship's sides), the plain end being hammered flat to prevent slipping. □ vt **1** fasten with rivets; flatten (the end of a bolt) to make it secure. **2** (fig) fix or concentrate (one's eyes, attention) on: *He ~ed his eyes on the scene.* **3** hold (attention, etc): *Some television documentaries are ~ing, of great interest.*

rivu-let /'rɪvjuːlət/ n [C] small stream.

road /rəʊd/ n [C] **1** specially prepared way between places for the use of vehicles, pedestrians, etc: *travel by ~*; (as an adjective) *a ~ map of Great Britain*; ~ accidents. **R~ works in progress**, the road is under construction or repair. **2** (in proper names) (a) (with the) name of a road leading to the town, etc named: *the Oxford R~*, leading to Oxford. (b) (without the, usually abbr to **Rd**) street of buildings: *35 York Rd, London, SW.* **3** one's way or route: *You're in the/my ~*, obstructing me. **4 road to**, way of getting: *Is too much drinking the ~ to ruin?*

'road-block, barricade built across a road to stop or slow down traffic (eg by police to catch an escaped prisoner).

'road-hog, motorist who is inconsiderate of others.

'road-house, building(s) on a main road, often with facilities for meals, etc used by people who travel by car.

road 'safety, safety from road accidents.

'road-sense, capacity for intelligent behaviour on roads: *Harry/Harry's dog has no ~ sense.*

'road-side, ground along the side of a road.

'road-way, (usually with the) central part used by vehicles: *Dogs should be kept off the ~way.*

'road-worthy adj (of a motor-vehicle, etc) fit for use on the roads.

roam /rəʊm/ vi, vt walk or travel without any definite aim or destination over or through (a country, etc): ~ about the world/~ the seas.

roar /rɔː(r)/ n [C] loud, deep sound as of a lion, of thunder, of a person in pain, etc: *the ~s of a tiger; the ~ of London's traffic; ~s of laughter.* □ vt, vi **1** make such loud, deep sounds: *lions ~ing in the distance; ~ with laughter/pain.* **Several lorries ~ed past.** **2** say, sing, loudly: ~ out an order/a drinking song; ~ oneself hoarse, make oneself hoarse by roaring.

roar-ing adj (a) noisy; rough. (b) stormy: *the ~ing forties*, part of the Atlantic between 40° and 50° N latitude, often very stormy. (c) lively; healthy: *do a ~ing trade.* □ adv (informal) extremely: ~ing drunk.

roast /rəʊst/ vt, vi **1** (of meat, potatoes, etc)

cook, be cooked, in a hot oven, or over or in front of a hot fire: ~ *a joint*. *The meat was ~ing in the oven.* **2** expose for warmth to heat of some kind: ~ *oneself by the fire*; lie in the sun and ~. □ *adj* that has been roasted: ~ *beef*. □ **n** **1** [C] joint of roasted meat; [U] slices from such a joint: ~ *and vegetables*. **2** [C] operation of roasting.

rob /rɒb/ *vi* (-bb-) **1** deprive (a person) of his property; take property from (a place) unlawfully (and often by force): *The bank was ~bed last night. I was ~bed of my watch.* (Note: compare - I had my watch *stolen*.) **2** deprive a person of (what is due to him, etc): *be ~bed of the rewards of one's labour.*

rob-ber, person who robs: *a bank-~ber.*

rob-bery /'rɒbəri/ *n* [C, U] (*pl* -ries) (instance of) robbing: ~ *with violence*. **daylight 'robbery**, (informal) obvious charging of excessive prices.

robe /rəʊb/ *n* [C] **1** long, loose dress: *a 'bath~*. **2** (US) = *dress-gown*. **3** (often *pl*) long, loose gown worn as a sign of rank or office: *magistrates/judges in their black ~s*. □ *vt* put a robe on: *professors ~d in their academic gowns*.

robin /'rɒbɪn/ *n* [C] small, brownish bird with red breast-feathers.

ro-bot /'rəʊbɒt/ *n* [C] **1** machine made to act like a man. **2** (S Africa) set of traffic-lights.

ro-bust /rəʊ'bʌst/ *adj* strong, active; fit, healthy: *a ~ young man*; *a ~ appetite*.

ro-bust-ly *adv*

rock¹ /rɒk/ *n* **1** [U] solid stony part of the earth's crust: *a house built on ~*. **2** [C, U] mass of rock standing out from the earth's surface or from the sea. **as firm/solid as a rock**, (a) that cannot be moved. (b) (fig) (of persons) reliable; dependable. **on the rocks**, (a) (fig) (of a person) very short of money. (b) (of a marriage) likely to end in divorce or separation. (c) (US) (of spirits(13)) served with ice-cubes. **3** [C] large stone or boulder: ~ *s rolling down the side of a mountain*; (US) = *stone*(2). **4** [U] (GB) length of hard, sticky sweet.

rock-'bottom, lowest point: *His morale has reached ~-bottom*; (as an adjective) ~-*bottom 'prices*.

'rock-cake, small cake or bun with a hard, rough surface.

'rock-climbing, the climbing of rocky mountain-sides (with the help of ropes, etc).

'rock-crystal, natural transparent quartz.

'rock-garden, area of ground with stones and rock-plants growing among them.

'rock-plant, kinds of small plant able to grow among stones, esp in rock-gardens.

'rock-'salmon, (trade name for) dogfish.

'rock-salt, common salt as found in mines in crystal form.

rock-ery, = rock-garden.

rock² /rɒk/ *vi, vi* (cause to) sway or swing backwards and forwards, or from side to side: ~ *a baby to sleep*. *The town was ~ed by an earthquake.* **rock the boat**, (fig) do something that upsets the smooth progress of an undertaking, etc.

rock-er, (a) one of the curved pieces of wood on which a rocking-chair or rocking-horse rests. (b) = *rocking-chair*. (c) **off one's rocker**, (sl) crazy; mad.

'rock-ing-chair, one fitted with rockers on which it rests.

'rock-ing-horse, wooden horse with rockers for a child to ride on.

rock³ /rɒk/ *n* [U] highly rhythmic popular music for dancing, played on electric guitars. □ *vi* dance to this music.

rock-'n-roll /rɒk ən 'rəʊl/ *n* [U] (also *rock and roll*) = *rock*³.

rocket /'rɒkɪt/ *n* **1** [C] tube-shaped case filled with fast-burning material, which launches itself into the air (a firework, a signal of distress, or a self-propelled projectile or missile) (as used to launch a spacecraft): ~ *propulsion*. **2** (informal) severe scolding: *get/give him a ~*. □ *vi* go up fast like a rocket: (informal) *Prices are ~ing*.

'rocket-base, military base for missiles.

'rocket-range, area used for experiments with missiles.

rock-etry /-tri/ *n* [U] (art or science of) using rockets for space missiles, etc.

rocky /'rɒki/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** of rock, full of rocks; hard like rock: *a ~ road*; ~ *soil*. **2** (informal) unstable; insecure: *The table is rather ~*. *His business is very ~*.

rod /rɒd/ *n* [C] **1** thin, straight piece of wood or metal: *a 'fishing-~*. **2** stick used for punishing. **make a rod for one's own 'back**, make trouble for oneself. **3** (US) (sl) = *revolver*. **4** measure of length equal to 5½ yds. **5** metal bar; shaft, etc: *a 'piston-~*.

rode /rəʊd/ *pt* of *ride*².

ro-dent /'rəʊdənt/ *n* [C] animal, eg a rat, rabbit, squirrel or beaver, which gnaws things with its strong teeth specially adapted for this purpose.

ro-deo /'rəʊdiəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** (on the plains of Western US) rounding up of cattle. **2** contest of skill in lassoing cattle, riding untamed horses, etc.

roe¹ /rəʊ/ *n* [C, U] (*hard* ~) (mass of) eggs in a female fish; (*soft* ~) sperm-filled gland of a male fish.

roe² /rəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or, collectively, ~) small kind of European and Asiatic deer.

'roe-buck, male roe.

Roent-gen /'rɒntʃən/ US: 'rentgən/ ⇨ X-rays.

ro-ga-tion /rəʊ'geɪʃn/ *n* [C] (usually *pl*) litany of the saints chanted on the three days before Ascension Day.

rogue /rəʊg/ *n* [C] **1** (old use) vagabond. **2** scoundrel; rascal.

ro-guery /'rəʊgəri/ *n* (*pl* -ies) (a) [C,U] (instance of) the conduct of a rogue. (b) [U] playful mischief; (*pl*) mischievous acts.

role, rôle /rəʊl/ *n* [C] **1** actor's part in a play: *play the 'title-~ in 'Hamlet'*, *play the part of Hamlet*. **2** person's task or duty in an undertaking: *What is your new ~ on the Committee?*

roll¹ /rəʊl/ *n* [C] **1** something made into the shape of a cylinder by being rolled: *a ~ of carpet/photographic film*; *a man with ~s of fat on his neck*; *a sausage ~*, a sausage rolled in pastry and then baked; *a bread ~*, small loaf of bread. **2** turned-back edge: *a ~ collar*, large collar made by turning back the edge of the material. **3** rolling movement: *The slow, steady ~ of the ship made us sick*. **4** official list or record, esp of names. **call the roll**, read the names (to check who is present and who absent). Hence, **'roll-call** *n*. **5** rolling sound: *the distant ~ of thunder/drums*.

roll² /rəʊl/ *vi, vi* (For special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*, ⇨ 11 below.) **1** (cause to) move along on wheels or by turning over and over: *The brakes failed and the car ~ed down the hill. The coin fell and ~ed under the table. The bicycle hit me and sent me ~ing/ ~ed me over. He ~ed (= wrapped by turning over) himself (up) in the blanket*. **2** make into the shape of a ball or a cylinder: *R ~ the string/wool into a ball. ~ed into one*, combined in one person: *She's mother and father ~ed into one*, eg of a widow. **3** come or go in a wavy or rolling motion: *The clouds ~ed away as the sun rose higher. The years ~ed on/by, passed. The tears were ~ing (= flowing) down her cheeks*. **4** turn about in various directions: *a dog ~ing on the ground*. **5** make or become flat, level or smooth by pressing with a rolling cylinder of wood metal, etc or by passing between two such cylinders: *~ a lawn; ~ a road flat*. **roll sth out**, flatten it by rolling: *~ out pastry*. **6** (cause to) sway or move from side to side: *The ship was ~ing heavily. The drunken man ~ed up to me*. **7** (of surfaces) have long slopes that rise and fall: *miles and miles of ~ing country*. **8** move, be moved, on wheels: *lorries ~ing down the hill; ~ a piano into the corner*. **9** make, say, be said with, long, deep, vibrating or echoing sounds: *The thunder ~ed in the distance. roll one's r's*, utter them with the tongue making a rapid succession of taps against the palate. **10** (of the eyes) (cause to) change direction with a rotary motion: *His eyes ~ed strangely when the stone hit his head*.

11 (special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*):

roll sth back, cause to retreat, eg enemy forces.

roll in, come, arrive, in large numbers or quantities: *Offers of help are ~ing in. be 'rol-*

ling in, (a) have large quantities of: *He's ~ing in money*. (b) be living in: *~ing in luxury*.

roll into, form into by rolling: *Hedgehogs can ~ into balls*. ⇨ *roll up*.

roll on, (a) be capable of being put on by rolling. (b) (of time) pass steadily: *Time ~ed on*. (c) (of time, chiefly imperative) come soon: *R ~ on the day when I retire!* **roll sth on**, put on by rolling over a part of the body: *She ~ed her thighs on*.

roll up, (a) form into a cylinder or ball: *The cat ~ed up into a ball. He ~ed up his sleeves*. (b) arrive (in a vehicle); join a group: *Two or three latecomers ~ed up. R ~ up! R ~ up!*, (used eg to call possible customers to a street stall).

roller /'rəʊlə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** cylinder-shaped object of wood, metal, rubber, etc, usually part of a machine, for pressing, smoothing, crushing, printing, etc: *a 'garden-~, for use on a lawn; a 'road-~, used for making roads level*. **2** cylinder of wood, metal, etc placed beneath an object to make movement easy, or round which something may be rolled easily: *a ~ blind*, on which a window blind is rolled; *a ~ towel*, a loop of towel on a roller. **3** long, rolling wave.

'roller-skate, (also *a pair of ~-skates*) skate with wheels for use on a smooth surface.

roll-ing- /'rəʊlɪŋ/ *prefix* (using rotatory motion).

'rolling-pin, cylinder of wood for rolling pastry, etc.

'rolling-stock, all the carriages and wagons belonging to a railway.

'rolling-'stone, person who is unsettled, uncommitted. ⇨ *moss*.

roly-poly /'rəʊli 'pəʊli/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (*GB*) (also ~ 'pudding) pudding made of pastry spread with jam, etc formed into a roll and boiled.

Roman /'rəʊmən/ *adj* **1** of Rome, esp ancient Rome: *the ~ Empire*. **2 R~**, (esp) = Roman Catholic. *n* **1** citizen of ancient Rome; (*pl*) Christians of ancient Rome. **2** Roman Catholic.

'Roman 'Catholic *n, adj* (member) of the Christian group which has the Pope as its head.

'roman 'numeral, I, IV, XL, M, etc.

'roman 'letter/'type, upright kind like this, not italic.

ro-mance /rə'mæns/ *n* **1** [C] story or novel of adventure; love story. **2** [U] class of literature consisting of love stories. **3** [C] **R~**, medieval story, usually in verse, relating the adventures of some hero of chivalry. **4** [C] experience, esp a love-affair, considered to be remarkable or worth description: *I still remember my teenage ~s*. **5** [U] mental tendency which welcomes stories of the marvellous, etc; the qualities characteristic of stories of life and adventure:

travel abroad in search of ~.

Ro-mance /rə'mæns/ *adj* **Romance language**, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Rumanian, etc developed from Latin.

ro-man-tic /rə'mæntik/ *adj* **1** (of persons) having ideas, feelings, etc remote from experience and real life given to romance (1, 4, 5): *a ~ girl*. **2** of, like, suggesting, romance: *~ music/situations/adventures/tales/scenes*; *a ~ old castle*. **3** (in art, literature and music) marked by feeling rather than by intellect; preferring passion, beauty, to order and proportion (opp of *classic* and *classical*): *the ~ poets*, eg Shelley, Keats. \square *n* [C] person with romantic (1, 3) ideals.

ro-man-ti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

ro-man-ti-cism /-sizəm/ *n* [U] romantic or imaginative tendency in literature, art and music (contrasted with *realism* and *classicism*).

ro-man-ti-cist /-sist/ *n* [C] follower of romanticism.

ro-man-ti-cize (also **-ise**) /-saiz/ *vt, vi* treat in a romantic way; use a romantic style in writing, etc.

romp /rɒmp/ *vi* **1** (esp of children) play about, esp running, jumping and being noisy. **2** win, succeed, quickly or without apparent effort: *The favourite (horse) ~ed home*, won easily. *John ~s through his examinations*, passes them easily. \square *n* [C] period of romping: *have a ~*.

rom-pers, loose-fitting article of clothing with legs, worn by a child: *a pair of ~ers*; *a ~er suit*.

roof /ru:f/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** top covering of a building, tent, bus, car, etc: *How can you live under the same ~ as that woman*, in the same building? **raise the roof**, (informal) \Rightarrow raise (3). **2** the ~ of heaven, the sky: *the ~ of the world*, a high mountain range; *the ~ of the mouth*, the palate. \square *vt* (*pp* ~ed /ru:ft/) supply with a roof; be a roof for: *a shed ~ed over with strips of bark*.

roof-ing, material used for roofs (eg slates, tiles).

rook /ruk/ *n* [C] large black bird like a crow.

rook-ery /-əri/, (**a**) place (a group of trees) where many rooks have their nests. (**b**) colony of penguins or seals.

rook /ruk/ *n* [C] person who makes money by cheating when gambling. \square *vi* **1** win money from (a person) at cards, etc by cheating. **2** charge (a customer) a ridiculously high price.

rook /ruk/ *n* [C] chess piece (also called a *castle*).

room /rum US: ru:m/ *n* **1** [C] part of a house or other buildings enclosed by walls and a ceiling. **2** (*pl*) apartment: *Come and see me in my ~s one evening*. **3** [U] space that is or might be occupied, or that is enough for a purpose: *Is there ~ for me in the car?* *This table takes up*

too much ~. **make room (for)**, make enough space (for): *Can you make ~ on that shelf for some more books?* **4** [U] scope; opportunity: *There's ~ for improvement in your work*. It is not as good as it could be; *There's no ~ for doubt*. \square *vi* (US) occupy a room or rooms: *He's ~ing with my friend Smith*.

'room-mate, one of two or more persons sharing a room or apartment.

room-ful /-fol/, amount (of furniture, etc), number of persons, that a room can hold.

roomy *adj* (-ier, -iest) having plenty of space: *a ~y cabin*.

-roomed /rɒmd US: ru:md/ *suffix*: *a six-~ed house*, having six rooms.

roost /ru:st/ *n* [C] branch, pole, etc on which a bird rests, esp one for hens to sleep or rest on; hen-house. **come home to roost**, affect the person responsible: *Her extravagance came home to ~ a month later*. **rule the roost**, be the leader or master. \square *vi* (of birds or persons) settle down for the night's sleep.

rooster /'ru:stə(r)/ *n* [C] domestic cock.

root /ru:t/ *n* [C] **1** that part of a plant, tree, etc which is normally in the soil and which takes water and food from it: *pull up a plant by the ~s*. **take/strike roots**, (**a**) (eg of a cutting) send out roots. (**b**) (fig) become established.

root and branch, (fig) thoroughly; completely: *These evil practices must be destroyed ~ and branch*. **2** (*pl*) = root crop. **3** that part of a hair, tooth, the tongue, a finger-nail, etc that is like a root in position, function, etc. **4** (fig) basis; source: *He has no ~s in society*, is not settled, does not belong to any particular group or place. *Is money the ~ of all evil?* **get at/to the root of sth**, deal with (the problem) at its source. **pull up one's roots**, (fig) move from a home, job, etc to start a new life elsewhere. **put down new roots**, (fig) settle in another place after leaving a place where one has been established. **5** (*gram*) (also *base form*) form of a word on which other forms of that word are based: *'Walk' is the ~ of 'walks', 'walked', 'walking', and 'walker'*. **6** (*maths*) quantity which, when multiplied by a certain number of times, produces another quantity: *4 is the square ~ of 16 and the cube ~ of 64*.

'root beer, (US) non-alcoholic drink made from roots.

the root cause, fundamental, basic cause.

'root crop, plant with a root used as food.

'root sign, (*maths*) the symbol $\sqrt{\quad}$.

root-less *adj* (**a**) having no roots (1). (**b**) (of a person) without roots in society.

root /ru:t/ *vt, vi* **1** (of plants, cuttings, etc) (cause to) send out roots and begin to grow: *Some cuttings ~ easily*. **2** cause to stand fixed and unmoving: *He stood there ~ed to the spot*. **3** (chiefly in *pp*) (of ideas, principles, etc) establish firmly: *She has a ~ed objection to cold*

baths. Her affection for him is deeply ~ed. **4** **root sth out**, get rid of (an evil, etc).

root³ /ru:t/ vi, vt **1** **root about (for)**, (a) (of pigs) turn up the ground with the snout in search of food. (b) (of persons) search for; turn things over when searching: ~ing about among piles of papers for a missing document. **root sth out**, find by searching: I managed to ~ out a copy of the document. **2** (US sl) cheer: ~ing for the baseball team.

rope /rəʊp/ n **1** [C, U] (piece or length of) thick strong cord or wire cable made by twisting finer cords or wires together. **give sb (plenty of) rope**, (fig) freedom of action. **give sb enough rope to hang himself**, leave him to bring about his own ruin. **2** the ~s, those round a boxing-ring or other place used for sport or games. **know/learn/show sb the ropes**, the conditions, the rules, the procedure (of an action). **3** [C] number of things twisted, strung or threaded together: a ~ of onions. □ vt **1** fasten or bind with rope: *roping climbers together*, connect them with a rope for safety. **2** **rope sth off**, enclose with a rope: *Part of the field was ~d off*. **3** **rope sb in**, persuade him to help in some activity.

'rope-ladder, ladder made of two long ropes connected by rungs of rope.

ropey /'rəʊpi/ adj (sl) very poor in quality.

ro-sary /'rəʊzəri/ n [C] (pl -ies) **1** form of prayer used in the RC Church; book containing this. **2** string of beads for keeping count of these prayers.

rose¹ /rəʊz/ pt ⇨ rise².

rose² /rəʊz/ n **1** [C] (shrub or bush with prickles or thorns on its stems and bearing a) colourful and usually sweet-smelling flower. **a bed of roses**, a pleasant, easy condition of life. (be) **not all roses**, not perfect; having some discomfort and disadvantages. **2** [U] pinkish-red colour. **see things through rose-coloured/tinted spectacles**, be very optimistic. **3** (of various things thought to be like a rose in shape) (a) sprinkling nozzle of a watering can or hose. (b) rosette. (c) the national emblem of England.

'rose-bed, flowerbed in which roses are grown.

'rose-bud, bud of a rose.

'rose-'red adj red like a rose.

'rose-water, perfume made from roses.

'rose window, ornamental circular window (usually in a church).

'rose-wood, hard, dark red wood obtained from several varieties of tropical tree.

rose-mary /'rəʊzməri/ US: -meri/ n [U] evergreen shrub with fragrant leaves used as a herb and in making perfumes.

ro-sette /rəʊ'zet/ n [C] small rose-shaped badge, ornament or carving in stone.

rosin /'rəʊzɪn/ US: 'rəʊzən/ n [U] resin, esp in solid form, as used on the strings of violins, etc

and on the bow with which violins are played. □ vt rub with rosin.

ros-ter /'rɒstə(r)/ n [C] list of names of persons showing duties to be performed by each in turn.

ros-trum /'rɒstrəm/ n [C] (pl ~s or -tra /-trə/) platform or pulpit for public speaking.

rosy /'rəʊzi/ adj (-ier, -iest) **1** of the colour of red roses: ~ cheeks. **2** (fig) good, bright, cheerful: ~ prospects.

rot /rɒt/ n [U] **1** decay; condition of being bad: *R~ has set in*, decay has begun. ⇨ dry rot. **2** (sl) nonsense: *Don't talk ~!* **3** (in sport, business, etc) succession of failures: *A ~ set in*. *How can we stop the ~?* □ vi, vt (-tt-) **1** decay by processes of nature: *The wood was ~ting away*. **2** (fig) (of a committee, club, etc) gradually become inactive. **3** (fig) (of prisoners, etc) waste away: *She was left to ~ in gaol*. **4** cause to decay or become useless: *Oil and grease will soon ~ your tyres*.

rota /'rəʊtə/ n [C] (pl ~s) (GB) list of persons who are to do things in turn; list of duties to be performed in turn.

ro-tary /'rəʊtəri/ adj **1** (of motion) moving round a central point. **2** (of an engine, machine) worked by circular motion.

'Rotary Club, (branch of an) international association of professional and business men in a town for the purpose of serving the community.

ro-tate /rəʊ'teɪt/ US: 'rəʊteɪt/ vi, vt **1** (cause to) move round a central point. **2** (cause to) take turns or come in succession: ~ crops, ⇨ rotation (2). *The office of Chairman ~s*.

ro-tation /rəʊ'teɪʃn/ n **1** [U] rotating or being rotated: *the ~ of the earth*; (C) complete turning: *five ~s an hour*. **2** [C, U] regular coming round of things or events in succession: *'crop-~, ~ of crops*, varying the crops grown each year on the same land to avoid exhausting the soil. **in rotation**, in turn; in regular succession.

ro-ta-tory /'rəʊtətəri/ US: -tɔ:rɪ/ adj relating to, causing, moving in, rotation: ~ movement.

ro-tor /'rəʊtə(r)/ n [C] assembly of horizontally rotating blades of a helicopter propeller.

rot-ten /'rɒtn/ adj **1** decayed; having gone bad: ~ eggs. **2** (sl) very unpleasant or undesirable: *What ~ luck! I'm feeling ~ today*, unwell. *How ~ of you to say that!*

ro-tund /rəʊ'tʌnd/ adj **1** (of a person, his face) round and plump. **2** (of the voice) rich and deep. **3** (of speech, style) grand.

rouge /ru:ʒ/ n [U] **1** fine red powder or other substance for colouring the cheeks. **2** powder for cleaning silver plate. □ vt use rouge.

rough¹ /rʌf/ adj (-er, -est) **1** (of surfaces) not level, smooth or polished; (of roads) of irregular surface, not easy to walk or ride on: ~ paper; a ~ skin. **2** not calm or gentle; moving or acting violently: ~ children; ~ behaviour; a

~ (= stormy) *sea*. **a rough tongue**, habit of speaking rudely or sharply. **give sb/have a rough time**, (cause him to) experience hardship, to be treated severely, etc (according to context). **3** made or done without attention to detail, esp as a first attempt: *a ~ sketch/translation*; *a ~ draft*, eg of a letter. **rough and ready**, good enough for ordinary or general purposes, occasions, etc; not particularly efficient, etc; *~ and ready methods*. **4** (of sounds) harsh: *a ~ voice*.

rough luck, worse luck than is deserved.

rough house, (sl) disturbance, row.

rough-neck, (informal) noisy, ill-mannered person.

rough-ly *adv* (a) in a rough manner: *treat him ~ly*. (b) approximately: *It cost of ~ly £5*. *It took 3 hours, ~ly speaking*.

rough-ness *n* [U] quality or state of being rough.

rough² /rʌf/ *adv* in a rough manner: *play ~*, be (rather) violent (in games, etc). **live rough**, live in the open (as a homeless person may do). **sleep rough**, (of homeless persons) sleep wherever there is some shelter, eg under a bridge, in the open air.

rough³ /rʌf/ *n* 1 [U] rough state, ground or surface; unpleasantness; hardship. **take the rough with the smooth**, accept what is unpleasant with what is pleasant. **2** [U] unfinished state: *My notes are only in ~*. ⇨ **rough¹** (3). **3** [U] the ~, part of a golf-course where the ground is uneven and the grass uncut. **4** [C] hooligan: *A gang of ~s knocked him down and took all his money*.

rough⁴ /rʌf/ *vt* 1 make untidy or uneven: *Don't ~ (up) my hair*. **2 rough sb up**, (sl) treat him roughly, with physical violence: *He was ~ed up by hooligans*. **3 rough it**, live without the usual comforts of life: *Some students have to ~ it*.

rough-age /'rʌfɪdʒ/ *n* [U] coarse foodstuff, esp husks of cereals, eaten to stimulate bowel movements.

roughen /'rʌfn/ *vt, vi* make or become rough.

rou-lette /ru:'let/ *n* [U] gambling game in which a small ball falls by chance into one of the numbered compartments of a revolving wheel.

round¹ /raʊnd/ *adj* 1 shaped like a circle or a ball: *a ~ plate/window/table*. **2 a ~table conference**, at which there is no position of importance at the head of the table, everyone being apparently of equal importance. **3** done with, involving, a circular motion; going and returning: *~ trip/tour/voyage*. **4** entire; continuous; full: *a ~ dozen/score*, that number and not less. **in round figures/numbers**, given in 10's, 100's, 1000's, etc (and so roughly correct).

round-shouldered *adj* having the shoulders bent forward.

round-ness *n* [U]

round² /raʊnd/ *adv part* (For special uses with *verb*, ⇨ the *verb* entries. Specimens only are given here.) **1** in a circle or curve to face the opposite way: *Turn your chair ~ and face me*. **2** with a return to the starting-point: *The hour hand of a clock goes right ~ in twelve hours*. *Christmas will soon be ~ again*. **round and round**, with repeated revolutions. **all/right round**, completely round: *We walked right ~ the lake*. **all the year round**, during all the year. **3** in circumference: *Her hips are a metre ~*. **4** (so as to be) in a circle: *A crowd soon gathered ~*. *The garden has a high wall all ~*. **5** from one (place, point, person, etc) to another: *Please hand these papers ~*, ie distribute them. *The news was soon passed ~*. **go round**, supply everybody: *Have we enough food to go ~?* ⇨ **make¹** (13). **6** by a longer way or route; not by the direct route: *The taxi-driver brought us a long way ~*. **7** to a place where a person is or will be: *Come ~ and see me this evening*. **8** in the neighbourhood: *in all the villages ~ about*.

round³ /raʊnd/ *n* [C] 1 something round in shape: *a ~ of toast*, a slice. **2 in the round**, so as to be viewed from all sides: *a statue in the ~*. **theatre in the round**, with the audience on (nearly) all sides of the stage. **3** regular series or succession or distribution: *the daily ~*, the ordinary occupations of the day; *the doctor's ~ of visits* (to the homes of his patients); *the postman's ~*, the route he takes to deliver letters. **make one's rounds**, make one's usual visits: *The doctor makes his ~ of the wards every evening*. **4** (in games, contests, etc) one stage: *a boxing-match of ten ~s*; *the sixth ~ of the FA Cup*, the quarter-finals of this soccer contest; *have a ~ of cards*; *a ~ of golf*, to all the 9 or 18 holes of the course. **5** allowance of something distributed or measured out; one of a set or series: *pay for a ~ of drinks*, drinks for every member of the group; *another ~ of wage claims*, by trade unions for higher wages for their members; *have only three ~s of ammunition left*, enough to fire three times. **6** song for several persons or groups, the second singing the first line while the first is singing the second line, etc. **7** dance in which the dancers move in a circle.

round⁴ /raʊnd/ *prep* 1 (of movement) in a path that passes on all sides of and comes back to the starting-point: *The earth moves ~ the sun*. *Drake sailed ~ the world*. **round the clock**, all day and all night. **2** (of movement) in a path changing direction: *walk/follow her ~ a corner*. **round the bend**, ⇨ **bend¹** (1). (sl) mad. **3** (of position) so as to be on all sides of: *They were sitting ~ the table*. *He had a scarf ~ his neck*. **4** in various or all directions: *He looked ~ the room*. *Can I show you ~ (the house)*, ie show you the various rooms? **5** to or

at various points away from the point or person mentioned: *The players stood ~ the goal.* **6** approximate(ly): *Come ~ about 2 o'clock.* *He paid ~ about £20 for it.*

round⁵ /raʊnd/ *vt, vi* **1** make or become round: *stones ~ed by the action of water.* **2** go round: *He ~ed a corner.* **3** **round sth off**, bring it to a satisfactory conclusion, add a suitable finish: *~ off a sentence; ~ off one's career by being made a Minister.* **round on sb**, attack him (in words or action). **round sb up**, drive, bring or collect, together: *He ~ed up the tourists and took them back to the coach.* **round sth up**, collect (it, them) together: *The cowboy ~ed up the cattle.* Hence, **'round-up** *n* bringing together: *a ~ up of criminals/cattle.* **round up** (a figure/price), bring it to a whole number: *The price had been ~ed up from £647.50 to £650.*

round-about /'raʊndəbaʊt/ *adj* not going or coming by, or using, the shortest or most direct route: *I heard the news in a ~ way.* *What a ~ way of doing things!* **1** (= merry-go-round) revolving circular platform with wooden horses, etc on which children ride for fun (at fairs, etc). **2** circular area at a road junction causing traffic to go round instead of directly across.

rounders /'raʊndəz/ *n pl* game for two teams, played with bat and ball, the players running through four bases arranged in a square.

rouse /raʊz/ *vt, vi* (usually formal) **1** wake up: *I was ~ed by the ringing of a bell.* **2** cause (a person) to be more active, interested, etc: *politicians rousing the masses; be ~d to anger by insults.*

route¹ /raʊt/ *n* [C] complete defeat and disorderly retreat: *The defeat became a ~.* **2** *vt* defeat completely: *~ the enemy.*

route² /raʊt/ *vt*, get a person up, out of bed, etc: *We were ~ed out of our cabins before breakfast.*

route /ru:t/ *n* [C] way taken or planned from one place to another: *The climbers had tried to find a new ~ to the top of the mountain.* **en route** /,ɒn 'ru:t/, on the way, **2** *vt* plan a route for; send by a specific route: *We were ~d through Dover.*

rou-tine /ru:'ti:n/ *n* [C,U] fixed and regular way of doing things: *the ~* (= usual, ordinary) *procedure; my ~ duties*, those performed regularly.

rove /rəʊv/ *vi, vt* **1** wander (the more usual word): *roving over sea and land.* **2** (of the eyes, one's affections) be directed first one way, then another.

rover, (a) wanderer. (b) (old use) pirate. (c) senior scout.

row¹ /rəʊ/ *n* [C] number of persons or things in a line: *a ~ of books/houses/desks/cabbages; sitting in a ~/in ~s.*

row² /rəʊ/ *vt, vi* move (a boat) by using oars; carry or take in a boat with oars: *Shall I ~ you up/down/across the river?* **2** *n* [C] journey or outing in a boat moved by oars; period of this; distance rowed: *go for a ~.*

rower, person who rows a boat.

'rowing-boat, one moved by the use of oars.

'rowing-club, one for persons who row.

row³ /rəʊ/ *n* **1** [U] uproar; noisy disturbance: *How can I study with all this ~ going on outside my windows?* **2** [C] noisy or violent argument or quarrel: *have a ~ with the neighbours.* **3** [C] instance of being in trouble, told off, etc: *get into a ~ for being late at the office.* **2** *vt, vi* **1** tell off. **2** quarrel noisily: *He's always ~ing with his neighbours.*

rowdy /'rəʊdi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) rough and noisy: *There were ~ scenes at the elections.* **2** *n* [C] (pl -ies) rowdy person.

row-dily /-əli/ *adv*

row-diness *n* [U].

row-lock /'rəʊlək/ *US*: /'rəʊlək/ *n* [C] pivot for an oar or scull on the side (gunwale) of a boat (US = oarlock).

royal /'rəʊəl/ *adj* of, like, suitable for, supported by, belonging to the family of, a king or queen: *His R~ Highness; the ~ family; the R~ Navy/Air Force.*

roy-ally /'rəʊəli/ *adv* in a splendid manner: *We were ~ly entertained.*

roy-al-ist /-ist/ *n* [C] supporter of a king or queen or of the royal side in a civil war.

roy-alty /'rəʊəlti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] royal persons: *The play was performed in the presence of ~.* **2** [U] position, rank, dignity, power, etc of a royal person. **3** [C] payment of money, eg by a mining company to the owner of the land, to the owner of a copyright or patent: *a ~ of 10 per cent.*

rub¹ /rʌb/ *n* [C] period of rubbing: *Give the bruise a good ~ with this cream.*

rub² /rʌb/ *vi, vi* (-bb-) (For special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, see 3 below.) **1** move (one thing) backwards and forwards on the surface of (another); make (something clean, dry, etc) by doing this: *He was ~bing his hands together.* *R~ this oil on your skin.* *The dog ~bed itself/its head against my legs.* **2** come into, be in, contact with, by a sliding or up and down movement: *What is the wheel ~bing on/against?*

3 (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

rub sb/oneself/a horse down, rub thoroughly, vigorously, eg with a towel, to make dry and clean: *He ~bed himself down after his bath.* **rub sth down**, make it smooth or level by rubbing: *R~ the walls down well before applying new paint.* Hence, **'rub-down** *n*: *Give the horse/the walls a good ~-down.*

rub sth in/into sth, (a) force (ointment, etc) into eg the skin, by rubbing: *R~ the oint-*

ment well *in/into* the skin. (b) force (a humiliating or unpleasant fact) into a person's mind. **rub it in**, remind a person repeatedly of a fault, failure, etc: *I know I behaved foolishly but you needn't ~ it in.*

rub sth off, remove it (from a surface) by rubbing. **rub off on sb**, (informal) pass from one person to another by contact or close association: *Don't let the criticism of him ~ off on you.*

rub sth out, remove (marks, writing, etc) by rubbing: *~ out a word/pencil marks/mistakes.*

rub sth up, polish by rubbing: *~ up the silver spoons.* **rub sb (up) the wrong way**, irritate him, make him angry.

rub-ber¹ /'rʌbə(r)/ *n* 1 [U] tough elastic substance made from the milky liquid that flows from certain trees when the bark is cut, used for making tyres, tennis balls, etc: (as an adjective) *~ trees.* 2 [C] piece of rubber material for rubbing out pencil marks, etc (also called an eraser).

rubber 'band, elastic band for keeping papers, etc together.

rub-ber² /'rʌbə(r)/ *n* [C] (in such card-games as whist and bridge) 1 three successive games between the same sides or persons. 2 the winning of two games out of three; the third game when each side has won one.

rub-bing /'rʌbɪŋ/ *n* [C] impression of something, eg an engraving, by rubbing paper laid over it with wax, etc: *'brass-~s.*

rub-bish /'rʌbɪʃ/ *n* [U] 1 waste material; that which is, or is to be, thrown away as worthless. 2 nonsense; worthless ideas: *This book/What you said is ~.* 3 (used as an exclamation) Nonsense!

'rubbish bin, a container for rubbish.

rub-bishy *adj* worthless.

rubble /'rʌbl/ *n* [U] bits of broken stone, rock or brickwork: *build roads with a foundation of ~; a building reduced to ~.*

ruby /'ru:bi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) red precious stone. *adj*, *n* [U] deep red (colour).

ruck /rʌk/ *n* [C] irregular fold or crease (esp in cloth). *vi*, *vt* be pulled, make, into rucks: *The sheets have ~ed up.*

ruck-sack /'rʌksæk/ *n* [C] canvas bag strapped on the back from the shoulders, used by people on a walking holiday, etc.

ruc-tions /'rʌkʃnz/ *n* (pl) angry words or protests: *There'll be ~ if you refuse.*

rud-der /'rʌdə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 flat, broad piece of wood or metal at the stern of a boat or ship for steering. 2 similar structure on an aircraft.

ruddy /'rʌdi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) 1 (of the face) red, as showing good health: *~ cheeks.* 2 red or reddish: *a ~ glow in the sky.* 3 (euphemism for) bloody(3).

rude /ru:d/ *adj* (-r, -st) 1 (of a person, his speech, behaviour) impolite; not showing respect or consideration: *~ words/actions.* It's

~ to interrupt/to point at people. Don't *be ~ to your teacher.* 2 startling; strong and unexpected: *get a ~ shock.* 3 roughly made; simple: *the ~ prehistoric implements.*

rude-ly *adv* in a rude manner.

rude-ness *n* [U]

ru-di-ment /'ru:dɪmənt/ *n* 1 (pl) first steps or stages (of an art or science): *learn the ~s of chemistry/grammar.* 2 [C] earliest form on which a later development is or might have developed: *A new-born chick has only the ~s of wings.*

ru-di-men-tary /,ru:dɪ'mentri/ *adj* 1 elementary: *a ~ knowledge of mechanics.* 2 undeveloped: *~ wings.*

rue /ru:/ *vt* (old use or literary) think of with sadness or regret: *You'll ~ the day when...*

rue-ful /'ru:fl/ *adj* showing, feeling, expressing, regret.

rue-fully /'ru:fəli/ *adv*

ruff /rʌf/ *n* [C] 1 ring of differently coloured or marked feathers round a bird's neck, or of hair round an animal's neck. 2 wide, stiff frill worn as a collar in the 16th century.

ruf-fian /'rʌfɪən/ *n* [C] violent, cruel young man.

ruffle /'rʌfl/ *vt*, *vi* disturb the peace, calm or smoothness of; become annoyed: *The bird ~d up its feathers. Who's been ruffling your hair? Anne is easily ~d,* easily annoyed. *□ n* 1 [C] frill used to ornament clothing at the wrist or neck. 2 [U] ruffling or being ruffled(1).

rug /rʌg/ *n* [C] 1 mat of thick material (usually smaller than a carpet): *a 'hearth-~.* 2 thick covering or blanket: *a 'travelling-~* (in a car, etc).

rugby /'rʌgbɪ/ *n* [U] kind of football using an oval-shaped ball which may be handled: *~ League*, form of rugby with thirteen players and allowing professionalism; *Rugby Union*, with fifteen players and having amateur teams only.

rug-ged /'rʌgɪd/ *adj* 1 rough; uneven; rocky: *a ~ coast.* 2 having furrows or wrinkles: *a ~ face.* 3 rough in sound, feel, behaviour, etc.

rug-ged-ly *adv*

rug-ged-ness *n* [U]

ruin /'ru:ɪn/ *n* 1 [U] destruction; overthrow; serious damage: *the ~ of her hopes; brought to ~ by gambling and drink.* 2 [U] state of being decayed, destroyed, collapsed: *The castle has fallen into ~. go to rack and ruin,* *⇒ rack*³. 3 [C] something which has decayed, been destroyed, etc: *The building is in ~.* 4 (sing only) cause of ruin: *Gambling was his ~. □ vt* cause the ruin of: *The storm ~ed the crops.*

ruin-ation /,ru:ɪ'neɪʃn/ *n* [U] being ruined; bringing to ruin: *These debts will be the ~ation of him.*

ruin-ous /-əs/ *adj* causing ruin: *~ous expenditure.*

ruin-ous-ly *adv*: *~ously expensive.*

rule /ru:l/ *n* 1 [C] law or custom which guides or controls behaviour or action: *obey the ~s of the game. It's against the ~s to handle the ball in soccer.* **by/according to rule**, according to regulations: *He does everything by ~, never uses his own judgement.* **work to rule**, pay exaggerated attention (deliberately) to regulations and so slow down output: *Instead of coming out on strike, the men decided to work to ~.* **rule of thumb**, ⇨ thumb. 2 [C] habit: *He makes it a ~ to do an hour's work in the garden every day.* **as a rule**, usually; more often than not: *He's late as a ~.* 3 [U] government; authority: *countries that were under French ~.* 4 [C] strip of wood, metal, etc. used to measure: *a 'foot-~; a 'slide-~.* □ *vi, vt* 1 govern; have authority (over): *King Charles I ~d (England) for eleven years without a parliament. Is it true that Mrs Jones ~s her husband?* 2 be guided or influenced by; have power or influence over: *Don't be ~d by your passions/ by hatred.* (Note: usually passive.) 3 give as a decision: *The chairman ~d the motion out of order/that the motion was out of order.* **rule sth out**, declare that it cannot be considered, that it is out of the question: *That's a possibility that can't be ~d out. It is something we must consider.* 4 make (a line or lines) on paper (with a ruler): *~d notepaper.* **rule sth off**, separate it, end it, by ruling a line.

ruler /'ru:lə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 person who rules or governs. 2 straight length of wood, plastic, metal, etc used in drawing straight lines or for measuring.

ruling /'ru:lɪŋ/ *adj* that rules: *his ~ passion*, that which governs his actions. □ *n* [C] (esp) decision made by a person in authority, eg a judge.

rum /rʌm/ *n* [C, U] (portion of) alcoholic drink made from sugar-cane juice.

rumble /'rʌmbəl/ *vi, vt* 1 make, move with, a deep, heavy, continuous sound: *thunder/gun-fire rumbling in the distance.* 2 make, say, in a deep voice: *~ out a few comments.* □ *n* 1 [U] deep, heavy, continuous sound: *the ~ of juggernauts through the village.*

ru-mi-nant /'ru:mɪnənt/ *n* [C], *adj* (animal) which chews the cud, eg cows, deer.

ru-mi-nate /'ru:mɪneɪt/ *vi* 1 meditate: *~ over/about/on recent events.* 2 (of animals) chew the cud.

ru-mi-na-tive /'ru:mɪnətɪv/ *adj* inclined to meditate.

ru-mi-na-tion /,ru:mɪneɪʃn/ *n* [U]

rum-mage /'rʌmɪdʒ/ *vi, vt* 1 turn things over, move things about, while looking for something: *~ (about) in a desk drawer.* 2 search thoroughly: *~ a ship*, eg by Customs officers. □ *n* [U] 1 search (esp of a ship by Customs officers). 2 things found by rummaging.

ru-mour (US = **ru-mor**) /'ru:mə(r)/ *n* 1 [U] general talk, gossip: *R~ has it that she will be*

promoted. 2 [C] (statement, report, story) which cannot be verified and is of doubtful accuracy: *There is a ~ that there will be a General Election in the autumn.* □ *vt* report by way of rumour: *He is ~ed to have escaped to Dublin.* (Note: usually passive.)

rump /rʌmp/ *n* [C] 1 animal's buttocks. 2 contemptible remnant of a parliament or similar body.

rump-steak, beefsteak cut from near the rump.

rumple /'rʌmpl/ *vt* crease; crumple: *Don't sit on my lap or you'll ~ my dress.*

rum-pus /'rʌmpəs/ *n* (sing only) (informal) disturbance; noise: *What's all this ~ about?* **kick up/make a rumpus**, cause a rumpus.

run /rʌn/ *n* [C] 1 act of running on foot: *go for a short ~ across the fields.* **at a run**, running: *He started off at a ~ but soon tired and began to walk.* **on the run**, (a) running away: *He's on the ~ from the police.* (b) continuously active and moving about: *I've been on the ~ all day.* **get/give sb a (good) run for his money**, provide him with strong competition: *We must give him a good ~ for his money.* 2 [C] outing or journey in a car, train, etc: *Can we have a trial ~ in the new car?* 3 [C] distance travelled by a ship in a specified time. 4 route taken by vehicles, ships, etc: *The bus was taken off its usual ~.* 5 series of performances: *The play had a long ~/a ~ of six months.* 6 period; succession: *a ~ of bad luck*, a series of misfortunes. **a run on a bank**, a demand by many customers together for immediate repayment.

in the 'long run, in the end: *It pays in the long ~ to buy goods of high quality.* **in the 'short run**, during a short period; at present. 7 (enclosed) space for domestic animals, fowls, etc: *a 'chicken-~.* 8 (cricket, baseball) unit of scoring, made by running over a certain course. 9 common, average or ordinary type or class: *the common ~ of mankind*, ordinary, average people; *an hotel out of the common ~*, different from, and better than, the kind one usually finds. 10 (informal) permission to make free use (of). **get/give sb the run of sth**, the permission to use it: *I have the ~ of his library.* 11 way in which things tend to move; general direction or trend: *The ~ of events is rather puzzling.* 12 (music) series of notes sung or played quickly and in the order of the scale. 13 shoal of fish in motion: *a ~ of salmon*, eg on their way upstream. 14 long hole in cloth where a thread has broken: *a ~ in my tights.* ⇨ **run**²(26).

run-of-the-¹mill, ordinary; average.

run² /rʌn/ *vi, vt* (pt *ran* /ræn/, pp ~; -nn-) (For special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 27 below; ⇨ also running.) 1 (of men and animals) move with quick steps, faster than when walking: *~ three miles; ~ fast; ~ upstairs.* *We ran to help him. Don't ~ across*

the road until you're sure it's safe. **2** escape or avoid by going away: *As soon as we appeared the boys ran off.* **3** practice running for exercise or as a sport; compete in races on foot: *Is he ~ning in the 100 metres? Is your horse likely to ~ in the Derby?* **run a race**, take part in one. **also ran** *n* person or animal unsuccessful in a race or other form of competition. **4 run for**, compete for (as a candidate): ~ for President. **5** present or nominate (for an office): *How many candidates is the Liberal Party ~ning in the General Election?* **6** (cause to) reach a certain condition or place as the result of running: *He ran second in the race.* **run oneself/sb into the ground**, exhaust oneself/a person by hard work or exercise. **7** make one's way quickly to the end of, or through or over (something). **run its course**, develop in the usual or normal way: *The disease ran its course.* **8** expose oneself to; be open to. **run the chance/danger of sth**: *You ~ the chance of being suspected of theft.* **run the risk**, ⇨ risk. **9** chase; compete with: *It was a close run thing*, (of competition, etc) The result was very close. **10** (of ships, etc) sail or steer; (of fish) swim: *The ship ran aground/on the rocks/ashore. The salmon are ~ning, swimming upstream.* **11** go forward with a sliding, smooth or continuous motion: *Sledges ~ well over frozen snow. The train ran past the signal.* **12** be in action; work freely; be in working order: *Don't leave the engine of your car ~ning.* **13** (of buses, ferry-boats, etc) journey to and fro: *The buses ~ every ten minutes.* **14** organize; manage; cause to be in operation: ~ a business/a theatre. *I can't afford to ~ a car* (= own and use one) *on my small salary.* *Who ~s his house for him now that his wife has divorced him?* **15** convey; transport: *I'll ~ you back home*, drive you there in my car. **run arms**, convey them into a country unlawfully. **run errands/messages (for sb)**, make journeys to do things, carry messages, etc. **run liquor**, smuggle it into a country. **16** cause to move quickly (in a certain direction or into a certain place): ~ one's fingers/a comb through one's hair; ~ one's eyes over a page. **17** (of thoughts, feelings, eyes, exciting news, etc) pass or move briefly or quickly: *The thought kept ~ning through my head. The pain ran up my arm. A shiver ran down his spine. The news ran like wildfire. A whisper ran through the crowd.* **18** cause (something) to penetrate (intentionally or by accident) or come into contact with: ~ a splinter into one's finger. *The drunken driver ran his car into a tree.* **19** (of liquids, grain, sand, etc) flow, drip: *The tears ran down my cheeks. Who has left the tap/water ~ning?* *His legs were covered with ~ning sores. Your nose is ~ning.* **20** (of colours, dyes) spread: *Will the colours ~ if the dress is washed?* **21** cause (a

liquid, molten metal, etc) to flow: ~ some hot water into the bowl. **22** become; pass into (a specified condition): *Supplies are ~ning short/low. I have ~ short of money. Feelings/Passions ran high*, became stormy or violent. *My blood ran cold*, I was filled with horror. **run riot**, ⇨ riot (2). **run wild**, ⇨ wild (7). **run a temperature**, become feverish. **23** extend; have a certain course or order; be continued or continuous; *shelves ~ning round the walls; a scar that ~s across his left cheek; a road that ~s across the fields. It happened several days ~ning*, several days in succession. *The play ran (for) six months*, was performed for this period of time. *The lease of my house has only a year to ~.* ⇨ running. **24** have a tendency or common characteristic; have as an average price or level: *Yellow hair ~s in the family. Inflation is ~ning high.* **25** be told or written: *So the story ran*, that is what was told or said. **26** (of woven or knitted material) become unwoven or unravelled; drop stitches through several rows: *Nylon tights sometimes ~.*

27 (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

run across sb/sth, meet or find by chance; *I ran across her in Paris last week.*

run after sb/sth, (a) try to catch: *The dog was ~ning after a rabbit.* (b) go after in order to get the attention of: *She ~s after every man in the village.*

run against sb, compete with him in a race or for an elected office.

run along, (informal) go away: *Now, children, ~ along!*

run away, leave: *The boy ran away to sea*, left home and became a sailor. **run away with sb**, (a) elope with: *The butler ran away with the duke's daughter.* (b) go at a speed too high for control: *Don't let your car ~ away with you.* (c) destroy the self-control of: *Don't let your temper ~ away with you.*

run away with sth, (a) steal: *The maid ran away with the duchess's jewels.* (b) get a clear or easy win over: *The girl from Peru ran away with the first set*, eg in a tennis tournament. **run away with the idea/notion that**, assume (too quickly that something is the case): *Don't ~ away with the idea that I can lend you money every time you need help.*

run sth back, rewind (film, tape, etc).

run down, (a) (of a clock or other mechanism worked by weights) stop because it needs winding up. (b) (of a battery) become weak or exhausted: *The battery is/has ~ down.*

run down, (of a person, his health) exhausted or weak from overwork, mental strain, etc. **run sb/sth down**, knock down or collide with: *The cyclist was ~ down by a big lorry.* **run sb down**, (a) say unkind things about: *That man doesn't like me; he's always ~ning me*

down. (b) chase and overtake: ~ down an escaped prisoner. **run sth down**, allow to become less active or occupied: ~ down a factory, do less work and employ fewer workers. Hence, **'run-down**, reduction: the ~down of the coal industry.

run for sth, ⇨ 4 above. **run for it**, avoid something by running: It's raining; let's ~ for it, ie run for shelter.

run sb in, (informal) (of the police) arrest and take to a police station. **run sth in**, bring (esp the engine of a car) into good condition by running it carefully for a time or distance: He's ~ning in his new car and doesn't do more than 50 miles an hour.

run into sb, meet unexpectedly: ~ into an old friend in the street. **run into sth**, (a) collide with: The bus got out of control and ran into a wall. (b) reach (a condition): ~ into debt/difficulties. (c) reach (a level or figure): His income ~s into five figures, is now ten thousand (pounds, dollars, etc) or more. **run sth into sth**, cause (sth) to be in collision: ~ one's car into a wall.

run off with sb/sth, go away with; steal and take away: His daughter has ~ off with a married man/with all the funds. **run sth off**, (a) cause to flow away: ~ off the water from a tank, empty the tank. (b) write or recite fluently, eg a list of names: ~ off an article for the local (news)paper. (c) print; produce: ~ off a hundred copies on the duplicating machine. (d) decide (a race) after a tie, or trial heats: When will the race be ~ off? Hence, **'run-off**, deciding race, etc after a dead heat or tie.

run on, (a) talk continuously: He will ~ on for an hour if you don't stop him. (b) elapse: Time ran on. (c) (of a disease) continue its course. **run (sth) on**, (of written letters of the alphabet) join, be joined, together: When children are learning to write, they should ~ the letters on. **run on sth**, be concerned with: Our talk ran on recent events in India.

run out, (a) go out: The tide is ~ning out. (b) (of a period of time) come to an end: When does the lease of the house ~ out? (c) (of stocks, supplies) come to an end, be exhausted; (of persons) become short of (supplies, etc): Our provisions are ~ning out. We're ~ning out of milk. Her patience is ~ning out. (d) jut out; project: a pier ~ning out into the sea. **run (sth) out**, (of rope) pass out: The rope ran out smoothly. **be run out**, (cricket) (of a batsman) have his innings ended because, while trying to make a run, he fails to reach the crease before the ball hits the bails or stump(s). **run 'out on sb**, (sl) abandon, desert: Poor Jane! Her husband has ~ out on her. **run over**, (a) (of a vessel or its contents) overflow. (b) pay a short or quick visit to: ~ over to a neighbour's house. **run over sth**, (a) review: Let's ~ over our parts again, eg

when learning and rehearsing parts in a play. (b) read through quickly: He ran over his notes before starting his lecture. **run over sb/run sb over**, (of a vehicle) (knock down and) pass over (a person, etc lying on the ground): He was ~ over and had to be taken to hospital.

run round, = run over(b).

run through sth, (a) use up (a fortune, etc) esp by foolish spending: He soon ran through the money he had inherited. (b) examine, deal with, quickly: ~ through one's post during breakfast.

run to sth, (a) reach (an amount, number, etc): That will ~ to \$50. (b) have money for; (of money) be enough for: We can't/Our funds won't ~ to a holiday abroad this year. (c) extend to: His new novel has already ~ to three impressions.

run sth up, (a) raise; hoist: ~ up a flag on the mast. (b) make quickly: ~ up a dress. (c) add up (a column of figures). (d) cause to grow quickly in amount: ~ up a big bill at a hotel. **run up against sth**, meet by chance or unexpectedly: run up against difficulties. **run up to**, amount, extend to (a figure): Prices ran up to £5 a ton.

rung¹ /rʌŋ/ n [C] 1 crosspiece forming a step in a ladder. 2 (fig) particular level in society, one's employment, etc: start on the lowest/reach the highest ~ (of the ladder).

rung² /rʌŋ/ pp of ring².

run-ner /ˈrʌnə(r)/ n [C] 1 person, animal, etc that runs: How many ~s were there in the Derby? 2 messenger, scout, etc. 3 (used as a suffix) smuggler: 'gun-~s'; 'rum-~s. 4 part on which something slides or moves along: the ~s of a sledge. 5 long piece of cloth; long piece of carpet, eg for stairs. 6 kinds of twining bean-plant, esp 'scarlet ~s; (as an adjective) ~ beans.

'runner-up, person, animal, taking second place in a race.

run-ning /ˈrʌnɪŋ/ n [U] act of a person or animal that runs, esp in racing. **make the running**, (literally and fig) set the pace. **take up the running**, take the lead. **in/out of the running**, (of competitors) having some/no chance of winning. □ **ad** 1 done, made, carried on, while or immediately after running: a ~ kick/jump/fight. 2 continuous; uninterrupted: a ~ fire of questions, coming in a continuous stream. 3 in succession: win three times ~. 4 (of water) flowing; coming from a mains supply: All bedrooms in this hotel have hot and cold ~ water. 5 (of sores, etc) with liquid or pus coming out.

'running commentary, commentary as the event occurs, eg of a football match.

'running costs, costs incurred in production (not preparation, planning).

runny /ˈrʌni/ adj (-ier, -iest) (informal) semi-

liquid; tending to run (19) or flow: *a ~ nose*.

run-way /'rʌnwei/ *n* [C] **1** specially prepared surface along which aircraft take off and land. **2** way made for rolling felled trees and logs down a hill-side.

rup-ture /'rʌptʃə(r)/ *n* [U] breaking apart or bursting; [C] instance of this. **2** [C,U] (instance of) ending of friendly relations. **3** [C] hernia. □ *vt,vi* break or burst, eg a blood-vessel; end (a connection, etc).

ru-ral /'rʊərəl/ *adj* in, of, characteristic of, suitable for, the countryside: *~ scenery/life*. > urban.

ruse /ru:z/ *n* [C] deceitful way of doing something; trick.

rush¹ /rʌʃ/ *n* [U] rapid movement toward; sudden advance; [C] instance of this: *I don't like the ~ of city life. Why all this ~, this hurry and excitement?* **2** [C] sudden demand: *the Christmas ~, the period before Christmas when crowds of people go shopping.*

the 'rush-hour, when crowds of people are travelling to or from work in a large town: (as an adjective) *We were caught in the ~-hour traffic.*

rush² /rʌʃ/ *n* [C] (tall stem of one of numerous varieties of) marsh plant with slender leafless stems, often dried and used for weaving into mats, baskets, etc.

rush³ /rʌʃ/ *vi,vt* **1** (cause to) go or come, do something, with violence or speed: *The children ~ed out of the school gates. They ~ed more soldiers to the front. ~ to conclusions*, form them (too) quickly. *~ sth through*, do it at high speed: *The new Bill was ~ed through Parliament.* **2** get through, over, into, etc by pressing eagerly or violently forward: *~ the gates of the football ground.* **3** force into hasty action: *I must think things over, so don't ~ me. ~ sb off his feet*, exhaust him. **4** (sl) charge an exorbitant price: *How much did they ~ you for this?*

rusk /rʌsk/ *n* [C] piece of bread or biscuit baked hard and crisp.

rus-set /'rʌsɪt/ *n* [U] yellowish-brown or reddish-brown colour. **2** [C] kind of apple. □ *adj* reddish brown.

rust /rʌst/ *n* [U] **1** reddish-brown coating formed on iron by the action of water and air; similar coating on other metals. **2** (plant-disease with r st-coloured spots caused by) kinds of fungus. □ *vt,vi* (cause to) become covered with rust.

rusti-ness *n* [U]

rusty *adj* (-ier, -iest) **(a)** covered with rust: *~y needles.* **(b)** in need of being polished or revised: *My German is rather ~y, needs to be practised.* **(c)** (of a person, knowledge, etc) out of date.

rus-tic /'rʌstɪk/ *adj* **1** (used in a good sense) characteristic of country people: *~ simplicity.* **2** rough; unrefined: *~ speech/manners.* **3** of

rough workmanship: *a ~ seat*, made of rough wood. □ *n* [C] countryman; peasant.

rus-ti-cate /'rʌstɪkeɪt/ *vi,vt* **1** lead a rural life. **2** (GB) send (a student) temporarily away from the university as a punishment.

rustle /'rʌsl/ *vi,vt* **1** make a gentle, light sound (like dry leaves blown by the wind); move along making such a sound: *Did you hear something rustling in the hedge?* **2** cause to make this sound: *I wish people wouldn't ~ their programmes in theatres.* **3** *rustle up*, get together, provide: *~ up some food for an unexpected guest.* □ *n* [U] gentle light sound as of dry leaves blown by the wind: *the ~ of paper.*

rust-ling /'rʌslɪŋ/ *n*, sound made by something that rustles: *the rustling of dry leaves.*

rut /rʌt/ *n* [C] **1** line or track made by wheel(s) in soft ground. **2** (fig) way of doing something, behaving, living, etc that has become established. *be in/get into a rut*, a fixed (and boring) way of living so that it becomes difficult to change. □ *vt* (-tt-) (usually in *pp*) mark with ruts: *a deeply ~ed road.*

ruth-less /'ru:θlɪs/ *adj* cruel; without pity; showing no mercy.

ruth-less-ly *adv*

rye /raɪ/ *n* [U] **1** (plant with) grain used for making flour, and as a food for cattle. **2** kind of whisky made from rye.

Ss

S, s /es/ (*pl* S's, s's /'esɪz/) the nineteenth letter of the English alphabet.

Sab-bath /'sæbəθ/ *n* day of rest, Saturday for Jews, Sunday for Christians: *to break/keep the ~*.

sab-bati-cal /sə'bætɪkəl/ *adj* of or like the Sabbath: *After this uproar there came a ~ calm.*

sabbatical year, year of freedom from routine duties given to some university teachers to enable them to travel or study.

saber /'seɪbə(r)/ ⇨ *sabre*.

sable /'seɪbl/ *n* [C] small animal valued for its beautiful dark fur; [U] fur of this animal.

sab-otage /'sæbətɑ:ʒ/ *n* [U] deliberate damaging of machinery, materials, etc or the hindering of an opponent's activity, during an industrial or political dispute, or during war. □ *vt* perform an act of sabotage against.

sab-oteur /sə'bɔ:tʃə(r)/ *n* [C] person who commits sabotage.

sable (US = **sa-ber**) /'seɪb(ə)r/ *n* [C] heavy cavalry sword with a curved blade.

'sable-toothed *adj* having teeth like sabres: *a ~ toothed tiger*.

sac /sæk/ *n* [C] skin enclosing a cavity in an animal or plant.

sac-er-do-tal /sæ'sə'dəʊtəl/ *adj* connected with priests.

sachet /'sæʃet/ US: /sæ'ʃet/ *n* [C] 1 small perfumed bag. 2 plastic bag for shampoo, etc.

sack /sæk/ *n* [C] (quantity held by a) large bag of strong material (eg coarse flax, rushes, stiffened paper) for storing and carrying heavy goods: *two ~s of potatoes*.

'sack-cloth, coarse material made of flax or hemp.

sack-ing, = sackcloth.

sack /sæk/ *n* (sing with *the*) (informal) dismissal from employment: *He got the ~ for stealing*. □ *vt* dismiss from employment.

sack /sæk/ *vt* (of a victorious army) steal from, destroy (a captured city, etc). □ *n* (usually sing with *the*) sacking of a captured town, etc: *The citizens lost everything they had during the ~ of the town*.

sack /sæk/ *n* [U] (sf) bed. **hit the sack**, go to bed.

sac-ra-ment /'sækrəmənt/ *n* [C] solemn religious ceremony in the Christian Church, eg Baptism, Confirmation, Matrimony, believed to be accompanied by great spiritual benefits.

sac-ra-men-tal /sækrə'mentl/ *adj*

sacred /'seɪkrɪd/ *adj* 1 of God; connected with religion: *a ~ building*, eg a church, mosque, synagogue or temple. 2 solemn: *hold a promise ~*. 3 (to be) treated with great respect or reverence: *In India the cow is a ~ animal*.

sac-ri-fice /'sækrɪfaɪs/ *n* 1 [U] the offering of something precious to a god; [C] instance of this; [C] the thing offered: *the ~ of an ox to Jupiter*; *kill a sheep as a ~*. 2 [C, U] the giving up of something of great value to oneself for a special purpose, or to benefit another person; [C] something given up in this way: *Parents often make ~s* (eg go without things) *for their children*. □ *vt, vi* 1 make a sacrifice (1): *sacrificing a lamb to the gods*. 2 give up as a sacrifice (2): *He ~d his life to save the drowning child*.

sac-ri-fi-cial /'sækrɪ'fiʃl/ *adj* of or like a sacrifice.

sac-ri-lege /'sækrɪlɪdʒ/ *n* [U] disrespectful treatment of, injury to, what should be sacred: *It would be a ~ to steal a crucifix from a church altar*.

sac-ri-legious /'sækrɪ'lɪdʒəs/ *adj*

sac-ro-sanct /'sækrə'sæŋkt/ *adj* 1 (to be) protected from all harm, because sacred or holy. 2 (fig) not to be treated with disrespect: *He regards his privacy as ~*.

sad /sæd/ *adj* (-der, -dest) 1 unhappy; causing unhappy feelings: *It was a ~ day for Mary*

when her mother died. Why is he looking so ~? 2 (of colours) dull.

sad-ly *adv*

sad-ness *n* [U]

sad-den /'sædn/ *vt, vi* make or become sad.

saddle /'sædl/ *n* [C] 1 leather seat for a rider on a horse, donkey or bicycle; the part of a horse's back on which the seat is placed: *a ~ of lamb*, part of its back cooked as a joint. **in the saddle**, (a) on horseback. (b) (fig) in a position of control or power. 2 line or ridge of high land rising at each end to a high point. □ *vt* 1 put a saddle on (a horse). 2 **saddle sb with sth**, put a heavy responsibility or burden on: *be ~d with a wife and ten children*.

'saddle-bag, (a) one of a pair over the back of a horse or donkey. (b) bag at the back of a bicycle saddle.

sad-dler /'sædlə(r)/, maker of saddles and leather goods for horses.

sa-dism /'seɪdɪzəm/ *n* [C] 1 kind of sexual perversion marked by getting pleasure from cruelty to other persons of either sex. 2 (informal) (delight in) excessive cruelty.

sa-dist /-ɪst/, person guilty of sadism.

sa-dis-tic /sə'dɪstɪk/ *adj* of sadism.

sa-fari /sə'fɑːrɪ/ *n* [C, U] 1 hunting expedition, overland journey, esp in E and Central Africa (where *safari* can also mean any short trip away from home). 2 organized tour (for people on holiday) to game reserves, etc. **on safari**, hunting or visiting wild animals.

safe /seɪf/ *adj* (-r, -st) 1 free from, protected from, danger: *~ from attack*. 2 unhurt and undamaged: *a ~ journey*. **safe and sound**, secure and unharmed: *return ~ and sound from a dangerous expedition*. 3 not causing or likely to cause harm or danger: *Is 120 kilometres an hour ~ on this road?* *Are these toys ~ for small children?* 4 (of a place, etc) giving security: *Keep it in a ~ place*. 5 (Parliament) that can be depended on: *Is this a ~ seat for the Tories?* Is it certain that the Tory candidate will be elected? 6 cautious; not taking risks: *They appointed a ~ man as Headmaster*. **it is safe to say**..., it can be said without risk of being proved wrong, etc. **be on the 'safe side**, take more precautions than may be necessary: *He took his umbrella to be on the ~ side*. **better, safe than 'sorry**, it is better to be cautious than to take risks.

'safe-conduct, (document giving the) right to visit or pass through a district without the risk of being arrested or harmed (esp in time of war).

'safe-deposit, building containing strong-rooms and safes which persons may rent separately for storing valuables.

'safe-guard *n* [C] condition, circumstance, etc that tends to prevent harm, give protection: *a ~ guard against death*. □ *vt* protect, guard.

'safe-keeping, care; custody: *Leave your jewels in the bank for ~-keeping while you are on holiday.*

'safe period, (in the menstrual cycle) when conception is least likely.

safe seat, ⇨ 5 above.

safe-ly *adv*

safe² /seɪf/ *n* [C] **1** fireproof and burglar-proof box in which money and other valuables are kept. **2** cool cupboard used to protect food from flies, etc: *a ~meat-~.*

safety /'seɪfəti/ *n* [U] being safe; freedom from danger: *do nothing that might endanger the ~ of other people.* **play for safety**, avoid taking risks. ⇨ road safety.

'safety belt, = seat belt.

'safety catch/ lock, device that gives safety against a possible danger (eg to prevent a gun from being fired by accident or a door being opened without the proper key).

'safety curtain, fireproof screen that can be lowered between the stage and auditorium of a theatre.

'safety first, motto used to warn that safety is important.

'safety glass, glass that does not splinter.

'safety match, one that lights only when rubbed on the side of a match-box.

'safety net, used to catch an acrobat, etc if he falls.

'safety pin, one with a guard for the point which is bent back to the head.

'safety razor, razor with a guard to prevent the blade from cutting the skin.

'safety valve, (a) valve which releases pressure (in a steam boiler, etc) when it becomes too great. (b) (fig) way of releasing feelings of anger, excitement, etc harmlessly.

saf-fron /'sæfrən/ *n* [U], *adj* orange colouring obtained from flowers of the autumn crocus, used as a dye and for flavouring.

sag /sæg/ *vi* (-gg-) sink or curve down under weight or pressure: *a ~ging roof.* □ *n* [C] (degree of) sagging: *There is a bad ~ in the seat of this chair.*

saga /'sɑ:gə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** old story of heroic deeds, esp of Icelandic or Norwegian heroes. **2** long narrative, eg a number of connected books (esp novels) about a family, social group, etc: *the Forsyte S~.* **3** (modern use) long account (of troubles, bad experiences, etc): *I had to listen to boring ~s about her holiday.*

sa-ga-cious /sə'geɪʃəs/ *adj* (formal) showing good judgement, common sense or (of animals) intelligence.

sa-ga-cious-ly *adv*

sa-gac-ity /sə'gæsəti/ *n* [U] (formal) wisdom of a practical kind.

sage¹ /seɪdʒ/ *n* [C] wise man; man who is believed to be wise. □ *adj* wise; having the wisdom of experience.

sage² /seɪdʒ/ *n* [U] herb with dull greyish-green leaves, used to flavour food: ~ and onions, stuffing used for a goose, duck, etc.

'sage-green *n* [U], *adj* colour of sage leaves.

Sag-it-ta-rius /sædʒɪ'teəriəs/ *n* the Archer, ninth sign of the zodiac.

sago /'seɪgəʊ/ *n* [U] starchy food, in the form of hard, white grains, used to make a milk pudding.

said /sed/ *pt, pp* of say.

sail¹ /seɪl/ *n* **1** [C, U] sheet of canvas spread to catch the wind and move a boat or ship forward: *hoist/lower the ~s.* **under sail**, (moving) with sails spread. **set sail (from/to/for)**, begin a voyage. **2** [C] set of boards attached to the arm of a windmill to catch the wind. **3** (*pl* unchanged) ship: *a fleet of twenty ~.* **4** [C] (rarely *pl*) voyage or excursion on water for pleasure: *go for a ~; voyage of a specified duration: How many days' ~ is it from Hull to Oslo?*

'sail-plane, aircraft that uses air currents, etc instead of engines.

sail² /seɪl/ *vi, vt* **1** move forward across the sea, a lake, etc by using sails or engine-power, move forward (in sport) across ice or a sandy beach, by means of a sail or sails: ~ *up/along the coast; ~ into harbour; go ~ing.* **2** (of a ship or persons on board) begin a voyage; travel on water by use of sails or engines: *When does the ship ~? He has ~ed for New York.* **3** travel across or on: ~ *the sea/the Pacific.* **4** (be able to) control (a boat): *He ~s his own yacht.* *Do you ~?* **5** move smoothly like a ship with sails: *The moon/clouds ~ed across the sky.*

'sail-ing-boat/-ship/-vessel, boat, etc moved by sails.

sailor /'seɪlə(r)/ *n* [C] seaman; member of a ship's crew.

saint /seɪnt *GB* usual form immediately before names: *sənt/ n* [C] **1** holy person. **2** person who, having died, is among the blessed in Heaven. **3** (abbr **St**) person who has been declared by the Church to have won by holy living on earth a place in Heaven and veneration on earth. **4** unselfish or patient person: *What a ~ my wife is!*

St Agnes 'Eve, 20th January night.

St Bernard /'bɑ:nəd *US:* bə'nɑ:rd/, large, powerful breed of dog, originally bred by monks in the Swiss Alps, trained to rescue travellers lost in snowstorms.

St Andrew's Day, 30th November (patron saint of Scotland).

St David's Day, 1st March (patron saint of Wales).

St George's Day, 23rd April (patron saint of England).

St Patrick's Day, 17th March (patron saint of Ireland).

St Valentine's Day, ⇨ Valentine.

saint-ly *adj* (also **saint-like**) very holy or

good; like, of, a saint: *a ~ly expression on his face.*

sake /seɪk/ *n* **for the sake of sb/sth; for 'my'/your/the 'country's, etc sake**, for the welfare or benefit of; because of an interest in or desire for: *He argues for the ~ of arguing, only because he likes arguing. Do it for 'my ~, only to please me.* ⇨ pity(1).

sa-laam /sə'la:m/ *n* 1 Muslim greeting (from an Arabic word) meaning 'Peace'. 2 [C] low bow. □ *vi* make a low bow.

sal-able, sale-able /'seɪləbl/ *adj* fit for sale; likely to find buyers.

sa-la-cious /sə'leɪʃəs/ *adj* (formal) (of speech, books, pictures, etc) obscene; indecent.

sa-la-cious-ly *adv*

salad /sæləd/ *n* 1 [C, U] (cold dish of) (usually uncooked) vegetables such as lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes, eaten with cheese, cold meat, etc: *a chicken ~; cold beef and ~.* ⇨ fruit salad. 2 lettuce or other green vegetables for eating raw.

'salad-days *n pl* period of inexperienced youth.

'salad-dressing, mixture of oil, vinegar, cream, etc used with salad.

'salad-oil, superior quality of olive oil.

sa-lami /sə'la:mi/ *n* [U] sausage salted and flavoured with garlic.

sal-ary /'sæləri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (weekly, monthly) payment for employment based on a total amount for a year: *a ~ of £6000 a year.* ⇨ wage.

sal-ar-ied *adj* receiving a salary; (of employment) paid for by means of a salary.

sale /seɪl/ *n* 1 [U] exchange of goods or property for money; act of selling: *The ~ of his old home made him sad.* **for sale**, intended to be sold: *Is the house for ~?* **on sale**, (of goods in shops, etc) offered for purchase. **put sth up for sale**, ⇨ put up. 2 [C] instance of selling something: *S~s are up/down this month, more/fewer goods have been sold.* 3 [C] the offering of goods at low prices for a period (to get rid of old stock, etc): *the winter/summer ~s; ~ price, low price at a sale.* 4 occasion when goods, property, etc are put up for sale by auction: *for ~ to the highest bidder; get bargains at ~s.*

'sale-room, room where goods, etc are sold by public auction.

'sales department, that part of a business company that is concerned with selling.

'sales-man, 'sales-woman, person selling goods in a shop or (on behalf of wholesalers) to shopkeepers.

'sales-man-ship /-mənʃɪp/, skill in selling goods.

'sales talk, talk (to a prospective customer) to sell goods.

'sales tax, tax payable on the sum received

for articles sold by retail.

sa-li-ent /'seɪliənt/ *adj* (formal) 1 most significant; easily noticed: *the ~ points of a speech.* 2 (of an angle) pointing outwards.

sa-line /'seɪlaɪn/ *adj* containing salt; salty: *a ~ solution*, eg as is used for gargling. □ *n* [U] solution of salt and water.

sal-iva /sə'laɪvə/ *n* [U] the natural liquid present in the mouth.

sali-vary /'sælvəri/ *US: -veri/* *adj* of or producing saliva: *the ~ glands.*

sali-vate /'sælvɪt/ *vi* secrete (too much) saliva.

sal-low /'sæləʊ/ *adj* (-er, -est) (of the human skin or complexion) of an unhealthy yellow colour. □ *vt, vi* make or become sallow: *a face ~ed by living in the tropics.*

sally /'sæli/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) 1 sudden breaking out by soldiers who are surrounded by the enemy. 2 lively, witty remark. □ *vi* 1 make a sally(1). 2 **sally forth**, go out on a journey or for a walk.

salmon /'sæmən/ *n* [C] (pl unchanged) large fish, valued for food and the sport of catching it with rod and line; [U] its flesh as food; the colour of its flesh, orange-pink.

salon /'sælən/ *n* [C] 1 assembly, as a regular event, of notable persons at the house of a lady of fashion (esp in Paris); reception room used for this purpose. 2 business offering services connected with fashion, etc: *a 'beauty-~.*

sa-loon /sə'lu:n/ *n* [C] 1 room for social use in a ship, hotel, etc: *the ship's 'dining-~.* 2 (US) = pub. 3 (GB) (also ~car) motor-car with wholly enclosed seating space for 4 or 5 passengers.

sa'loon bar, where drinks are served in a public house or inn.

salt /sɔ:lt/ *n* 1 [U] white substance obtained from mines, present in sea-water and obtained from it by evaporation, used to flavour and preserve food: *'table ~, powdered salt for use at table.* **rub salt in the wound**, (fig) make humiliation, suffering, worse. **take** (a statement, etc) **with a grain/pinch of salt**, feel some doubt whether it is altogether true. **the salt of the earth**, person(s) with very high qualities. 2 [C] (chem) chemical compound of a metal and an acid. 3 [C] experienced sailor. 4 (pl) medicine used to empty the bowels: *take a dose of (Epsom) ~s.* 5 (fig) something that gives flavour or appeal: *Adventure is the ~ of life to some men.* □ *vt* put salt on or in (food) to season it or preserve it: *~ed meat.* □ *adj* 1 (opp of fresh) containing, tasting of, preserved with, salt: *~ water.* 2 (of land) containing salt: *~ marshes.*

'salt-cellar, small container for salt at table.

'salt-~water, of the sea: *~water 'fish.*

salti-ness *n* [U]

salty *adj* (-ier, -iest) containing, tasting of, salt.

saltpetre (US = **-pe-ter**) /sɒl'tpi:tə(r)/ *n* [U] salty white powder used in gunpowder, for preserving food, etc.

sa-lu-bri-ous /sə'lju:brɪəs/ *adj* (formal) (esp of climate) health-giving: *the ~ air of Switzerland.*

salu-tary /sælju'trɪ/ US: -terɪ/ *adj* having a good effect (on body or mind): *~ exercise/advice.*

salu-tation /sælju'teɪʃn/ *n* [C,U] (formal) (act or expression of) greeting or goodwill (eg a bow or a kiss): *He raised his hat in ~.*

sa-lute /sə'lut/ *n* [C] **1** something done to welcome a person or to show respect or honour, esp (eg in the armed forces) the raising of the hand to the forehead, the firing of guns, the lowering and raising of a flag: *give a ~; fire a ~ of ten guns.* **2** friendly greeting such as a wave. □ *vt, vi* **1** give a salute (to): *The soldier ~d smartly.* **2** greet.

sal-vage /'sælvɪdʒ/ *n* [U] **1** the saving of property from loss (by fire or other disaster, eg a wrecked ship): *a ~ company*, one whose business is to bring wrecked ships to port, raise valuables from a ship that has sunk, etc. **2** property so saved. **3** payment given to those who save property. **4** (saving of) waste material that can be used again after being processed. □ *vt* save from loss, fire, wreck, etc.

sal-va-tion /sæl'veɪʃn/ *n* [U] **1** the act of saving, the state of having been saved, from sin and its consequences. **2** that which saves a person from loss, disaster, etc: *Government loans have been the ~ of several shaky businesses.*

Sal-va-tion 'Army, religious and missionary organization for the revival of religion among the masses and for helping the poor everywhere.

salve /sælv/ *n* **1** [C,U] (kinds of) oily medicinal substance used on wounds, sores or burns: *'lip-~.* **2** (fig) something that comforts wounded feelings or soothes an uneasy conscience. □ *vt* soothe: *It is pointless trying to ~ one's conscience by giving stolen money to charity.*

sal-ver /'sælvə(r)/ *n* [C] (usually silver) tray on which servants hand letters, drinks, etc.

salvo /'sælvəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or ~es) the firing of a number of guns together as a salute.

Sa-mari-tan /sə'mæɪntən/ *n* person who gives practical help to persons in trouble.

same /seɪm/ *adj, pron* (Note: always with the except as noted in 5 below.) **1** identical; unchanged; not different: *He is the ~ age as his wife. We have lived in the ~ house for fifty years.* **2 the same... that/as:** *He uses the ~ books that you do/the ~ books as you.* **3** (used with a clause introduced by *that, where, who*, etc): *Put the book back in the ~ place where you found it.* **4** (used as a pronoun) the same thing: *We must all say the ~. And I would do the ~ again.* **'Same 'here**, the same applies

to me. **And the same to you**, I hope you experience the same thing. **at the same time**, ⇨ *time*¹(6). **one and the 'same**, absolutely the same: *Jekyll and Hyde were one and the ~ person.* **be all/just the same to**, make no difference to: *You can do it now or leave it till later; it's all the ~ to me.* **come/amount to the 'same 'thing**, have the same result, meaning, etc: *You may pay cash or by cheque; it comes to the ~ thing.* **5** (with *this, that, these, those*) already thought of, mentioned or referred to: *On the Monday I didn't go to work. On that ~ day, the office was bombed.* □ *adv* in the same way: *Old people do not feel the ~ about these things as the younger generation.* **all the same**, ⇨ *all*².

same-ness, the condition of being the same, (and so being uninteresting through absence of variety).

samo-var /'sæməvə:(r)/ *n* [C] metal urn used in Russia for boiling water for tea.

sam-pan /'sæmpæn/ *n* [C] small, flat-bottomed boat used in the Far East.

sample /'sɑ:mpl/ US: 'sæm-/ *n* [C] specimen; one of a number, part of a whole, taken to show what the rest is like. □ *vt* take a sample of; test a part of: *sampling the quality of the wine.*

sana-torium /,sənə'tɔ:riəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) establishment for the treatment of people who are ill, esp convalescents.

sanc-tify /'sæŋktɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) make holy; observe as sacred.

sanc-ti-moni-ous /'sæŋktɪ'məniəs/ *adj* making a show (often insincere) of sanctity.

sanc-ti-moni-ous-ly *adv*

sanc-tion /'sæŋkʃn/ *n* **1** [U] right or permission given by authority to do something: *translate a book without the ~ of the author.* **2** [U] approval, encouragement (of behaviour, etc), by general custom or tradition. **3** [C] penalty esp as used by several States together against a country violating international law: *apply economic ~s against a country.* **4** [C] reason for obeying a rule, etc: *The best moral ~ is that of conscience.* □ *vt* give a sanction to: *Torture should never be ~ed.*

sanc-tity /'sæŋktɪti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] holiness; sacredness; saintliness: *break the ~ of an oath.* (*pl*) sacred obligations, feelings.

sanc-tu-ary /'sæŋktʃuəri/ US: -uəri/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [C] holy or sacred place, esp a church, temple or mosque. **2** [C] sacred place (eg the altar of a church) where, in former times, a person running away from the law, etc could by Church law, take refuge; place of refuge: *This little town used to be a perfect ~ for fugitives.* **3** [U] (right of offering such) freedom from arrest: *to seek/be offered ~.* **4** [C] area where by law it is forbidden to kill birds, rob their nests, etc to shoot animals, etc: *a 'bird-~.*

sand /sænd/ *n* **1** [U] (mass of) finely crushed

rock as seen on the seashore, in river-beds, deserts, etc. **2** (often *pl*) expanse of sand (on the seashore or a desert). □ *vt* **1** cover, sprinkle, with sand. **2** make smooth by using sandpaper.

'sand-bag, bag filled with sand used in groups as a defensive wall (in war, against rising flood-water, etc).

'sand-bank, bank of sand in a river or the sea.

'sand-bar, long bank of sand at the mouth of a river or harbour.

'sand-blast, *vt* send a jet of sand against eg stonework, to clean it, or against glass to make a design on it.

'sand dune, hill of sand (as in the desert).

'sand-fly, kind found on seashores.

'sand-glass, glass with two bulbs containing enough sand to take a definite time in passing from one bulb to the other.

'sand-paper, strong paper with sand glued to it, used for rubbing rough surfaces smooth. □ *vt* make smooth with sandpaper.

'sand-piper, small bird living in wet, sandy places near streams.

'sand-pit, enclosure with sand for children to play in.

'sand-stone, type of rock formed of sand.

'sand-storm, storm in a sandy desert with clouds of sand raised by the wind.

sandy *adj* (-ier, -iest) **(a)** covered with, of, sand: *a ~y beach*. **(b)** (of hair, etc) yellowish-red.

sand-al /'sændl/ *n* [C] (also a *pair of* ~s) kind of shoe made of a sole with straps to hold it on the foot.

sand-al-wood /'sændlwud/ *n* [U] hard, sweet-smelling wood; its perfume.

sand-wich /'sænwɪdʒ/ *US*: -wɪtʃ/ *n* [C] two slices of bread with meat, salad, etc between: *ham/chicken/cheese ~es*. □ *vt* put (one thing or person) between two others, esp when there is little space: *I was ~ed between two fat men on the bus*.

'sandwich-board, structure with two boards hung over the shoulders displaying advertisements.

'sandwich course, course of study, eg at a polytechnic, between periods of practical work in industry.

sane /seɪn/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** mentally healthy; not mad. **2** sensible: *a ~ policy*; *~ judgement*.

sane-ly *adv*

sang /sæŋ/ *pt* of sing.

sand-gui-nary /'sæŋgwɪnəri/ *US*: -nerɪ/ *adj* (formal) **1** with much killing or wounding: *a ~ battle*. **2** delighting in cruel acts: *a ~ ruler*.

sand-guine /'sæŋgwɪn/ *adj* (formal) **1** hopeful; optimistic: *~ of success*. **2** having a red complexion.

sani-tar-ium /'sæni'teəriəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) (*US*) sanatorium; health resort.

sani-tary /'sænitri/ *US*: -teri/ *adj* **1** clean; free from dirt which might cause disease: *~ conditions*. **2** of, concerned with, the protection of (public) health: *a ~ inspector*.

'sanitary towel/napkin, absorbent pad used during menstruation.

sani-ta-tion /'sæni'teɪʃn/ *n* [U] arrangements to protect public health, esp the disposal of sewage.

san-ity /'sænəti/ *n* [U] **1** health of mind. **2** soundness of judgement.

sank /sæŋk/ *pt* of sink².

Santa Claus /'sæntə 'klɔːz/ *US*: 'sæntə klɔːz/ *n* the person who, small children are told, brings them toys by night at Christmas.

sap¹ /sæp/ *n* [C] tunnel or covered trench made to get nearer to the enemy. □ *vt, vi* (-pp-) **1** make a sap or saps. **2** (*fig*) destroy or weaken (a person's health, strength, energy, faith, confidence, etc): *The climate ~ed his health*. *The criticism ~ed his confidence*.

sap² /sæp/ *n* [U] **1** liquid in a plant, carrying food to all parts. **2** (*fig*) (anything that provides) strength or energy.

sap-ling /'sæplɪŋ/ *n* [C] young tree.

sap-phire /'sæfəɪə(r)/ *n* **1** [C] bright blue precious stone. **2** [U] (often as an *adjective*) bright blue colour.

sar-casm /'sɑːkæzəm/ *n* [U] (use of) remarks intended to hurt the feelings; [C] such a remark.

sar-cas-tic /'sɑːkæstɪk/ *adj* of, using, sarcasm.

sar-cas-ti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

sar-copha-gus /'sɑːkɒfəgəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* -gi /-gi/ or ~es) stone coffin.

sar-dine /'sɑːdiːn/ *n* [C] small fish (usually preserved and tinned in oil or tomato sauce). **packed like sardines**, closely crowded together.

sar-donic /'sɑːdɒnɪk/ *adj* scornful; cynical: *a ~ smile*.

sar-doni-cally /-kli/ *adv*

sari /'sɑːri/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) length of cotton or silk cloth draped round the body, worn by Hindu women.

sa-rong /'sɑːrɒŋ/ *US*: -rɒŋ/ *n* [C] long strip of cotton or silk material worn round the middle of the body by Malays and Javanese.

sash /sæʃ/ *n* [C] long strip of cloth worn round the waist or over one shoulder for ornament or as part of a uniform.

sash window, one with a frame that slides up and down on ropes.

sat /sæt/ *pt, pp* of sit.

Satan /'seɪtn/ *n* the Devil.

Sa-tanic /'sætənɪk/ *US*: -ser-/ *adj* of, like, the Devil.

satchel /'sætʃəl/ *n* [C] bag with a long strap for carrying school books.

sate /seɪt/ *vi* = satiate.

sat-el-lite /'sætələɪt/ *n* [C] **1** small body mov-

ing in orbit round a planet; moon. **2** artificial object, eg a spacecraft put in orbit round a planet, etc: *communications ~*, for sending back to the earth telephone messages, radio and TV signals. **3** (*fig*) (often used as an *adjective*) person, state, depending on and taking the lead from another.

sati-able /'sɛɪjəbl/ *adj* (*formal*) that can be fully satisfied.

sati-ate /'sɛɪʃɪet/ *vt* (*formal*) satisfy fully or too much: *be ~d with food/pleasure*.

sati-ety /sə'taɪəti/ *n* [U] (*formal*) condition of being satisfied.

satin /'sætɪn *US*: 'sætən/ *n* [U] silk material shiny on one side: (as an *adjective*) *~ ribbons*. □ *adj* smooth like satin.

sat-ire /'sætəɪə(r)/ *n* 1 [U] form of writing, drama, etc making a person, idea, appear foolish or absurd. **2** [C] piece of writing that does this.

sa-tiri-cal /sə'tɪrɪkəl/ *adj*

sa-tiri-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

sat-ir-ist /'sætərɪst/ *n* [C] person who writes or uses satire.

sat-ir-ize (also **-ise**) /'sætəraɪz/ *vt* attack with satire; describe satirically.

sat-is-fac-tion /'sætɪs'fækʃn/ *n* 1 [U] the state of being satisfied, pleased or contented; act of satisfying: *have the ~ of being successful in life*. **2** [C] (with *a*, *an*, but rarely *pl*) something that satisfies: *It is a great ~ to know that he is well again*. **3** [U] (opportunity of getting) revenge or compensation for an injury or insult: *The angry man demanded ~ but the other refused it, would neither apologize nor fight*.

sat-is-fac-tory /'sætɪs'fæktəri/ *adj* 1 giving pleasure or satisfaction: *a ~ holiday*. **2** good enough for a purpose: *Will these shoes be ~ for a long walk?*

sat-is-fac-tor-ily /-əli/ *adv*

sat-is-fy /'sætɪsfai/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) 1 make contented; give (a person) what he wants or needs: *Nothing satisfies him; he's always complaining*. **2** be enough for (one's needs); be equal to (what one hopes for or desires): *~ one's hunger*. **3** make free from doubt: *He satisfied me that he would come*.

sat-is-fy-ing *adj* giving satisfaction: *a ~ing meal*.

satu-rate /'sætʃəreɪt/ *vt* 1 make thoroughly wet; soak with moisture: *We were caught in the rain and came home ~d*. **2** cause to absorb like water: *be ~d with sunshine*. **3** be unable to take any more: *The market for used cars is ~d*. **4** (*chem*) cause (one substance) to absorb the greatest possible amount of another: *a ~d solution of salt*.

satu-ra-tion /'sætʃə'reɪʃn/ *n* [U] state of being saturated.

,satu-ration point, the stage beyond which no more can be absorbed.

Sat-ur-day /'sætədɪ/ *n* the seventh and last

day of the week.

Sat-urn /'sætən/ *n* 1 (*astron*) large planet encircled by rings. **2** (in Roman myth) god of agriculture.

satyr /'sætə(r)/ *n* (Greek and Roman myth) god of the woods, half man and half animal.

sauce /sɔ:s/ *n* 1 [C,U] (kind of) (semi-)liquid preparation served with food to give flavour: *spaghetti and tomato ~*. **2** [U] (*informal*) impudence (usually more amusing than annoying): *What ~!* How rude!

sauc-ily *adv* impudently.

saucy *adj* (-ier, -iest) impudent.

sauce-pan /'sɔ:spən *US*: -pæn/ *n* [C] deep metal cooking pot with a lid and a handle.

saucer /'sɔ:sə(r)/ *n* [C] small curved dish on which a cup stands. ⇨ *flying saucer*.

sauer-kraut /'sauəkraut/ *n* [U] (*Ger*) chopped, pickled cabbage.

sauna /'saunə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) (building for a) steam bath.

saun-ter /'sɔ:ntə(r)/ *vi* walk in a leisurely way: *~ along Oxford Street window-shopping*. □ *n* [C] quiet, unhurried walk or pace.

saus-age /'sɔ:sɪdʒ *US*: 'sɔ:s-/ *n* [U] chopped up meat, etc flavoured and stuffed into a casing or tube of thin skin; [C] one section of such a tube.

'sausage-dog, (*GB informal*) = *dachshund*.

'sausage-meat, meat minced for making sausages.

'sausage 'roll, piece of sausage-meat baked in pastry.

sauté /'səuteɪ *US*: 'səu'teɪ/ *adj* (*Fr*) (of food) quickly fried in a little fat: *~ potatoes*. □ *vt* fry food in this way.

sav-age /'sævɪdʒ/ *adj* 1 in a primitive or uncivilized state: *~ people/tribes/countries*. **2** fierce; cruel: *a ~ dog/attack*; *~ criticism*. □ *n* [C] member of a primitive tribe living by hunting and fishing. □ *vt* attack, bite, etc: *a lion savaging its trainer*.

sav-age-ly *adv*

sav-agery /'sævɪdʒəri/ *n* [U] the state of being savage; savage behaviour.

sa-vanna(h) /sə'vænə/ *n* [C] treeless plain, eg in tropical America and parts of W Africa. (*Note*: compare *prairie*, N America, and *pampas*, S America.)

save /seɪv/ *vt, vi* 1 make or keep safe (from loss, injury, etc): *~ her from drowning*; *~ his life*. **save** (*one's*) *face*, ⇨ *face*¹ (2). **save one's skin**, ⇨ *skin* (1). **2** keep for future use: *~ (up) money for a holiday*; *~ some of the meat for tomorrow*. *He is saving himself/saving his strength for the swim back*. **save for a rainy day**, ⇨ *rainy*. **3** free (a person) from the need of using: *That will ~ you 50 pence a week/a lot of trouble*. **4** (in the Christian religion) set free from the power of (or the eternal punishment for) sin: *Jesus Christ came into the*

world to ~ sinners. □ *n* [C] (in football, etc) act of preventing the scoring of a goal: *Banks made such a brilliant ~ in Brazil.*

saver, (a) person who saves (money) (b) means of saving: *This device is a useful 'time-~r.*

sav-ing *adj* (esp) that compensates. **saving** *grace*, good quality in a person whose other qualities are not all good. □ *n* 1 [C] way of saving; amount saved: *a useful saving of time and money.* 2 (pl) money saved up: *keep one's savings in the post office.*

'savings account, (with a bank) on which interest is paid.

'savings-bank, bank which holds, and gives interest on, small savings.

save² /serv/ (also **sav-ing** /'serviŋ/) *prep* (dated) except: *all ~ him.*

sav-iour (US = -ior) /'seivə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 person who rescues or saves a person from danger. 2 **The S~, Our S~**, Jesus Christ.

sa-vour (US = -vor) /'seivə(r)/ *n* [C,U] 1 taste or flavour (of something): *soup with a ~ of garlic.* 2 (fig) quality (of): *His political views have a ~ of Facism.* □ *vi* have the quality (of): *His speech ~s of a humane approach.*

sa-voury (US = -vory) /'seivəri/ *adj* 1 having an appetizing taste or smell. 2 having a salt or sharp, not a sweet, taste: *a ~ omelette.* □ *n* [C] (pl -ies) savoury dish, biscuit, etc.

sa-voy /sə'vɔɪ/ *n* [C,U] (kind of) winter cabbage with wrinkled leaves.

saw¹ /sɔ:/ *pt* of see¹.

saw² /sɔ:/ *n* [C] (kinds of) tool with a sharp-toothed edge, for cutting wood, metal, □ *vi*, *vi* (pt ~ed, pp ~n /sɔ:n/ and (US) ~ed) 1 cut with, use, a saw: ~ wood; ~ a log in two. **saw sth off**, cut off with a saw: ~ a branch off a tree. **saw sth up**, cut into pieces with a saw. 2 capable of being sawn: *This wood ~ easily.*

'saw-dust, tiny bits of wood falling off when wood is being sawn.

'saw-mill, factory with power-operated saws.

saw-yer /'sɔ:jə(r)/, man whose work is sawing wood.

saxo-phone /'sæksəfəʊn/ *n* [C] brass musical wind-instrument with a reed in the mouthpiece and keys for the fingers.

sax-ophon-ist /'sæksəfənist/ US: 'sæksəfənist/, saxophone player.

say /sei/ *vi*, *vi* (3rd person, present tense **says** /sez/, *pt*, *pp* **said** /sed/) 1 make (a word or remark); use one's ordinary voice (not singing, etc) to produce (words, sentences): *Did you ~ anything? He said that his friend's name was Smith. The boy was ~ing his prayers. that is to say*, or to use other words: *He's 15, that is to ~, he's very young. to say nothing of*, ☞ nothing. **What do you say to...?** What do you think about...: *What do you ~ to a walk/ to playing tennis? When all is said and*

done, after all (the effort to convince a person): *He thinks he is brilliant but when all is said and done, he's only an ordinary student.*

You can say 'that again! (informal) I agree. **You don't say!** (informal) (used to express surprise when hearing news, etc).

go without saying, ☞ go without. **say no more**, you need not add anything because I agree. **say so**, say what you think, feel: *If you think I have lied to you, ~ so.*

say the word; **say a good word for**, ☞ word(2). 2 state: *It ~s here that he was killed. They say/It is said (that)*, (used to introduce rumours): *They ~/It's said that he's a thief.*

3 make known information: *She spoke for an hour but didn't ~ much.* 4 form and give an opinion concerning: *There is no ~ing when peace will be achieved. and so say all of us*, that is the opinion of us all. 5 estimate: *You could speak English in, let's ~, six weeks.*

be hard to say, be difficult to estimate. □ *n* (only in the following) **have/say one's say**, express one's opinion; state one's views: *Let him have his ~.*

have/be allowed a/no/not much, etc say in the matter, have some/no/not much right or opportunity to share in a discussion, express one's opinions, etc: *He wasn't allowed much ~ in choosing his holiday.*

saying /'seɪŋ/ *n* [C] remark often made; well-known phrase, proverb, etc: *'More haste, less speed', as the ~ goes.*

scab /skæb/ *n* [C] 1 dry crust formed over a wound or sore. 2 (informal) workman who refuses to join a strike, or his trade union, or who takes a striker's place.

scabby *adj* (-ier, -iest) having scabs(1).

scab-bard /'skæbəd/ *n* [C] sheath for the blade of a sword, etc.

scabies /'skeɪbi:z/ *n* [U] kind of skin disease causing itching.

scaf-fold /'skæfəʊld/ *n* [C] 1 structure put up for workmen and materials around a building which is being erected or repaired. 2 platform on which criminals are executed: *go to the ~, be executed.*

scaf-fold-ing /'skæfəldɪŋ/ *n* [U] (materials for a) scaffold(1) (eg poles and planks).

scald /skɔ:ld/ *vi* 1 burn with hot liquid or steam: ~ one's hand with hot fat. 2 clean (instruments, etc) with boiling water or steam. □ *n* [C] injury to the skin from hot liquid or steam.

scale¹ /skeɪl/ *n* 1 [C] one of the thin overlapping pieces of hard material that cover the skin of many fish, etc: *scrape the ~s off a herring.* 2 [C] piece like a scale, eg a flake of skin that loosens and comes off the body in some diseases, a flake of rust on iron. 3 [U] chalky deposit inside boilers, kettles, waterpipes, etc (from the lime in hard water). 4 [U] deposit of tartar on teeth. □ *vi*, *vi* 1 cut or scrape scales from (eg fish). 2 **scale off**, come off in flakes:

paint/plaster scaling off a wall.

scaly *adj* (-ier, -iest) covered with, coming off in, scales: *a kettle scaly with rust.*

scale² /skeɪl/ *n* [C] **1** series of marks at regular intervals for the purpose of measuring (as on a ruler or a thermometer): *It has one ~ in Centigrade and another in Fahrenheit.* **2** ruler or other tool or instrument marked in this way. **3** system of units for measuring: *the 'decimal ~.* **4** arrangement in steps or degrees: *a ~ of wages.* ⇨ *sliding scale.* **5** proportion between the size of something and the map, diagram, etc which represents it: *a map on the ~ of ten kilometres to the centimetre.* **drawn to scale**, with a uniform reduction or enlargement. **6** relative size, extent, etc: *They are preparing to demonstrate on a large ~.* **7** (music) series of tones arranged in order of pitch, esp a series of eight starting on a keynote: *practise ~s on the piano.* □ *vt* **1** make a copy or representation of, according to a certain scale: *~ a map/building.* **2** **scale up/down**, increase/decrease by a certain proportion: *All wages/marks were ~d up by 10 %.*

scale³ /skeɪl/ *n* [C] **1** one of the two pans on a balance. **2** (pl, or a pair of ~s) simple balance or instrument for weighing. **3** any machine for weighing: *bathroom ~s*, for measuring one's weight. □ *vi* weigh: *~ 10 stone.*

scale⁴ /skeɪl/ *vt* climb up (a wall, cliff, etc).

scallop /'skɒləp/ *n* [C] kind of shellfish with a hinged double shell.

scalp /'skælp/ *n* [C] skin and hair of the head, excluding the face. □ *vi* cut the scalp off.

scalpel /'skælpəl/ *n* [C] small, light knife used by surgeons.

scamp /'skæmp/ *n* [C] (dated) (used playfully of a child) rascal.

scamper /'skæmpə(r)/ *vi* (of small animals, eg mice, rabbits, when frightened, or of children and dogs at play) run quickly. □ *n* [C] short, quick run.

scampi /'skæmpi/ *n* pl (used with a *sing verb*) large prawns.

scan /skæn/ *vt, vi* (-nn-) **1** look at attentively or over every part of: *The shipwrecked sailor ~ned the horizon anxiously every morning.* **2** (modern use) glance at quickly but not very thoroughly: *He ~ned the newspaper while having his breakfast.* **3** test the rhythm of (a line of verse). **4** (of verse) be composed so that it can be scanned: *This line does not/will not ~. The verses ~ well.* **5** (TV) prepare (a picture) for transmission (by separating its elements of light and shade). **6** (radar) pass electronic beams across an area in search of something.

scan-sion /'skænsən/ *n* [U] scanning of verse; the way verse scans.

scan-dal /'skændl/ *n* **1** [C, U] (action, behaviour, etc that causes) general shock, anger, opposition; [C] shameful or disgraceful action: *The way they treat the poor is a ~.* **2** [U] care-

less or unkind talk which damages a person's reputation: *Most of us enjoy a bit of ~.*

'scandal-monger /-mæŋgə(r)/, person who gossips.

scan-dal-ize (also **-ise**) /-aɪz/ *vt* offend the moral feelings of: *~ize the neighbours by sun-bathing in the nude.*

scan-dal-ous /-əs/ *adj* (a) disgraceful; shocking. (b) (of reports, rumours) containing scandal. (c) (of persons) fond of gossiping.

scan-dal-ous-ly *adv* in a scandalous way.

scan-sion /'skænsən/ ⇨ **scan**.

scant /skænt/ *adj* (having) hardly enough: *pay ~ attention to her advice.*

scant-ily /-əli/ *adv* in a scanty manner: *~ily dressed.*

scanty *adj* (-ier, -iest) (opposite of *ample*) small in size or amount; only just large enough: *a ~y bikini.*

scap-goat /'skæpɡəʊt/ *n* [C] person blamed or punished for the mistake(s) or wrong acts of another or others.

scap-ula /'skæpjələ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) (anat) = shoulder-blade.

scar /ska:(r)/ *n* [C] **1** mark remaining on the surface (of skin, etc) as the result of injury or illness. **2** (fig) mark or effect of suffering, bad planning, etc: *Mining that leaves a ~ on the countryside.* □ *vt, vi* (-rr-) **1** mark with a scar: *a face ~red by smallpox.* **2** (fig) mark with effects of suffering, etc: *the ~s of war in many European towns.* **3** form scars: *The cut on his forehead ~red over.*

scarab /'skærəb/ *n* [C] **1** kinds of beetle, esp one regarded as sacred in ancient Egypt. **2** ornament, etc in the shape of a scarab.

scarce /skeəs/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** (opposite of *plentiful*) not available in sufficient quantity; not equal to the demand: *Jobs are ~ this month.* **2** rare: *a ~ book.*

scarce-ity /'skeəsəti/ *n* [C, U] (pl -ies) occasion, state of being scarce; smallness of supply compared with demand: *The scarcity of fruit was caused by the drought.*

scarce-ly /'skeəsl/ *adv* barely; not quite; almost not: *There were ~ a hundred people present. I ~ know him.*

scare /skeə(r)/ *vt, vi* frighten; become afraid: *The dogs ~d the thief away. He was ~d by the thunder. He ~s easily/is easily ~d. He feels ~d at night. She's ~d of the dark.* **scare sb stiff**, (informal) make him very afraid, nervous: *He's ~d stiff of women.* **scare sb out of his wits**, make him extremely frightened: *The sound of footsteps outside the door ~d her out of her wits.* □ *n* [C] feeling, state, of alarm: *The news caused a war ~, a fear that war might break out.*

'scare-crow, figure of a man in old clothes, set up to scare birds away from crops.

'scare-monger /-mæŋgə(r)/, person who

spreads alarming news.

scary /'skeəri/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (*informal*) causing alarm.

scarf /ska:f/ *n* [C] (*pl* scarves /ska:vz/ or ~s) long strip of material (silk, wool, etc) worn over the shoulders, round the neck or (by women) over the hair.

scar-ify /'skærfai/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) (in surgery) make small cuts in, cut off skin, from.

scar-let /'sko:lət/ *n* [U], *adj* bright red. **go scarlet**, blush deeply.

'scarlet fever, infectious disease with red marks on the skin.

'scarlet runner, kind of bean plant.

'scarlet woman, (*old use*) prostitute.

scarp /skɑ:p/ *n* [C] steep slope.

scat /skæt/ *int* (*dated sl*) Go away!

scath-ing /'skeɪdɪŋ/ *adj* (of criticism, etc) severe; harsh: *a ~ review of a new book*.

scath-ing-ly *adv*

scat-ter /'skætə(r)/ *vt, vi* 1 send, go, in different directions: *The police ~ed the crowd. The crowd ~ed.* 2 throw or put in various directions: *~ seed.* □ *n* [C] that which is scattered; sprinkling: *a ~ of hailstones.*

'scatter-brain, person who cannot keep his thoughts on one subject for long. Hence,

'scatter-brained *adj*

scat-tered *adj* not situated together: *a few ~ed villages.*

scatty /'skæti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (*informal*) behaving as if mad: *a ~ woman. drive sb scatty*, cause him to become mad.

scav-enge /'skævɪndʒ/ *vt, vi* act as a scavenger: *scavenging in dustbins.*

scav-en-ger /'skævɪndʒə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 animal or bird, eg a vulture, that lives on decaying flesh. 2 person who looks among rubbish for food, useful things.

scen-ario /'sɪnəriəʊ *US*: -hæ-/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) written outline of a play, an opera, a film, with details of the scenes, etc.

scene /sin/ *n* [C] 1 place of an actual or imagined event: *the ~ of a great battle. The ~ of the novel is set in Scotland.* 2 description of an incident, or of part of a person's life; incident in real life suitable for such a description: *There were distressing ~s when the earthquake occurred.* 3 (incident characterized by an) emotional outburst: *She made a ~/We had a ~ when I arrived late.* 4 view; something seen: *The boats in the harbour make a beautiful ~.*

change of scene, new surroundings. 5 (abbr **Sc**) one of the parts, shorter than an act, into which some plays and operas are divided; episode within such a part: *'Macbeth', Act II, Sc 1.* 6 place represented on the stage of a theatre; the painted background, woodwork, canvas, etc representing such a place: *The ~s are changed during the intervals.* **behind the scenes**, (a) out of sight of the audience; behind the stage. (b) (*fig*) (of a person) influ-

encing events secretly; having private or secret information and influence. **come on the scene**, (usually *fig*) appear. 7 (*informal*) area of what is currently fashionable or notable: *the 'drug ~ in big cities.*

'scene-painter, person who paints scenery (2).

'scene-shifter, person who changes the scenes (6).

scen-ery /'sɪnəri/ *n* [U] 1 general natural features of a district, eg mountains, plains, valleys, forests: *mountain ~; stop to admire the ~.* 2 the furnishings, painted canvas, etc used on the stage of a theatre.

scenic /'sɪnɪk/ *adj* of scenery: *a ~ highway across the Alps; ~ effects*, eg in a film.

sceni-cally /-kli/ *adv*

scent /sent/ *n* 1 [U] smell, esp of something pleasant: *a rose that has no ~.* 2 [C] particular kind of smell: *~s of lavender and rosemary.* 3 [U] perfume: *a bottle of ~; a ~-bottle.* 4 [C] (usually *sing*) smell left by (the track of) an animal: *follow/lose/recover the ~.* **off/on the scent**, not having/having the right clue. **put/throw sb off the scent**, (*fig*) mislead him by giving false information. 5 [U] sense of smell (in dogs): *hunt by ~.* □ *vt* 1 learn the presence of by smell: *The dog ~ed a rat.* 2 begin to suspect the presence or existence of: *~ a crime; ~ treachery/trouble.* 3 put scent on; make fragrant: *~ a handkerchief; roses that ~ the air.*

scep-ter /'septə(r)/ *n* = sceptre.

scep-tic (*US* = **skep-tik**) /'skeptɪk/ *n* [C] 1 person who doubts the truth of a particular claim, theory, belief, etc. 2 person who doubts the truth of the Christian religion or of all religions.

scep-ti-cal (*US* = **skep-**) /-kl/ *adj* in the habit of not believing, of questioning the truth of claims, statements, etc.

scep-ti-cally (*US* = **skep-**) /-kli/ *adv*

scep-ti-cism (*US* = **skep-**) /'skeptɪsɪzəm/ *n* [U] doubting state of mind, attitude.

sceptre (*US* = **scep-ter**) /'septə(r)/ *n* [C] rod or staff carried by a ruler as a symbol of power or authority.

sched-ule /'ʃedju:l/ *US*: 'skedʒəl/ *n* [C] list or statement of details, esp of times for doing things; programme or timetable for work: *a pro'duction ~, eg in a factory; a full ~, a busy programme.* **on/behind schedule**, on/not on time: *The train arrived on ~. (according) to schedule*, as planned. □ *vt* 1 make, put in, a schedule: *~d flights*, (eg of aircraft) flying according to announced timetables. ⇨ **charter** (2). 2 enter in a list of arrangements: *The President is ~d to make a speech tomorrow.*

sche-matic /'ski:mætɪk/ *adj* 1 of the nature of a scheme or plan. 2 (shown) in a diagram.

sche-mati-cally /-kli/ *adv*

scheme /skim/ *n* [C] 1 arrangement; or-

dered system: *a* 'colour ~, eg for a room, so that colours of walls, rugs, curtains, etc match. **2** plan or design (for work or activity): *a* ~ for manufacturing paper from straw. **3** secret and dishonest plan: *a* ~ to avoid paying taxes. □ *vi, vt* **1** make a (esp dishonest) scheme: *They ~d to defeat/for the overthrow of the government.* **2** make plans for (esp something dishonest): *a scheming (= crafty) young man.*

schemer, person who schemes.

schism /'sɪzəm or 'skɪzəm/ *n* [U] (offence of causing the) division of an organization (esp a Church) into two or more groups; [C] instance of such separation.

schis-matic /sɪz'mætɪk or skɪz'mætɪk/ *adj*

schizo-phrenia /ʃkɪtsəʊ'frɪniə/ *n* [U] type of mental disorder with no association between the intellectual processes and actions.

schizo-phrenic /ʃkɪtsəʊ'frenɪk/ *adj* of, suffering from, schizophrenia. □ *n* [C] person suffering from schizophrenia.

schnor-kel /'snɔːkl/ *n* = snorkel.

scholar /'skɒlə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (dated) boy or girl at school. **2** student who, after a competitive examination or other means of selection, is awarded money or other help so that he may attend school or college: *British Council ~s.* **3** person with much knowledge (usually of a particular subject): *Professor X, the famous Greek ~.* **4** (informal) person able to read and write: *I'm not much of a ~.*

schol-ar-ly *adj* having or showing much learning; of or suitable for a scholar(3); fond of learning: *a ~ly translation/young woman.*

schol-ar-ship /'skɒləʃɪp/ *n* **1** [U] learning or knowledge obtained by study; proper concern for scholarly methods. **2** [C] payment of money, eg a yearly grant to a scholar(2) so that he may continue his studies: *win a ~ to the university.*

schol-as-tic /skə'læstɪk/ *adj* **1** (dated) of schools and education: *the ~ profession, teaching.* **2** connected with the learning of the Middle Ages, esp when men argued over small points of dogma.

school /'skuːl/ *n* **1** [C] institution for educating children: *'primary and 'secondary ~s.* **2** (not with *the, a* or *an*) process of being educated in a school: *'~ age, between the ages of starting and finishing school. Is he old enough for ~/to go to ~? He left ~ when he was fifteen.* **3** (not with *the, a* or *an*) time when teaching is given; lessons: *S~ begins at 9am. There will be no ~ (= no lessons) tomorrow.* **4** (with *the*) all the pupils in a school: *The whole ~ hopes that its football team will win.* **5** [C] department or division of a university for the study of a particular subject: *the 'Law/ 'Medical S~; the S~ of Dentistry.* **6** [C] (GB) branch of study for which separate examinations are given in a university: *the 'History ~.* **7** [C] (fig) circumstances or occupation that

provides discipline or instruction: *the hard ~ of experience.* **8** [C] group of persons who are followers or imitators of an artist, a philosopher, etc: *the 'Dutch ~ of painting. the same school of thought, the same way of thinking; agreement.* **9** [C] group of persons having the same characteristics. ⇨ old school. □ *vt* train; control; discipline: *~ a horse; ~ one's temper.*

'school-bag, for carrying school books, equipment.

'school-book, (dated) textbook.

'school-boy, boy at school: (used as an adjective) *~boy slang.*

'school-days, time of being at school: *look back on one's ~-days with pleasure.*

'school-girl, girl at school.

'school-house, building of a school in a village.

school-ing, education (the usual word): *He had very little ~ing.*

'school-master/-mistress, teacher (esp in a private or old-fashioned school).

'school-mate, boy, girl, at the same school.

'school teacher, person who teaches in a school.

'school-time, lesson time at school.

school² /'skuːl/ *n* [C] large number (of fish) swimming together.

schoo-ner /'skuːnə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** kind of sailing-ship with two or more masts. **2** tall drinking-glass.

schwa /'ʃwɑː/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) the symbol /ə/ as used in phonetic notation.

science /'saɪəns/ *n* **1** [U] knowledge arranged in an orderly manner, esp knowledge obtained by observation and the testing of facts; effort to find such knowledge: *S~ is an exact discipline, demands complete accuracy and precision.* **2** [C,U] branch of such knowledge, eg physics. *study ~/the ~s at school.* ⇨ applied / natural / political / physical / social science. ⇨ also art¹(2).

'science 'fiction, stories about recent or imagined scientific discoveries and advances.

scien-tist /'saɪəntɪst/, student of, expert in, one of the natural or physical sciences.

scien-ti-fic /'saɪəntɪfɪk/ *adj* of, for, connected with, used in, science; guided by the rules of science: *~ methods; ~ instruments.*

scien-ti-fi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

scimi-tar /'sɪmɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] oriental, curved sword.

scin-til-late /'sɪntɪlət/ *vi* **1** sparkle. **2** (fig) talk cleverly: *scintillating conversation.*

scin-til-la-tion /'sɪntɪ'leɪʃn/ *n* [U]

scis-sors /'sɪzəz/ *n pl* (also a pair of ~s) instrument with two blades which cut as they come together: *Where are my ~?*

scoff¹ /skɒf US: skɒf/ *vi* say disrespectful things, eg about religion. □ *n* [C] **1** scoffing remark. **2** object of ridicule.

scoffer, person who scoffs.

scoff /skɒf/ US: skɔ:f/ *vt* (sf) eat greedily: *Who's ~ed all the pastries?*

scold /skəʊld/ *vt, vi* **1** blame with angry words: ~ a child for being lazy. **2** complain: *She's always ~ing.* □ *n* [C] woman who scolds.

scolding *n* [C] complaint using angry words: *get/give her a ~ing for being late.*

scold-lop /'skɒləp/ *n* = scallop.

scone /skɒn/ US: skəʊn/ *n* [C] soft, flat cake of oatmeal or flour, etc baked quickly.

scoop /sku:p/ *n* [C] **1** (sorts of) short-handled tool like a shovel for taking up and moving quantities of grain, flour, sugar, etc. **2** motion of, or as of, using a scoop: *at one ~*, in one single movement of a scoop. **3** (informal) piece of news obtained and published by one newspaper before its competitors. **4** (commerce) large profit from sudden luck. □ *vi* **1** **scoop sth out/up**, lift with, or as with, a scoop. **2** make (a hole, groove, etc) with, or as with, a scoop: ~ out a hole in the sand. **3** (informal) get (news, a profit, etc) as a scoop(3): *He ~ed the market.*

scoot /sku:t/ *vi* (informal) = scam.

scooter /'sku:tə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (also 'motor-~) motor-bike with a low seat and a small engine. **2** child's toy, an L-shaped vehicle with small wheels, one foot being used to steer it and the other to move it by pushing against the ground.

scope /skəʊp/ *n* [U] **1** opportunity: *work that gives ~ for one's abilities.* **2** range of action or observation: *Economics is beyond the ~ of a child's mind.*

scorch /skɔ:tʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** burn or discolour the surface of (something) by dry heat; cause to dry up (and die): *You ~ed my shirt when you ironed it. The long, hot summer ~ed the grass.* **2** become discoloured, etc with heat. □ *n* [C] brown mark on the surface of something (esp cloth) made by dry heat.

scorcher, something that scorches: *Yesterday was a ~er*, a very hot day.

scorching *adj* very hot. □ *adv*: ~ing hot, extremely hot.

score ¹ /skɔ:(r)/ *n* [C] **1** cut, scratch or notch made on a surface: ~s on rock. **2** mark made by whipping. **3** *pay/settle an old score*, get even with a person for past offences; have one's revenge: *I have some old ~s to settle with him.* **4** (record of) points, goals, runs, etc made by a player or team in sport: *The ~ in the tennis final was 6-4, 3-6, 7-5. The half-time ~ (eg football) was 2-1.* **keep the score**, keep a record of the score as it is made. **5** reason; account. *on 'that score*, as far as that point is concerned: *You need have no anxiety on that ~.* **6** copy of orchestral, etc music showing what each instrument is to play, each voice to sing: *follow the ~ while listening to music.* **7** twenty; set of twenty: *a ~ of people*,

three ~ and ten, 70, the normal length of human life according to the Bible. **scores of times**, very often. **8** (sf) remark or act by which a person gains an advantage for himself in an argument, etc: *a politician who is clever at making ~s off opponents.*

'score-board/-book/-card, one on which the score is recorded.

score ² /skɔ:(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** mark with scratches, cuts, lines, etc: *Don't ~ the floor by pushing heavy furniture about. The composition was ~d with corrections in red ink.* **score out**, draw a line or lines through: *Three words had been ~d out.* ⇨ **score** ¹ (1). **2** make or keep a record (esp for games): *Who's scoring?* **3** make as points in a game: ~ a goal; ~ a century, 100 runs at cricket; ~ tricks, when playing card-games. **score an advantage over**, win one. **score a point (over sb)**, = score off sb. **4** *score off sb*, (informal) defeat him in an argument; make a clever response. **5** enter as a record: *That remark will be ~d up against you*, will be remembered (and, perhaps, be revenged). **6** write instrumental or vocal parts for a musical composition: ~d for violin, viola and cello. ⇨ **score** ¹ (6).

scorer, (a) person who keeps a record of points, goals, runs, etc scored in a game. (b) player who scores runs, goals, etc.

scorn /skɔ:n/ *n* [U] **1** feeling that a person or thing deserves no respect: *be filled with ~ for her; dismiss a suggestion with ~.* **laugh sb/sth to scorn**, laugh in a manner showing that he/it is inferior, worthless. **2** object of scorn: *He was the ~ of the village.* □ *vi* feel or show disrespect, disregard, for; refuse (to do something because it is unworthy): *He ~ed my advice. She ~s lying/telling lies to tell a lie.*

scorn-ful /-fl/ *adj* showing or feeling scorn: *a ~ful smile.*

scorn-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

Scorpio /'skɔ:piəʊ/ *n* the Scorpion, eighth sign of the zodiac.

scorpion /'skɔ:pɪən/ *n* [C] small animal of the spider group with a poisonous sting in its long, jointed tail.

Scot /skɒt/ *n* [C] native of Scotland.

scot-free /'skɒt 'fri:/ *adj* unharmed, unpunished: *He went/got off ~.*

Scotch /skɒtʃ/ *adj* of Scotland: ~ whisky, the kind distilled in Scotland. □ *n* [C, U] (portion of) Scotch whisky.

Scotch egg, boiled egg fried in sausage-meat.

Scots /skɒts/ *n* [C], *adj* ⇨ Scot.

'Scots-man /-mən/, **-woman** /-wəmə/, native of Scotland.

Scot-tish /'skɒtɪʃ/ *adj* of, from, Scotland: ~ music.

scoundrel /'skaʊndrəl/ *n* [C] person who does wicked things.

scour ¹ /'skauə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** make (a dirty sur-

(face) clean or bright by using a rough cloth, pad of wire, with soap, sand, etc: *~ the pots and pans*; *~ out a saucepan*, clean the inside. **2** get rid of (rust, marks, etc) by rubbing, etc: *~ the rust off/away*. **3** clear out (a channel, etc) by flowing over or through it: *The torrent ~ed a channel down the hillside*. □ *n* [C] act of scouring.

scourer, pad of stiff nylon or wire for cleaning pots and pans.

scour² /'skaʊə(r)/ *vt, vi* look everywhere for: *The police ~ed London for the thief|were ~ing about*.

scourge /skɑ:dʒ/ *n* [C] **1** (old use) whip. **2** (modern use) (fig) cause of suffering: *After the ~ of war came the ~ of disease*. □ *vt* **1** (old use) whip. **2** (fig) cause suffering to.

scout /skaʊt/ *n* [C] **1** person, ship or small, fast aircraft, sent out to get information about the enemy. **2 S** ~ member of an organization of boys intended to develop character and teach self-reliance, discipline and social awareness. **3** patrolman helping motorists who are members of a motoring organization. **4** person employed to look out for talented performers (in sport, etc) and recruit them for his employer(s): *a ~ talent ~*. □ *vi* **scout about/around (for sb/sth)**, go about looking for.

'scout-master, officer who leads a troop of Scouts.

scowl /skaʊl/ *n* [C] bad-tempered look (on the face). □ *vi* look in a bad-tempered way: *The prisoner ~ed at the judge*.

scrabble /'skræbl/ *vi* **scrabble about (for sth)**, grope about to find or collect.

scrag /skræg/ *n* [C] **1** lean, skinny person or animal. **2** (also ~'end) bony part of a sheep's neck, used to make soup.

scraggy *adj* (-ier, -iest) thin and bony.

scram /skræm/ *vi* (-mm-) (*sl*) (used as an imperative) Go away quickly!

scramble /'skræmbəl/ *vi, vt* **1** climb (with difficulty) or crawl (over steep or rough ground): *~ up the side of a cliff|over a rocky hillside*. **2** struggle with others to get something: *The players were scrambling for possession of the ball*. **3** cook (eggs) by beating them and then heating them in a saucepan with butter and milk. **4** make a message sent by telephone, etc unintelligible. □ *n* [C] **1** walk, motor-bike competition or trial, over or through obstacles, rough ground, etc. **2** rough struggle: *There was a ~ for the best seats*.

scrap¹ /skræp/ *n* [C] small (usually unwanted) piece: *~s of paper|broken glass*. **2** (fig) small amount: *not a ~ of truth in her statement*. **3** [U] waste or unwanted articles, esp those of value only for the material they contain: *He offers good prices for ~*. **4** (pl) bits of uneaten food: *Give the ~s to the dog*. **5** [C] picture or paragraph cut out from a periodical,

etc for a collection. □ *vt* (-pp-) **1** throw away as useless or worn-out: *You ought to ~ that old bicycle and buy a new one*. **2** reject a plan, idea, etc: *This idea won't work, let's ~ it*.

'scrap-book, book of blank pages on which to paste scraps(5).

'scrap heap, pile of waste or unwanted material or articles. **throw sth/sb on the scrap heap**, reject it/them as no longer wanted.

'scrap-iron, things made of iron to be sold for scrap(3).

scrappy *adj* (-ier, -iest) **(a)** made up of bits or scraps. **(b)** not complete or properly organized: *a ~ idea*.

scrap² /skræp/ *n* [C] (dated informal) fight, quarrel (between children). □ *vi* (-pp-) fight; quarrel.

scrape /skreip/ *vt, vi* **1** make clean, smooth or level by drawing or pushing the hard edge of a tool, or something rough, along the surface; remove (mud, grease, paint, etc) in this way: *~ the rust off a nail; ~ paint from a door*. **2** injure or damage by rubbing, etc: *The boy fell and ~d (the skin off) his knee*. *He ~d the side of his car*. **3** make by scraping: *~ (out) a hole*. **4** go, get, pass along, touching or almost touching: *branches that ~ against the window*. **scrape through (sth)**, only just pass: *The boy just ~d through (his exams)*. **bow and scrape**, (fig) behave with exaggerated respect. **5** obtain by being careful, or with effort: *We managed to ~ together an audience of fifty people|enough money for a short holiday*. **scrape a living**, with difficulty make enough money for a living. □ *n* [C] **1** act or sound of scraping: *the ~ of a fork across a plate*. **2** place that is scraped; injury: *a bad ~ on the elbow*, eg because of a fall. **3** awkward situation because of foolish or thoughtless behaviour: *That boy is always getting into ~s*.

scraper, tool used for scraping, eg for scraping paint from woodwork.

scrappy /'skræpi/ *adj* ⇨ **scrap¹**.

scratch¹ /skrætʃ/ *n* [C] mark, cut, injury, sound, made by scratching(1): *It's only a ~, a very small injury*. *He escaped without a ~, quite unhurt*. **2** (sing only) act or period of scratching(5): *The dog enjoys having a good ~*. **3** (sing only without the, a or an) starting line for a race. **start from scratch**, (fig) **(a)** start at the beginning, without being allowed any advantage(s). **(b)** begin (something) without preparation. **be/come/bring sb up to scratch**, (fig) be ready/get him ready to do what is expected or required: *Will you be up to ~ for the examination?* **4** (as an adjective) brought together, done, made, with whatever or whoever is available: *a ~ team*.

scratchy *adj* (-ier, -iest) **(a)** (of writing, drawings) done carelessly. **(b)** (of a pen) making a scratching noise.

scratch ²/skrætʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** make lines on or in a surface with something pointed or sharp, eg fingernails, claws: *This cat ~es. Who has ~ed the paint?* **scratch the surface**, (fig) deal with a subject without getting deeply into it: *The teacher merely ~ed the surface of the subject.* **2** get (oneself, a part of the body) scratched by accident: *He ~ed his hands badly on a rose-bush.* **3** draw a line or lines through a word or words, a name, etc: *~ out his name from the list.* **4** withdraw (a horse, a candidate, oneself) from a competition: *The horse was ~ed.* **5** scrape or rub (the skin), esp to stop itching: *~ mosquito bites. Stop ~ing (yourself).* **scratch one's head**, show signs of being puzzled. **6** make by scratching: *~ (out) a hole.* **7** make a scraping noise: *This pen ~es.* **8** tear or dig with the claws, fingernails, etc in search of something: *The chickens were ~ing about in the yard.*

scrawl /skrɔ:l/ *vi, vt* write or draw quickly or carelessly; make meaningless marks: *He ~ed a few words on a postcard to his wife. Who has ~ed all over this wall?* **1** [C] piece of bad writing; hurried note or letter. **2** (sing only) shapeless, untidy handwriting: *His signature was an illegible ~.*

scrawny /'skrɔ:ni/ *adj* (-ier, iest) thin and bony.

scream /skri:m/ *vi, vt* **1** (of humans, birds, animals) give a loud, sharp cry or cries of, or as of, fear or pain: *The baby has been ~ing for an hour.* **2** shout in a high voice: *She ~ed out that there was a burglar under the bed.* **scream with laughter**, laugh noisily. **3** (of the wind, machines, etc) make a loud, high noise: *The wind ~ed through the trees.* **1** [C] **1** loud, high, cry or noise: *~s of pain/laughter.* **2** (informal) person or thing that causes screams of laughter: *He/It was a perfect ~.*

scree /skri:/ *n* [C, U] (part of a mountain-side covered with) small loose stones.

screech /skri:tʃ/ *vi, vt* **1** make a harsh, piercing sound: *The brakes ~ed as the car stopped.* *The car ~ed to a halt.* **2** scream (as) in anger or pain: *monkeys ~ing in the trees.* **1** [C] screeching cry or noise: *the ~ of tyres on wet roads.*

screed /skri:d/ *n* [C] long, dull letter or speech.

screen /skrin/ *n* [C] **1** (often movable) upright framework (some made so as to fold), used to divide a room, protect from draughts, etc. **2** (in a church) structure of wood or stone separating (but not completely) the main part of the church and the altar, or the nave of a cathedral and the choir. **3** anything that is or can be used to give shelter or protection from observation, the weather, etc: *a ~ of trees*, hiding a house from the road; *a 'smoke-~*, used in war to hide ships, etc from the enemy. **4** white or silver surface on to which film

transparencies, cinema films, TV pictures, etc are projected. **5** surface on which an image is seen on a cathode ray tube (as in a television set). **6** frame with fine wire netting ('window ~, 'door ~) to keep out flies, mosquitoes, etc. **1** *vi, vi* **1** shelter, hide, protect, with a screen: *The trees ~ our house from public view.* **2** (fig) protect from blame, discovery, punishment: *I'm not willing to ~ you from blame.* **3** investigate (a person's) history, eg when applying for a position in government service, in order to judge his loyalty, dependability, etc. **4** show (an object, a scene) on a screen (**4**, **5**).

'screen-play, script of a film.

'screen-test, test of a person's suitability for acting in films.

'screen-ing, (a) wire netting for a screen (**6**). (b) process of screening (**3**).

screw /skru:/ *n* [C] **1** metal peg with slotted head and a spiral groove cut round its length, driven into wood, metal, etc by twisting under pressure, for fastening and holding things together. **2** something that is turned like a screw and is used for producing pressure, tightening, etc. **put the screws on**, (informal) use pressure, especially to intimidate. **3** action of turning; turn: *This isn't tight enough yet; give it another ~.* **4** (also '~-propeller) propeller of a ship: *a twin-~ steamer.* **5** (sl) prison warder. **1** *vi, vi* **1** fasten or tighten with a screw: *~ a lock on a door; ~ down the lid of a coffin.* **have one's head screwed on (the right way)**, be sensible, show good judgement. **2** twist round; make tight, tense or more efficient: *~ a lid on/off a jar; ~ up one's face/features/eyes*, contract the muscles, eg when going out into bright sunshine from a dark room. **screw up one's courage**, become brave because determined. **3** (esp fig) force (out of): *~ more taxes out of the people.* **4** **screwed up**, (sl) very confused; mentally disturbed.

'screw-driver, tool for turning a screw (**1**).

screwy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (informal) crazy; absurd.

scribble /'skribl/ *v, vi* **1** write quickly or carelessly. **2** make meaningless marks on paper, etc. **1** [U] careless handwriting; [C] something scribbled.

scrib-ble /'skriblə(r)/, person who scribbles.

scribe /skraib/ *n* [C] **1** person who, before the invention of printing, made copies of writings, eg in monasteries. **2** (among the Jews in olden times) maker and keeper of records; teacher of Jewish law (at the time of Jesus Christ).

script /skript/ *n* **1** [U] handwriting; printed characters in imitation of handwriting. **2** [C] (short for) manuscript or typescript.

'script-writer, person who writes scripts for radio, TV, films.

scrip-ture /'skriptʃə(r)/ *n* **1** **The (Holy) S~s**, the Bible; (as an adjective) taken from,

relating to, the Bible: *a* ¹ ~ *lesson*. **2** sacred book of a religion other than Christianity.

scrip-tural /'skriptʃərəl/ *adj* based on the Bible.

scroll /skrəʊl/ *n* [C] **1** roll of paper or parchment for writing on; ancient book written on a scroll. **2** ornamental design cut in stone like the curves of a scroll.

scro-tum /'skrəʊtəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) pouch of skin enclosing the testicles in mammals.

scrounge /skraʊndʒ/ *vi, vt* (*informal*) get what one wants by taking it without permission, borrowing or by trickery.

scrounger, person who scrounges.

scrub¹ /skrʌb/ *n* [U] (land covered with) trees and bushes of poor quality.

scrub² /skrʌb/ *vt, vi* (-bb-) **1** clean by rubbing hard, esp with a stiff brush, soap and water: ~ *the floor*. **2** cancel; ignore: ~ (out) *an order*. *□ n* [C] act of scrubbing: *The floor needs a good ~*.

'scrub-bing-brush, stiff brush for scrubbing floors, etc.

scruff /skrʌf/ *n* (only in) **the scruff of the neck**, (clothes near) the back of the neck when used for grasping.

scruffy /'skrʌfi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (*informal*) dirty, untended and untidy looking.

scrum /skram/ *n* [C] (abbr of) scrummage.

'scrum 'half, (*rugby*) the half-back who puts the ball into the scrum.

scrum-mage /'skramɪdʒ/ *n* [C] (*rugby*) the play when the forwards of both sides pack together with their heads down while the ball is thrown into the middle of them; all those forwards when such play occurs.

scruple /'skru:pl/ *n* [C, U] (feeling of doubt caused by a) troubled conscience: *Have you no ~s about borrowing things without permission?* *□ vi* hesitate owing to scruples: *He doesn't ~ to tell a lie if he thinks it useful.* (Note: usually *negative*.)

scru-pu-lous /'skru:pjʊləs/ *adj* careful to do nothing morally wrong; paying great attention to small points (esp of conscience): *A solicitor must act with ~ honesty.*

scru-pu-lous-ly *adv* in a scrupulous manner.

scru-ti-nize (also -ise) /'skru:tinaɪz/ *vt* make a detailed examination of.

scru-tiny /'skru:tɪni/ *US*: -tani/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] thorough and detailed examination; [C] instance of this. **2** [C] official examination of votes, esp a re-count: *demand a ~*.

scuff /skʌf/ *vi, vt* **1** walk without properly lifting the feet from the ground. **2** wear out or scrape (shoes, etc) by walking in this way: ~ *one's shoes*.

scuffle /'skʌfl/ *vi, n* [C] (take part in a) rough fight or struggle: *police scuffling with demonstrators*.

scull /skʌl/ *n* [C] **1** one of a pair of oars used by a rower. **2** oar worked at the stern (back) of a boat with twisting strokes. *□ vt, vi* move, row,

(a boat) with sculls.

scul-ler, person who sculls.

scul-lery /'skʌləri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) room in a large house next to the kitchen, where dishes, pots, etc are washed up.

'scullery-maid, servant who helps the cook by washing up dishes, etc.

sculpt /skʌlpt/ *vt, vi* = sculpture.

sculp-tor /'skʌlptə(r)/ *n* [C] artist who sculpts.

sculp-tress /'skʌlptɪs/ *n* [C] woman who sculpts.

sculpt-ure /'skʌlptʃə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] art of making representations in stone, wood, metal, etc by carving or modelling. **2** [C, U] (piece of) such work. *□ vt, vi* **1** represent in, decorate with, sculpture: ~ *a statue out of stone*; ~ *d columns*. **2** be a sculptor.

scum /skʌm/ *n* [U] **1** froth which forms on the surface of some boiling liquids; dirt on the surface of a pond or other area of still water. **2** **the ~**, (*fig*) the worst, or seemingly worthless, section (of the community, etc).

scup-per /'skʌpə(r)/ *n* [C] opening in a ship's side to allow water to run off the deck. *□ vt* **1** sink a ship deliberately. **2** (*informal*) (usually *passive*) ruin; disable: *We're ~ed!*

scurf /'skɜ:f/ *n* [U] small bits of dead skin, esp on the scalp.

scurfy *adj* having, covered with, scurf.

scur-ri-lous /'skʌrɪləs/ *adj* using, full of, violent words of abuse: ~ *attacks on the Prime Minister*.

scurry /'skʌri/ *US*: 'skəri/ *vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) run with short, quick steps; hurry: *The rain sent everyone ~ing about~ing for shelter*. *□ n* **1** [U] act or sound of scurrying: *There was a ~ towards the bar*. **2** [C] windy shower (of snow); cloud (of dust).

scurvy /'skɜ:vi/ *n* [U] diseased state of the blood caused by eating too much salt meat and not enough fresh vegetables and fruit.

scuttle¹ /'skʌtl/ *n* [C] (also 'coal-~) container for a supply of coal at the fireside.

scuttle² /'skʌtl/ *vi* **scuttle off/away**, = scurry. *□ n* [C] hurried departure.

scuttle³ /'skʌtl/ *n* [C] small opening with a lid, in a ship's side or on deck or in a roof or wall. *□ vt* cut holes in, open valves in, a ship's sides or bottom to sink it: *The captain ~d his ship to avoid its being captured by the enemy*.

scythe /saɪð/ *n* [C] tool with a curved blade on a long wooden pole with two short handles, for cutting long grass, grain, etc. *□ vt* use a scythe.

sea /si:/ *n* **1** **the ~**, expanse of salt water that covers most of the earth's surface; any part of this (in contrast to areas of fresh water and dry land): *Ships sail on the ~*. *The ~ covers nearly three-quarters of the world's surface*. **on the sea**, on the coast: *Brighton is on the ~*. **2** (*pl*) same sense as **1** above. **the high seas**, ⇨

high¹. **3** (in proper names) particular area of sea which is smaller than an ocean: *the Caspian S~; the S~ of Galilee*. **4** (in various phrases without *the, a* or *an*) **at sea**, away from, out of sight of, the land: *He was buried at ~*. **all/completely at sea**, (fig) puzzled: *He was all at ~ when he began his new job*. **by sea**, in a ship: *travel by ~ and land*. **go to sea**, become a sailor. **put to sea**, leave port or land. **5** (with *a, an* or in *pl*) local state of the sea swell of the ocean; big wave or billow: *There was a heavy ~*, large waves. **6** large quantity or expanse (of): *a ~ of up-turned faces*, eg crowds of people looking upwards.

sea ¹*air*, air at the seaside, considered to be good for health.

sea-anemone, popular name for a sea-creature like a flower.

sea-animal, animal living in the sea, eg fish, mammals, molluscs, etc.

sea-bathing, bathing in the sea.

sea-bed, floor of the sea

sea-bird, any bird which lives close to the sea, ie on cliffs, islands, etc.

sea-board, coastal region.

sea-borne *adj* (of trade) carried in ships.

sea-breeze, breeze blowing inland from the sea.

sea-faring /-fearɪŋ/ *adj* of work or voyages on the sea: *a ~faring man*, a sailor.

sea-fish, fish living in the sea.

sea-food, edible fish or shellfish from the sea.

sea-front, part of a town facing the sea.

sea-god, god living in or having power over the sea, eg *Neptune*.

sea-going *adj* (a) (of ships) built for crossing the sea, not for coastal voyages only. (b) (of a person) seafaring.

sea-green *adj*, n [U] bluish-green.

sea-gull, common seabird with long wings.

sea-horse, small fish with a head like a horse.

sea-legs, ability to walk on the deck of a moving ship: *get/find one's ~-legs*.

sea-level, level of sea halfway between high and low tide as the basis for measuring height of land and depth of sea: *100 metres above/below ~-level*.

sea-lion, large seal of the N Pacific Ocean.

sea-man /-mən/, (a) (in the Navy) rating, not an officer. (b) person expert in nautical matters.

sea-man-ship, skill in managing a boat or ship.

sea mile, nautical mile.

sea-plane, aircraft designed so that it can come down on and rise from water.

sea-port, town with a harbour used by sea-going ships.

sea-power, ability to control and use the seas (by means of naval strength).

sea-scape, picture of a scene at sea. ⇨ *landscape*.

sea-shell, shell of any shellfish living in the sea.

sea-shore, land nearest the sea.

sea-sick *adj* (feeling) sick from the motion of a ship.

sea-side, (often used as an *adjective*) place, town, etc by the sea, esp a holiday resort: *go to the ~side; a ~side town*.

sea-urchin, small sea-animal with a shell covered with long sharp points.

sea-wall, wall built to stop the sea from approaching the land.

sea-water, water from the sea.

sea-weed, kinds of plant growing in the sea, esp on rocks washed by the sea.

sea-ward /-wəd/ *adj* towards the sea; in the direction of the sea.

sea-wards /-wədz/ *adv*

sea-worthy *adj* (of a ship) fit for a voyage.

seal¹ /si:l/ *n* [C] kinds of mammals of the sea with fur and flippers. □ *vi* hunt seals.

seal-skin, skin of a seal.

seal² /si:l/ *n* [C] **1** piece of wax, lead, etc stamped with a design, attached to a document to show that it is genuine, or to a letter, packet, box, bottle, door, etc to guard against its being opened by unauthorized persons. **2** something used instead of a seal(1), eg a paper disc stuck to, or an impression stamped on, a document. **3** piece of metal, etc with a design used to stamp the seal on wax, etc. **4 seal of**, (fig) act, event, etc regarded as a confirmation or guarantee or giving approval (of something): *the ~ of approval for spending the money*. **5** something that closes a thing tight to prevent leaks: *an airtight ~*. □ *vt* **1** put a seal(1) on: *~ a letter*. **2** fasten or close tightly: *~ an envelope; ~ up a drawer*. **3 seal off**, enclose to prevent entry or exit: *~ off an area of land*. **4** decide: *His fate is ~ed!*

seal-ing-wax, kind of wax used to seal letters, string round parcels, etc.

seam /si:m/ *n* [C] **1** line where two edges, eg of cloth, are turned back and sewn together. **2** line where two edges, eg of boards forming a ship's deck, meet. **3** layer of coal, etc between layers of other materials, eg rock, clay. **4** line or mark like a seam(1) (eg of folded paper).

seam-stress /'si:mstrɪs/, (also **sempstress** /'sempstrɪs/) *n* [C] woman who makes a living by sewing.

sé-ance /'seɪ.əns/ *US*: /'seɪ.əns/ *n* [C] meeting for communicating with the spirits of the dead through a medium(4).

sear /siə(r)/ *vt* **1** burn or scorch the surface of, esp with a heated iron. **2** (fig) make (a person, his conscience, etc) hard and without feeling: *His soul had been ~ed by injustice*.

search /sɜ:tʃ/ *vt, vi* examine, look carefully at, through, or into (in order to find a person or

thing): He ~ed through all the drawers for the missing papers. I've ~ed my memory but can't remember that man's name. □ n [C, U] 1 act of searching: go in ~ of a missing child; a ~ for a missing aircraft. 2 (legal) investigation (eg by lawyers) into possible reasons (eg planned demolition) why one should not buy land or property.

'**search-light**, powerful light with a beam that can be turned in any direction to search for the enemy, escaped prisoners, etc.

'**search-party**, number of persons looking for a person or thing that is lost.

'**search-warrant**, official authority to enter and search a building (eg for drugs).

searcher, person who searches.

searching *adj* (a) (of a look) taking in all details. (b) (of a test, etc) thorough.

sea-son /'si:zn/ n [C] 1 one of the divisions of the year according to the weather, eg spring, summer, etc: the 'dry ~; the 'rainy ~. 2 period suitable or normal for something, or closely associated with it: the 'football ~; the 'holiday/tourist ~. **in/out of season**, available/not available: Oysters/Strawberries are out of ~ now. □ vt, vi 1 make or become suitable for use: Has this wood been well ~ed, dried and hardened? The soldiers were not yet ~ed to the tropical climate. 2 flavour (food) (with salt, pepper, etc): highly ~ed dishes.

'**season-ticket**, (a) one that gives the owner the right to travel between places as often as he wishes for a stated period of time. (b) ticket that gives the owner the right to attend a theatre, etc for a certain period.

sea-son-ing, something used to season food: Salt and pepper are ~ings.

sea-son-able /'si:zənəbl/ *adj* 1 (of the weather) of the kind expected at the time of year. 2 (of help, advice, gifts, etc) coming at the right time.

sea-sonal /'si:zənəl/ *adj* depending on a particular season; changing with the seasons: ~ occupations, eg fruit-picking.

sea-son-ally /-əli/ *adv*

seat /sit/ n [C] 1 something used or made for sitting on, eg a chair, box, bench: The back ~ of the car is wide enough for three persons. **take a seat**, sit: Won't you take a seat? **take one's seat**, sit down in one's place, eg in a hall or theatre. **take a back seat**, ⇨ back seat. 2 that part of a chair, stool, bench, etc on which one sits (contrasted with the back, legs, etc): a 'chair-~. 3 part of the body (the buttocks) on which one sits; part of clothing covering this: He tore the ~ of his pants. 4 place to sit in a cinema, theatre, etc or in which one has a right to sit: Mr Smith has a ~ in the House of Commons, is a member. **win a seat/lose one's seat**, win/be defeated in a Parliamentary election. 5 place where something is, or where something is carried on: In

the US, Washington is the ~ of government. A university is a ~ of learning. 6 large house in the country: He has a country ~ as well as a large house in London. □ vt 1 (formal) **be seated**, sit down: Please/Kindly be ~ed, gentlemen. 2 have seats for: Our community hall ~s 500.

'**seat-belt**, strap for fastening across a seated passenger in a car or aircraft.

seca-teurs /,sekə'tɜ:z/ n pl (also a pair of ~) clippers used by gardeners for pruning bushes, roses, etc.

se-cede /sɪ'si:d/ vi (of a group) withdraw (from membership of a state, federation, organization, etc).

se-ces-sion /sɪ'seʃn/ n [U] seceding; [C] instance of this (as in the US when eleven Southern States withdrew from the Federal Union in 1810–11).

se-ces-sion-ist /-ɪst/ n [C] supporter of secession.

se-clude /sɪ'klud:/ vt keep (a person, oneself) away from the company of others: ~ oneself from society; keep a wife ~d in the kitchen.

se-cluded *adj* (esp of a place) apart.

se-clu-sion /sɪ'kluzn/ n [U] secluding or being secluded; solitary place: live in ~; in the ~ of one's own home.

sec-ond¹ /sɪ'kɒnd/ *adj* (abbr 2nd) 1 next after the first (in place, time, order, importance, etc): February is the ~ month of the year. Tom is the ~ son—he has an elder brother. **second to none**, no other person, idea, etc is better. **In the second place...** = secondly. 2 additional; extra: You will need a ~ pair of shoes. **play second fiddle (to)**, ⇨ fiddle(1). 3 of the same kind as one that has gone before: This man thinks he's a ~ Napoleon! □ *adv* in the second place (in importance or in a race): The English swimmer came (in) ~.

second-Advent/Coming, return of Jesus Christ at the Last Judgement.

second-best *adj* next after the best: my ~best 'suit. □ n, *adv*: I won't accept/put up with ~best. **come off second-best**, get the worst of it.

second chamber, upper house in a legislature: The House of Lords is the ~ chamber of Parliament in Great Britain.

second-class *adj*, n (a) (of the) class next after the first: a ~class ho'tel; (b) class below the first in examination results: take a ~class de'gree in law. (c) (regarded or treated as) inferior: ~class 'citizens. □ *adv*: go ~class.

second childhood, period of old age when a person shows a weakening of mental powers: He's in his ~ childhood.

second cousin, ⇨ cousin.

second floor, the one above the first (GB two floors up, in US one floor above the ground): (as an adjective) a ~floor d'partment.

second gene'ration, having parents who were immigrants, members, etc.

second-hand *adj* (a) previously owned by someone else: *~hand 'furniture'/'books*. (b) (of news, knowledge) obtained from others, not based on personal observation, etc: *get news ~-hand*.

second 'home, (a) another home. (b) (*fig*) like one's house (because friendly, etc).

second lieu'tenant, lowest commissioned rank in the Army.

second 'name, = surname.

second 'nature, tendency that has become instinctive like a habit: *Kindness is ~ nature to him*.

second-rate *adj* not of the best quality; inferior: *a man with ~-rate 'ideas*.

second 'sight, power to see future events, or events happening at a distance, as if present.

second 'string *adj, n* (of) an alternative course of action after initial failure.

second 'teeth, those which grow after a child's first teeth are out.

second thoughts, opinion or resolution reached after reconsideration: *On ~ thoughts I will accept the offer. I'm having ~ thoughts* (= am not so sure) *about buying that house*.

second 'wind, renewed strength, energy.

second-ly *adv* and a second example is; in the next place; furthermore.

sec-ond² /'sekənd/ *n* [C] **1** person or thing that comes next to the first: *the ~ of May; Queen Elizabeth the S~ (or II)*. **get a second**, get a second-class degree. **2** another person or thing besides the person or thing previously mentioned: *You are the ~ to ask me that question*. **3** (*pl*) goods below the best in quality: *There are many cheap ~s of china in the sale*. **4** supporter of a boxer or wrestler; supporter in a dual.

sec-ond³ /'sekənd/ *n* [C] **1** sixtieth part of a minute or a degree: *The winner's time was 1 minute and 5 ~s. 1° 6' 10" means one degree, six minutes, and ten ~s*. **2** moment; short time: *I'll be ready in a ~ or two in a few ~s*.

second-hand, extra hand in some watches and clocks recording seconds. ⇨ also second-hand at second¹.

se-cond⁴ /'sekənd/ *vt* **1** support (esp a boxer, wrestler). **2** (a debate, etc) rise or speak formally in support of a motion to show that the proposer is not the only person in favour of it: *Mr Smith proposed, and Mr Green ~ed, a vote of thanks to the lecturer*.

se-conder, person who supports a proposal or motion (3) at a meeting.

se-cond⁵ /sɪ'kɒnd/ *US: 'sekənd/ vt* take (a person) from his ordinary duty and give him special duty: *be ~ed by the BBC to work for another radio station*.

se-cond-ment *n* [U]

sec-ond-ary /'sekəndrɪ/ *US: -derɪ/ adj* **1** coming after: *~ education/schools*, for children over eleven. **2** less important or less strong: *~ symptoms*.

secondary stress, (marked //) in this dictionary) eg on the second syllable of 'pronunciation' /prəˌnʌnsɪ'eɪʃn/.

sec-ond-ar-ily /-dərɪl/ *US: -der-/ adv*

se-crecy /'sɪ:kɹəsi/ *n* [U] keeping of secrets; ability to keep secrets; habit of keeping secrets; state of being kept secret: *I depend on your ~; prepare an escape in ~, secretly; do it with great ~. swear sb to secrecy*. ⇨ swear (2).

se-cret /'sɪ:kɹɪt/ *adj* **1** (to be) kept from the knowledge or view of others; of which others have no knowledge: *a ~ marriage. keep sth secret, (from), not tell it*. **2** (of places) quiet and unknown. ⇨ **n** **1** [C] something that is secret. **keep a secret**, not tell anyone else: *Can you keep a ~? (be) an open secret*, (of something thought to be secret) be (in fact) widely known. **2** [C] hidden cause; explanation, way of doing or getting something, that is not known to some or most people: *What is the ~ of his success?* **3** [U] *in secret*, secretly: *I was told about it in ~*. **4** [C] mystery: *the ~s of nature*.

secret 'agent, member of the secret service.

secret 'ballot, when voters' choices are secret.

secret po'lice, operating in secret (against political opposition).

the secret 'service, government department concerned with spying.

se-cret-ly *adv*

sec-re-tar-ial /'sekɹə'teəriəl/ *adj* of (the work of) secretaries: *~ duties/training/colleges*.

sec-re-tar-iat /'sekɹə'teəriət/ *n* [C] official department of a senior minister, esp of UNO.

sec-re-tary /'sekɹətɪ/ *US: -rətəri/ n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** employee in an office, who deals with correspondence, keeps records, makes arrangements and appointments for a particular member of staff. **2** official who has charge of the correspondence, records, and other business affairs of a society, club or other organization.

Secretary of State, (a) (GB) minister in charge of a Government office: *the S~ of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs*. (b) (US) chief and foreign minister.

Secretary-General, principal administrator (eg of UNO).

se-crete /sɪ'kɹi:t/ *vt* **1** produce by secretion (1). **2** put or keep in a secret place.

se-cre-tion /sɪ'kɹi:ʃn/ *n* **1** [U] process by which certain substances in a plant or animal body are separated (from sap, blood, etc); [C] substance so produced, eg saliva, bile. **2** [C] (*formal*) act of hiding: *the ~ of stolen goods*.

se-cret-ive /'si:krətv/ *adj* having the habit of hiding one's feelings, intentions, etc.

se-cre-tive-ly *adv*

sect /sekt/ *n* [C] group of people united by (esp religious) beliefs or opinions.

sec-tar-ian /sek'teəriən/ *n* [C], *adj* (member, supporter) of a sect or sects: ~ *politics*, in which the advantage of a sect is considered more important than the public welfare.

sec-tion /'seksn/ *n* [C] **1** part cut off; one of the parts into which something may be divided: *the ~s of an orange*. **2** one of a number of parts which can be put together to make a structure: *glue the ~s of the model together*. **3** subdivision of an organized body of persons (*the 'Postal S~*), or of a piece of writing or of a town or community: *'residential/shopping ~s* (*area* is the usual word). **4** view or representation of something seen as if cut straight through; thin slice suitable for examination under a microscope.

sec-tional /-ʃənl/ *adj* (a) made or supplied in sections (2): *a ~al fishing-rod*. (b) of one or more sections of a community, etc: *~al interests*, the different and often conflicting interests of various sections of a community.

sec-tion-al-ism /-izəm/ *n* [U] concern about sectional interests, not the community as a whole.

sec-tor /'sektə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** part of a circle lying between two straight lines drawn from the centre to the circumference. **2** one of the parts into which an area is divided for the purpose of controlling (esp military) operations. **3** branch (of industry, etc): *the public and private ~s of industry*, those parts publicly owned and those privately owned.

se-cu-lar /'sekjulə(r)/ *adj* **1** worldly or material, not religious or spiritual: *the ~ power*, the State contrasted with the Church. **2** living outside monasteries: *the ~ clergy*.

se-cure /sɪ'kjʊə(r)/ *adj* (rarely -r, -st) **1** free from anxiety: *feel ~ about the future*. **2** certain; guaranteed: *He has a ~ position as a university lecturer*. **3** unlikely to involve risk; firm: *Are you sure the doors and windows are ~? Is that ladder ~?* **4** safe: *Are we ~ from attack?* □ *vt* **1** lock: *S~ all the doors and windows before leaving the house*. **2** make secure: *By strengthening the embankments they ~d the village against/floods*. **3** succeed in getting (something for which there is a great demand): *She has ~d a good teaching job/job in teaching*.

se-cure-ly *adv*

se-cur-ity /sɪ'kjʊərəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [C,U] (something that provides) safety, freedom from danger or anxiety: *children without the ~ of parental care*. **2** [C,U] something valuable, eg a life-insurance policy, given as a guarantee for the repayment of a loan or the fulfilment of a promise or undertaking: *lend money on ~*;

offer a house as (a) ~ for a loan. **3** [C] document, certificate, etc showing ownership of property (esp bonds, stocks and shares): *government securities*, for money lent to a government.

se-date /sɪ'deɪt/ *adj* (of a person, behaviour) calm; serious.

se-date-ly *adv*

se-da-tion /sɪ'deɪʃn/ *n* [U] treatment using sedatives; condition resulting from this. **be under sedation**, have taken sedatives.

se-da-tive /'sedətɪv/ *n* [C], *adj* (medicine, drug) tending to calm the nerves and reduce stress: *After taking a ~ she was able to get to sleep*. *He is under ~s and feels no pain*.

sed-en-tary /'sedəntəri/ *US: -teri/* *adj* **1** (of work) done sitting down (at a desk, etc). **2** (of persons) spending much of their time seated: *lead a ~ life*.

sed-i-ment /'sedɪmənt/ *n* [U] matter (eg sand, dirt, gravel) that settles to the bottom of a liquid.

sed-i-men-tary /'sedɪmentəri/ *adj* of the nature of, formed from, sediment: *~ary rocks*, eg sandstone.

se-di-tion /sɪ'dɪʃn/ *n* [U] words or actions intended to make people rebel against authority, disobey the government, etc.

se-di-tious /sɪ'dɪʃəs/ *adj* of the nature of sedition: *sedition speeches/writings*.

se-du-ce /sɪ'dju:s/ *US: -du:s/ vt* **1** persuade (a person) to do wrong, to commit a crime or to sin: *be ~d by the offer of money into betraying one's country*. **2** persuade a person less experienced to have sexual intercourse: *How many women did Don Juan ~?*

se-du-cer, person who seduces, esp (2).

se-duc-tion /sɪ'dʌkʃn/ *n* **1** [U] seducing or being seduced; [C] instance of this. **2** something attractive that may lead a person to do something (but often with no implication of immorality): *the ~s of country life*.

se-duc-tive /sɪ'dʌktɪv/ *adj* attractive; captivating: *seductive smiles; a seductive offer*.

se-duc-tive-ly *adv*

se-du-lous /'sedjʊləs/ *US: 'sedzʊləs/* *adj* (formal) persevering; done with perseverance: *He paid her ~ attention*.

see¹ /si:/ *vi, vt* (pt *saw* /sɔ:/, pp *seen* /si:n/) (For special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 11 below.) **1** (often with *can*, *could*; not usually in the progressive tenses) have or use the power of sight: *If you shut your eyes you can't ~*. *It was getting dark and I couldn't ~ to read*. *On a clear day we can ~ (for) miles*. **seeing is believing**, (proverb) What we ourselves see is the best evidence. **see red**, ⇨ red(1). **be 'seeing things**, imagine that one can see things that are not there or that do not exist: *You're ~ing things—there's nobody there!* **2** (often with *can*, *could*, esp when effort is needed; not in the

progressive tenses) be aware of by using the power of sight: *I saw him put the key in the lock, turn it and open the door. The suspected man was ~n to enter the building. If you watch carefully you will ~ how to do it/how I do it/how it is done. I looked for him but he was not to be ~n, I could not find him. be glad to see the back of sb*, ⇨ back²(1). *see the last of sb/sth*, see for the last time; have finished, completed, it: *I'll be glad to ~ the last of this job. see the sights*, visit well-known places, etc as a tourist. *see stars*, ⇨ star(1). *see one's way (clear) to doing sth*, ⇨ way(8). **3** (in the imperative) look (at): *S~, here he comes! S~ page 4. 4* (not in the progressive tenses) understand; learn by search or inquiry or thinking: *He didn't ~ the joke/the point of the story. Do you ~ what I mean? as 'I see it*, in my opinion. *see for oneself*, find out personally in order to be convinced or satisfied: *If you don't believe me, go and ~ for yourself! 5* learn from the newspaper or other printed sources: *I ~ that the Prime Minister is in China. 6* have knowledge or experience of: *He has ~n a good deal in his long life. I never saw such rudeness. have seen better days*, ⇨ day(4). **7** give an interview to; visit; receive a call from: *The manager can ~ you for five minutes. You ought to ~ a doctor about that cough. 8* allow; look on without protest or action: *You can't ~ people starve without trying to help them, can you? 9* attend to; take care; make provision: *S~ that the windows and doors are locked|that the children have enough food. 10* imagine: *He saw himself as the saviour of his country. 11* (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions): *see about sth*, deal with: *He promised to ~ about my broken window. see sb about sth*, take advice: *I must ~ a builder about my roof. see sb across sth*, guide, help, him across (a road, etc): *That man's blind—I'd better ~ him across the street. see sb back/home*, accompany him: *May I ~ you home? see sb off*, go to a railway station, an airport, etc with a person about to start on a journey: *I was ~n off by my friends. see sb out*, accompany a person until he is out of a building: *My secretary will ~ you out. see over sth*, visit and examine or inspect carefully: *We saw over a house that we wanted to buy. see through sb/sth*, not be deceived by: *We all saw through him, knew what kind of man he really was. see sb through (sth)*, give him support, encouragement during (it). *see sth through*, not give up an undertaking until the end is reached: *Whatever happens, we'll ~ the struggle through. see to sth*, attend to it: *The break won't*

work; get a mechanic to ~ to it.

see² /si:/ n [C] district under a bishop; bishop's position, office, jurisdiction: *the S~ of Canterbury.*

seed /si:d/ n [C] (pl ~s or unchanged) **1** flowering plant's element of life, from which another plant can grow: *a packet of ~(s). run/go to seed*, (a) stop flowering as seed is produced. (b) (fig) become careless of one's appearance and manners. **2** cause, origin (of a tendency, development, etc): *sow the ~s of virtue in young children. 3* = semen. **4** (sport) seeded player: *England's No. 1 ~*, eg in a tennis championship. ⇨ **4** below. □ vi, vt **1** (of a plant) produce seed when full grown. **2** sow with seed: *~ a field with wheat. 3* remove seed from: *~ raisins. 4* (esp in tennis) separate the best players from the rest when organizing competitions (in order to have good matches later in a tournament): *~ed players.*

'seed-bed, area of fine soil in which to sow seed.

'seeds-man, dealer in seeds.

seed-less adj having no seed: *~less raisins.*

seed-ling /'si:dlɪŋ/, young plant grown from a seed.

seedy /'si:di/ adj (-ier, -iest) **1** full of seed. **2** (informal) looking worn, neglected, etc: *a ~ hotel; a ~-looking person. 3* (informal) unwell: *feel ~.*

seed-ily /-əli/ adv

seek /sɪk/ vi (pt, pp sought /sɔ:t/) **1** look for; try to find: *~ shelter from the rain. seek one's fortune*, to try to become rich: *He's gone to Canada to ~ his fortune. 2* ask for: *I will ~ my doctor's advice. 3 seek for*, try to win: *~ing for glory in football. (much) sought after*, (much) in demand.

seem /sɪm/ vi have or give the impression or appearance of being or doing; appear to be: *What ~s easy to some people ~s difficult to others. He ~s to think so. The book ~s (to be) quite interesting.*

seem-ing adj apparent but perhaps not real or genuine: *In spite of his ~ing friendship he gave me no help.*

seem-ing-ly adv apparently.

seem-ly /'si:mli/ adj (-ier, -iest) (of behaviour) proper or correct (for the occasion or circumstances): *It isn't ~ to praise oneself.*

seen /sɪn/ pp of see¹.

seep /si:p/ vi (of liquids) come out or through: *water ~ing through the roof.*

seep-age /-ɪdʒ/ n [U] slow leaking through.

seer /sɪə(r)/ n [C] person claiming to see into the future.

see-saw /'si:sɔ:/ n [C, U] **1** (game played on a) long plank with a person sitting on each end which can rise and fall alternately. **2** (fig) up-and-down or to-and-fro movement: *the ~ of bank interest charges.* □ vi **1** play on a seesaw. **2** move up and down or to and fro. **3** be uncer-

tain: ~ between two opinions/points of view.

seethe /si:ð/ vi, vt be very excited or agitated: ~ with anger; a country seething with discontent; streets seething with people.

seg-ment /'segmənt/ n [C] 1 part cut off or marked off by a line: a ~ of a circle. 2 section: a ~ of an orange. □ vi, vi /seg'ment/ divide, become divided, into segments.

seg-re-gate /'segri:geɪt/ vi put apart from the rest; isolate: ~ the boys from the girls.

seg-re-ga-tion /,segri:'geɪʃn/ n [U]

seis-mic /'saɪzmɪk/ adj of earthquakes.

seis-mo-graph /'saɪzməgrɑ:f/ US: -græf/ n [C] instrument which records the strength, duration and distance away of earthquakes.

seis-mol-ogist /saɪz'mɒlədʒɪst/ n [C] scientist studying earthquakes.

seis-mol-ogy /saɪz'mɒlədʒi/ n [U] science of earthquakes.

seize /si:z/ vt, vi 1 take possession of (property, etc) by law: ~ her house for payment of a debt. 2 take hold of, suddenly and with force: ~ a thief by the collar. 3 see clearly and use: seizing (on) an ideal/a chance/an opportunity. 4 (of moving parts of machinery) become stuck or jammed, eg because of too much heat or friction: The engine has ~ed (up).

seiz-ure /'si:ʒə(r)/ n 1 [U] act of seizing or taking possession of by force or the authority of the law; [C] instance of this: ~ of drugs by Customs officers. 2 [C] heart attack.

sel-dom /'seldəm/ adv not often; rarely: She ~ goes out. She goes out very ~.

se-lect /sɪ'lekt/ vt choose (as being the most suitable, etc): ~ a book/a present for a child. Who has been ~ed to speak at the meeting? □ adj 1 carefully chosen: ~ passages from 'Hamlet'. 2 of or for a particular group of persons, not for all: shown to a ~ audience.

se-lec-tion /sɪ'lektʃn/ n 1 [U] choosing. ⇨ natural selection. 2 [C] collection or group of selected things or examples; number of things from which to select: That shop has a good ~ of handbags.

se-lec-tive /sɪ'lektɪv/ adj 1 having the power to select; characterized by selection. 2 choosing only the best: a ~ school, that chooses its pupils.

se-lec-tive-ly adv

se-lec-tor /sɪ'lektə(r)/ n [C] person who, that which, selects, eg a member of a committee choosing a national sports team, etc.

self /self/ n (pl selves /selvz/) 1 [U] person's nature, special qualities; one's own personality: my former ~, myself as I used to be. 2 one's own interests or pleasure: She has no thought of ~ (herself is more usual), thinks only of others.

self- /self/ prefix of oneself or itself alone, independent: ~-taught, taught by oneself.

self-a-basement, degrading of oneself.

self-ab-sorbed adj thinking of one's own interests only, unaware of other people.

self-as-sertion, n [U] the putting forward of oneself or one's ideas in an effort to be noticed by everyone.

self-as-surance, confidence in oneself. Hence, **self-as-sured** adj

self-centred adj interested chiefly in oneself and one's own affairs.

self-confessed adj admitted by oneself: a ~ thief.

self-confidence, belief in one's own abilities. Hence, **self-confident** adj

self-conscious adj (a) aware of one's own existence, thoughts and actions. (b) shy; embarrassed. Hence, **self-consciousness** n [U]

self-con-tained adj (a) (of a person) not dependent on others. (b) (esp of a flat') complete in itself (not sharing the kitchen, bathroom, etc with occupants of other flats).

self-con-trol, control of one's own feelings, behaviour, etc: exercise ~-control; lose one's ~-control.

self-de-fence, defence of one's own body, property, rights, etc: kill a person in ~-defence, while defending oneself against an attack.

self-de-nial, going without things in order to help others.

self-effacing adj keeping oneself in the background (and avoiding praise, attention).

self-em-ployed adj working, eg as a shopkeeper, as an owner of a business.

self-es-teem, good opinion (sometimes exaggerated) of oneself.

self-evident adj clearly true and not needing further proof or evidence. Hence, **self-evidently** adv

self-ex-planatory adj clear without (further) explanation.

self-generating, produced from the thing itself or the person himself.

self-government, independent government (not a colony).

self-im-portant adj having too high an opinion of oneself. Hence, **self-im-portance** n [U]

self-im-posed adj (of a duty, task, etc) imposed on oneself.

self-in-dulgent adj giving way too easily to one's preferred comfort, pleasures, etc. Hence, **self-in-dulgence** n [U]

self-interest, one's own interests and personal advantage.

self-pity, (exaggerated) pity for oneself.

self-pos-sessed adj calm, confident: a ~-possessed young woman.

self-pres-er-va-tion, keeping oneself from harm or destruction: the instinct of ~-preservation.

self-raising adj (of flour) not needing the

addition of baking-powder for cakes, etc to rise.

self-re'liant *adj* having or showing confidence in one's own powers, judgement, etc. Hence, **self-re'liance** *n* [U]

self-re'spect, feeling that one is behaving and thinking in ways that will not cause one to be ashamed of oneself: *lose all ~-respect*.

self-re'specting *adj* having self-respect: *No ~-respecting man could agree to do such a thing.*

self-re'straint, = self-control.

self-'righteous *adj* convinced of one's own goodness and that one is better than others.

self-'rule, = self-government.

self-'sacrifice, the giving up of one's own interests and wishes for the sake of other people. Hence, **self-'sacrificing** *adj*

self-same *adj* identical: *Tom and I reached Paris on the ~-same day.*

self-satis'faction, too much satisfaction with one's achievement(s) or position.

self-'service, (a) (of a canteen, restaurant), one at which persons collect their own food and drink from counters and carry it to tables. (b) (of a shop) one at which customers collect what they want from counters or shelves (in wire baskets) and pay as they leave. (c) (of a garage) one at which customers fill their cars with petrol.

self-'styled *adj* using a name, title, etc which one has given oneself and to which one has no right: *a ~-styled expert on music.*

self-suff'icient *adj* needing no help from others: *The country is now ~-sufficient in oil, no longer has to import it.*

self-sup'porting *adj* (a) (of a person) earning enough money to keep oneself: *now that my children are ~-supporting.* (b) (of a business, etc) not needing financial help.

self-'taught *adj* not taught by others.

self-'will, determination to do as one wishes and not be guided by others. Hence, **self-'willed** *adj*.

self-ish /'selfɪʃ/ *adj* chiefly thinking of one's self and one's own affairs: *act from ~ motives.*

self-ish-ly *adv*

self-ish-ness *n* [U]

sell /sel/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp sold /sould/) 1 give in exchange for money: *~ books; ~ a car at a good price; ~ oranges at fivepence each. Will you ~ me your bike? I'll ~ it to you for £5. sell sth off*, sell (goods, etc) cheaply. *sell sth out*, sell all of one's stock of something: *We are sold out of small sizes. sell (sb) short*, ⚡ short² (2). 2 keep stocks for sale; be a dealer in: *Do you ~ needles?* 3 (of goods) be sold; find buyers: *Your house ought to ~ for at least £18000.* 4 cause to be sold: *It's the low prices which ~ our goods.* 5 **sell oneself**, (a) present oneself to others in a convincing way (eg when applying for a job). (b) do some-

thing dishonourable for money or reward. 6 cheat; disappoint by failure to keep an agreement, etc: *I've been sold! sell sb down the river*, ⚡ river (1). 7 **be sold on sth**, (informal) agree with it, believe that it is good, etc: *Are they sold on the idea of socialism?*

seller, person who sells: a *'book~er*. ⚡ **bestseller**.

'sell-out, (a) event (a football match, concert, etc) for which all tickets have been sold. (b) (informal) betrayal: *government policies which are ~-out.*

sel-vage, sel-vedge /'selvɪdʒ/ *n* [C] edge of cloth woven so that threads do not come apart.

selves /selvz/ *pl* of self.

sem-an-tic /sɪ'mæntɪk/ *adj* relating to meaning in language.

se-man-tics *n pl* (used with a *sing verb*) branch of linguistics concerned with studying the meanings of words and sentences.

sema-phere /'seməfə(r)/ *n* [U] system (code) for sending signals, eg by using arms on a post or flags held in the hands, with various positions for the letters of the alphabet. □ *vt, vi* send (messages) by semaphore.

semi-blance /'sembləns/ *n* [C] appearance: *put on a ~ of gaiety.*

se-men /'sɪmən/ *n* [U] fertilizing fluid of male animals.

semi- /'semi/ *prefix* half of; partly; midway: *semi-circle, semi-literate, semi-final.*

'semi-circle, half a circle.

semi-'circular *adj* (having the shape of a) half a circle.

semi-'colon (US = **'semi-colon**), the punctuation mark (:) used in writing and printing, between a comma and a full stop in value. ⚡ Appendix 4.

semi-'conscious *adj* partly conscious.

semi-de'tached *adj* (of a house) joined to another on one side.

semi-'final, match or round before the final (eg in football competitions). Hence, **semi-'finalist** *n* [C] player, team, in the semi-finals.

semi-'official *adj* (esp of announcements, etc made to newspapers) with the condition that they must not be considered as coming from an official source.

semi-'skilled, having or needing some skill from training but less than skilled: *~-skilled labour.*

semi-'inar /'seminə(r)/ *n* [C] group studying a problem and meeting for discussion with a tutor or professor.

semi-'inary /'seminəri/ US: -neri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) Roman Catholic training college for priests.

semo-'lina /'semə'lɪnə/ *n* [U] hard grains from wheat, used for making pasta, in milk puddings, etc.

semp-stress /'sempstɪs/ ⚡ seamstress.

sen-ate /'senət/ *n* [C] **1** (in ancient Rome) highest council of state. **2** (modern use) Upper House of the legislative assembly in various countries, eg France, US. **3** governing council of some universities.

senator /-tə(r)/, member of senate (1, 2).

senatorial /senə'tɔ:riəl/ *adj* of a senate or senator: a senatorial district, (US) one entitled to elect a senator.

send /send/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp sent) (For special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 4 below.) **1** cause a person or thing to go or be carried without going oneself: ~ a telegram; ~ a message to her/~ her a message. The children were sent to bed. ⇨ take. **2** use force to cause a person or thing to move rapidly: The wind sent the vase crashing to the ground. **3** cause to become: This noise is ~ing me crazy. **4** (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

send sb away, dismiss, eg an employee.

send away for sth, order (goods) to be delivered by rail, post, etc: Shall we ~ away for this bargain in the newspaper?

send sb down, (esp) expel a student from a university (for misconduct, etc). **send sth down**, cause to fall: The excellent weather sent the price of food down.

send for sb/sth (to do sth), ask or order a person/thing to come, for something to be delivered: ~ for a doctor/taxi.

send sth in (for eg a competition, exhibition): ~ in one's entry for a competition.

send sth on, (a) send it (eg luggage) in advance. (b) (of letters) readdress and post again (eg to previous occupants).

send sth out, (a) give out: The sun ~s out light and warmth. (b) produce: The trees ~ out new leaves in spring. (c) circularize.

send sb/sth up, show that he/it is ridiculous or false. Hence, 'send-up' *n* [C]. **send sth up**, cause to rise: The heavy demand for beef sent the price up.

sender /'sendə(r)/ *n* [C] person or thing that sends: Who was the ~ of the telegram?

se-nile /'si:nail/ *adj* suffering from bodily or mental weakness because of old age; caused by old age: ~ decay.

sen-il-ity /'si:nɪləti/ *n* [U] weakness (of body or mind) in old age.

sen-ior /'si:nɪə(r)/ *adj* (opp of junior) **1** older in years; higher in rank, authority, etc: He is ten years ~ to me. Smith is the ~ partner in (= the head of) the firm. **2** (abbr **Snr**, **Sen** or **Sr**) the father (used after a person's name esp when a father and his son have the same Christian name). ⇨ *n* [C] **1** senior person: He is my ~ by ten years. **2** (US) student in his/her fourth year at high school or college.

senior citizen, person over the age of retirement.

sen-ior-ity /'si:nɪə'brəti/ *US*: -ɪər-/ *n* [U] con-

dition of being senior (in age, rank, etc): Should promotion be through merit or ~?

senna /'senə/ *n* [U] dried leaves of the cassia plant, used as a laxative.

sen-sa-tion /sen'seɪʃn/ *n* **1** [C,U] ability to feel; feeling: lose all ~ in one's legs; have a ~ of warmth/dizziness/falling. **2** [C,U] (instance of, something that causes, a) quick and excited reaction: The news created a great ~.

sen-sa-tional /-ʃənl/ *adj* (a) causing a sensation (2): a ~al murder. (b) (of newspapers, etc) presenting news in a manner designed to cause sensation (2): a ~al writer/newspaper.

sen-sa-tion-al-ism /-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] the deliberate causing of sensation: avoid ~alism during an election campaign.

sen-sa-tion-al-ist /-ɪst/ *n* [C] person causing sensation.

sen-sa-tion-ally /-nəli/ *adv*

sense /sens/ *n* [C] **1** any one of the special powers of the body by which a person is conscious of things (ie sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch): have a keen ~ of hearing. ⇨ sixth sense. **2** (pl) normal state of mind: in one's (right) ~s, sane; out of one's ~s, insane. **bring sb to his senses**, cause him to stop behaving foolishly or wildly: Perhaps a month in prison will bring you to your ~s. **come to one's senses**, stop behaving foolishly or wildly. **take leave of one's senses**, behave as if mad. **3** (with a, an or a possessive pronoun but not pl) appreciation or understanding of the value or worth (of): a ~ of humour; my ~ of duty. ⇨ direction (2). **4** (not pl) consciousness: have no ~ of shame. **5** [U] power of judging; good, practical, judgement: Haven't you any ~? There's a lot of ~ in what he says. There's no ~ in doing that, It's pointless. ⇨ common sense. **6** [C] meaning: In what ~ are you using the word? Using the widest ~ of the word..., the meaning which is the most general or the fullest... **make (good/much/no/little) sense**, seem to have a lot of/no/little meaning that can be understood: It just doesn't make ~, seems to have no meaning. **7** [U] general feeling or opinion among a number of people: take the ~ of a public meeting. ⇨ consensus. ⇨ *vt* have the opinion; be vaguely aware of; realize: He ~d that his proposals were unwelcome.

'sense-organ, part of the body, eg ear, eye, used to experience a sense (1).

sense-less /'sensləs/ *adj* **1** foolish: a ~ idea. What a ~ person he is! **2** unconscious: fall ~ to the ground.

sense-less-ly *adv*

sense-less-ness *n* [U]

sen-si-bil-ity /sensɪ'bɪləti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] power of feeling, esp delicate emotional impressions: the ~ of an artist or poet. **2** (pl) sensitive (2) impressions (of what is right, in good taste, etc): Her sensibilities are quickly injured.

sen-sible /ˈsɛnsəbl/ *adj* **1** having or showing good sense(5); reasonable; practical: *a ~ woman*; ~ clothes, practical, not for only appearance or fashion. *That was ~ of you.* **2** (science) that can be known by the senses(1): ~ phenomena.

sen-sibly /-əblɪ/ *adv* in a sensible way: *sen-sibly dressed for hot weather.*

sen-si-tive /ˈsɛnsɪtɪv/ *adj* **1** quickly or easily receiving impressions: *The eyes are ~ to light.* **2** (of feelings) easily hurt or offended: *He is very ~ about his ugly appearance.* **3** (of instruments, and institutions thought of as measuring things) able to record or reproduce small changes: *a ~ record-player.* *The Government is ~ to political opinion.* **4** (of photographic film, etc) affected by light.

sen-si-tiv-ity /ˌsɛnsɪˈtɪvəti/ *n* [U] quality, degree, of being sensitive: *an injection to reduce the sensitivity of the pain.*

sen-si-tize (also **-ise**) /ˈsɛnsɪtaɪz/ *vt* make (photographic film, etc) sensitive to light.

sen-sory /ˈsɛnsəri/ *adj* of the senses(1) or sensation: ~ nerves.

sen-sual /ˈsɛnʃʊəl/ *adj* **1** of, engaged in, the pleasures of the senses: ~ perception. **2** enjoying, of, physical pleasures such as eating and drinking and sex: ~ enjoyment.

sen-su-al-ity /ˌsɛnʃʊˈæləti/ *n* [U] love of, pleasure in, sensual pleasures.

sen-su-ous /ˈsɛnʃʊəs/ *adj* affecting, noticed by, appealing to, the senses(1): ~ music/ painting.

sent /sɛnt/ *pt, pp* of send.

sen-tence /ˈsɛntsəns/ *n* [C] **1** (statement by a judge, etc, of) punishment: *pass ~ (on him)*, declare what the punishment is to be; *be under ~ of death.* **2** (gram) set of words complete in itself, used to express a statement, question, command, etc. □ *vt* state that (a person) is to have a certain punishment: ~ a thief to six months' imprisonment.

sen-ti-ment /ˈsɛntɪmənt/ *n* **1** [C] mental feeling, the total of what one thinks and feels on a subject; [U] such feelings collectively as an influence: *The ~ of pity includes a feeling of sympathy and of a desire to help.* **2** [U] (tendency to be affected by a) (display of) emotional feeling (contrasted with reason): *There's no place for ~ in business.* **3** expression of feeling; opinions or point of view: *The ambassador explained the ~s of his government.*

sen-ti-men-tal /ˌsɛntɪˈmentl/ *adj* **1** having to do with the feelings; emotional: *have a ~ attachment to one's birthplace.* *The bracelet had only ~ value*, eg because it belonged to one's mother. **2** (of things) producing, expressing, (often excessive) feelings: ~ music; (of persons) having such excessive feelings: *She's far too ~ about her cats.*

sen-ti-men-tal-ity /ˌsɛntɪməntˈtæləti/ *n* [U] the quality of being very sentimental.

sen-ti-men-tally /-təli/ *adv*

sen-try /ˈsɛntri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) soldier keeping watch or guard.

sentry-box, hut for a sentry.

sep-ar-able /ˈseprəbl/ *adj* that can be separated.

sep-ar-ate ¹ /ˈseprət/ *adj* **1** divided; not joined or united: *Cut it into three ~ parts.* **2** not physically united but forming a distinct unit: *The children sleep in ~ beds.* Each of them has his own bed. *Mr Green and his wife are living ~ (= apart) now.* □ *n* (pl) clothing which may be worn in a variety of combinations, eg jerseys, blouses and skirts.

sep-ar-ate-ly *adv* (a) individually: *Tie them up ~ly.* (b) apart: *They live ~ly.*

sep-ar-ate ² /ˈsepreɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** make, be, separate: ~ the boys from the girls. *England is ~d from France by the Channel.* **2** (of a number of people) leave each other: *We talked until midnight and then ~d.*

sep-ar-ation /ˌseprəˈreɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] (state of) being separated or separate; act of separating: *S ~ from his friends made him sad.* **2** [C] instance of, period of, not being together: *after a ~ of five years.*

se-pia /ˈsi:piə/ *n* [U], *adj* dark brown (ink or paint).

Sep-tem-ber /sepˈtembə(r)/ *n* the ninth month of the year, with 30 days.

sep-tet /sepˈtɛt/ *n* [C] (musical composition for a) group of seven voices or instruments.

sep-tic /ˈseptɪk/ *adj* causing, caused by, infection (with disease germs): *A dirty wound may become ~ turn ~.*

septic tank, tank outside a building in which sewage is disposed of and purified.

sep-ul-chral /sɪˈpʌlkʁəl/ *adj* of a burial (in a tomb).

sep-ulchre (US = **-ul-cher**) /ˈsepʌlkə(r)/ *n* [C] tomb, esp one cut in rock or built of stone.

se-quel /ˈsi:kwəl/ *n* [C] **1** that which follows or arises out of (an earlier happening): *Famine has often been the ~ of war.* **2** story, film, etc continuing the plot, etc of an earlier one or with the same director, cast, etc.

se-quence /ˈsi:kwəns/ *n* [U] succession; [C] connected line of events, ideas, etc: *the ~ of events*, the order in which they occur.

se-quin /ˈsi:kwin/ *n* [C] tiny shining disc sewn on to cloth as an ornament.

sere /sɪə(r)/ = **sear**².

ser-en-ade /ˌserəˈneɪd/ *n* [C] (piece of) music (to be) sung or played outdoors at night. □ *vt* sing or play a serenade to (a person): *serenading her by moonlight.*

ser-ene /sɪˈri:n/ *adj* clear and calm: *a ~ sky/ look/smile.*

ser-ene-ly *adv*

ser-en-ity /sɪˈrenəti/ *n* [U]

serf /sɜ:f/ *n* [C] (in olden times) person who worked on the land and was sold with it like a

slave.

serf-dom /-dəm/ *n* [U] (a) economic and social system using serfs. (b) serf's condition of life.

ser-geant /'sɑ:dʒənt/ *n* [C] **1** non-commissioned army officer above a corporal. **2** police-officer with rank below that of an inspector.

sergeant-major, warrant officer, between commissioned and non-commissioned army officer.

ser-ial /'sɪəriəl/ *adj* **1** of, in or forming a series: *the ~ number of a banknote or cheque*. **2** (of a story, etc) appearing in parts (on radio, TV, in a magazine etc). □ *n* [C] serialized play, story, etc.

ser-ial-ize (also **-ise**) /-laɪz/ *vt* publish or produce in serial form.

series /'sɪəri:z/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) number of things, events, etc each of which is related in some way to the others, esp to the one before it: *a ~ of stamps*, eg of different values, but issued at one time; *a television ~*, a number of programmes, each complete in itself, linked by cast, theme, etc. **in series**, (a) in an orderly arrangement. (b) (of the parts of an electrical circuit) with the supply of current fed directly through each component.

seri-ous /'sɪəriəs/ *adj* **1** thoughtful; not funny, silly or for pleasure: *a ~ attempt/appearance/face*; *look ~*. *Stop laughing and be ~ for a moment*. **2** important because of possible danger: *a ~ illness/mistake*. *The international situation looks ~*. **3** in earnest; sincere: *a ~ worker*. *Please be ~ about your work*.

seri-ous-ly *adv* in a serious manner: *be ~ly ill*.

seri-ous-ness *n* [U] state of being serious: *the ~ness of inflation*. **in all seriousness**, very seriously: *I tell you this in all ~ness*, I am not joking, being insincere, etc.

ser-mon /'sɜ:mən/ *n* [C] spoken or written speech on a religious or moral subject, esp one given from a pulpit in a church.

ser-mon-ize (also **-ise**) /-aɪz/ *vt,vi* (*fig*) preach or talk seriously to: *Stop ~izing*, telling me about my faults, etc.

ser-pent /'sɜ:pənt/ *n* [C] **1** snake (the more usual word). **2** (*fig*) sly, deceptive person.

ser-rated /'se:reɪtɪd/ *US*: 'seretɪd/ *adj* having notches on the edge like a saw.

ser-ried /'serɪd/ *adj* (of lines or ranks of persons) close together, shoulder to shoulder: *in ~ ranks*.

serum /'sɜ:rəm/ *n* (*pl* ~s) **1** [U] watery fluid in animal bodies; thin, transparent part of blood. **2** [C,U] (dose of) such a fluid taken from the blood of an animal and used for inoculations.

ser-vant /'sɜ:vənt/ *n* [C] **1** person who works in a household for wages, food and lodging. **2** person devoted to a person or thing: *a ~ of*

Jesus Christ, eg a Christian priest. ⇨ also civil/public servant.

serve /sɜ:v/ *vt,vi* **1** be a servant to, work for, (a person): *He ~s as gardener and also as chauffeur*. **2** perform duties (for): *serving one's country*, eg in Parliament or in the armed forces. **serve on sth**, be a member of: *~ on a committee*. **serve under sb**, be in the armed forces (esp the Navy) under the command of: *My great-grandfather ~d under Nelson*. **3** attend to (customers in a shop, etc); supply (with goods and services); place (food, etc) on the table for a meal; give (food, etc) to people at a meal: *There was no one in the shop to ~ me*. *Mint sauce is often ~d with lamb*. **4** be satisfactory for a need or purpose: *This box will ~ for a seat*. **5** act towards, treat (a person in a certain way): *I hope I'll never be ~d such a trick again*, have such a trick played on me. **It serves him, etc right**, ⇨ right²(3). **6** pass the usual or normal number of years (learning a trade, etc): *He's ~d his apprenticeship*. **7** go through a term of office: *He ~d his time as manager for five years*. **8** undergo a period of imprisonment: *He has ~d five years of his sentence*. **9** (legal) deliver (a summons, etc) to the person named in it. **10** (in tennis, etc) put the ball into play by batting it to an opponent: *~ a ball*; *~ well/badly*. □ *n* [C] (in tennis, etc) (turn for) striking and putting the ball into play: *Whose ~ is it?*

server, (a) person who serves(3,10). (b) tray for dishes of food.

serv-ing *n* [C] amount of food (to be) served to one person: *four servings of soup*.

ser-vice /'sɜ:vɪs/ *n* **1** [U] being a servant; position as a servant: *Miss White has been in our ~ for five years*. **2** [C] department or branch of public work, government employment, etc: *the Diplomatic S~*. ⇨ civil service. **on active service**, performing duties as a member of the armed forces in time of war. **3** [C] something done to help or benefit another or others: *His ~s to the State have been immense*. *Do you need the ~s of a doctor/lawyer?* **4** [U] benefit, use, advantage: *Can I be of ~ to you*, help you in any way? *I am/My car is at your ~*, ready to help you. **5** [C] system or arrangement that supplies public needs, esp for communications: *a bus/train ~*; *the 'telephone ~*; *a good 'postal ~*. **6** [C] form of worship and prayer to God: *three ~s every Sunday*; *the 'marriage ~*. **7** [C] complete set of plates, dishes, etc for use at table: *a 'tea'dinner ~*. **8** [U] serving of food and drink (in hotels, etc); work done by hotel staff, etc: *The food is good at this hotel, but the ~ is poor*. **9** [U] maintenance given after the sale of an article: *send the car in for ~ every 3000 miles*, eg for greasing, checking of brakes, etc. **10** (legal) serving of a writ, summons, etc. **11** (in tennis, etc) act of serving the ball; manner of doing

this; person's turn to serve: *Her ~ is weak. Whose ~ is it?* □ *vi* maintain or repair (a car, radio, machine, etc) after sale (▷ 9 above): *have the car ~d regularly.*

'service charge, additional charge for service(8).

'service flat, one in which domestic help (sometimes with meals) is provided.

'service industry, providing services, not making things.

'service-line, (in tennis, etc) from which the ball is served(10).

'service road, branch off a main road giving access to houses, etc.

'service station, petrol station with servicing facilities.

ser-vice-able /-əbl/ *adj* (a) suited for ordinary wear and use; strong and durable: *~able clothes for children.* (b) capable of giving good service.

ser-vi-ette /sɜːvɪ'et/ *n* [C] = napkin.

ser-vile /'sɜːvaɪl *US*: -vɪ/ *adj* 1 of or like slaves: *~ work.* 2 characteristic of a slave; not showing the spirit of independence: *~ to public opinion*, giving too much attention to it.

ser-vi-tude /'sɜːvɪtjuːd *US*: -tʊd/ *n* [U] (formal) condition of being forced to work for others and having no freedom. ▷ penal.

ses-ame /'sesəmi/ *n* [C] 1 plant with seeds used in various ways as food and giving an oil used in salads. 2 **Open sesame!** magic words said to cause a door to open.

ses-sion /'seʃn/ *n* [C] 1 (meeting of a) law court, law-making body, etc; time occupied by discussions at such a meeting: *the autumn ~* (= sitting) of Parliament; *go into secret ~.* **in session**, meeting, active (not on holiday). 2 (Scot and US) university term. 3 single, uninterrupted meeting for a purpose: *a re'cording ~*, eg of a radio programme.

set /set/ *n* 1 [C] number of things of the same kind, that belong together because they are similar or complementary to each other: *a 'tea-~, cups, saucers, etc; a new ~ of false teeth; a ~ of stamps/of lectures.* 2 [C] number of persons who associate, or who have similar or identical tastes and interests: *the 'racing/ 'literary/ 'golfing ~; the 'smart ~*, those who consider themselves leaders in society; *the 'fast ~*, those who gamble, etc; *the 'jet ~*, rich people flying from one holiday resort to another. 3 [C] radio receiving apparatus: *a trans-sistor ~.* 4 (not pl) direction (of current, wind, etc); tendency (of opinion): *the ~ of the tide; the ~ of public opinion.* 5 (not pl) position or angle: *I recognize him by the ~ of his head/ shoulders.* 6 [C] way in which clothing conforms to the shape of the body: *the ~ of a coat.* ▷ **set**²(14). 7 [C] (in tennis, etc) group of games counting as a unit to the side that wins more than half the games in it. 8 setting of the hair: *have a shampoo and ~.* 9 [C] scenery on

the stage of a theatre or in a studio or outside for filming: *You must be on the ~ by 7am.* 10 [C] young plant, cutting, bulb, etc ready to be planted: *onion ~s.* 11 (maths) collection of things of a similar type.

set² /set/ *vt, vi* (-tt-, *pt, pp* ~) (For special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*, ▷ 17 below.) 1 (of the sun, moon, stars) go down below the horizon: *It will be cooler when the sun has ~.* 2 move or place something so that it is near to or touching something else: *~ a glass to one's lips; ~ pen to paper*, begin to write. **set a match/(a) light/fire to sth; set sth alight/on fire**, cause it to begin burning. 3 cause (a person or thing) to be in, or reach, a specified state or relation. **set sb/ sth on his/its feet**, (a) help him to get to his feet after a fall. (b) help him/it to gain strength, financial stability, etc: *Foreign aid ~ the country on its feet after the war.* **set sb free**, free (prisoners, etc). **set sb's mind at ease/rest**, ▷ **mind**¹(2). **be all set (for sth/to do sth)**, be ready (for the start of a race, etc). 4 cause a person or thing to begin to do something: *It's time we ~ the machinery going*, start operations. *The news ~ me thinking.* 5 (usually with an *adverb* or *adverbial phrase*; ▷ 17 below for combinations of *set* and *adverbial particles* with special meanings) put, place, lay, stand: *She ~ the food on the table.* 6 put forward as (material to be dealt with as a task, an example, etc): *I have ~ myself a difficult task. Who will ~ the papers for the examination*, prepare the examination questions? **set (sb) an example/a good example**, offer a good standard for others to follow. **set the fashion**, start a fashion to be copied by others. **set the pace**, fix it by leading (in a race, etc). 7 give something (to a person/ oneself) as a task: *He ~ the farm labourer to chop wood.* 8 (used with various grammatical objects, the *nouns* in alphabetical order) **set one's cap at sb**, ▷ **cap**. **set eyes on sb**, see him. **set one's heart/hopes/mind on sth; have one's heart, etc set on sth**, be filled with strong desire for; direct one's hopes towards: *The boy has ~ his heart on becoming an engineer.* **set a price on sth**, declare what it will be sold for. **set much/great/ little/no store by sth**, ▷ **store**(7). 9 put in a certain state or condition for a particular purpose: *~ a (broken) bone*, bring the parts together so that they may unite. **set a clock/watch**, put the hands to the correct time (or, for an alarm clock, to sound at the desired time). **set one's hair**, arrange it (when damp) so that when it is dried, it is waved: *She's having her hair ~ for the party.* **set the scene**, describe a place and the people taking part in an activity, eg in a play, novel or sporting event: *Our commentator will now ~ the scene in the stadium.* **set sail**

(*from/to/for*), begin a voyage. **set the table**, lay it ready with plates, cutlery, etc. **10** put, fix, one thing firmly in another: ~ a diamond in gold; a gold ring ~ with gems. **11** (of tides, winds) move or flow along; gather force: *The current is ~ing in towards the shore. The wind ~s from the west. The tide has ~ in his favour*, (fig) He is winning public support and approval. **12 set sth (to sth)**: ~ words/a poem to music, provide with music. **13** (of plants, fruit trees, their blossom) form or develop fruit as the result of fertilization: *The apples haven't ~ well this year*. **14** (of clothing) become adapted to the shape of the body. **15** (cause to) become firm, solid, rigid (from a liquid or soft state): *The jelly is/has not ~ yet*. **16 (pp)** (a) unmoving, fixed: a ~ smile/look/purpose. (b) pre-arranged; at a ~ time. (c) unchanging: ~ in one's ways, having fixed habits; a man of ~ opinions, unable or unwilling to change them. (d) planned, learned; regular: ~ phrases; a ~ speech; ~ forms of prayers. (e) **set fair**, (of the weather) fine and with no signs of change. **17** (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

set about sth, start it: *I don't know how to ~ about this job*, how to make a start on it. **set about sb**, (informal) attack: *They ~ about each other in the park*.

set sb against sb, cause him to compete with, fight, him. **set one thing against another**, regard it as compensating for, balancing, another.

set sth apart/aside, (a) put on one side for future use. (b) disregard: *Let's ~ aside our personal feelings*. (c) (legal) reject: ~ a claim aside.

set sth back, (a) move back: *The horse ~ back its ears*. (b) be placed at a distance from: *The house is ~ back from the road*. **set sb/sth back**, (a) stop or reverse the progress of: *All our efforts at reform have been ~ back*. Hence, **'set-back** n [C] (pl set-backs). (b) (sl) cost: *That dinner ~ me back £20*.

set sth down, (a) put down: ~ down a load. (b) write down on paper: ~ it down for everyone to read. **set sb down**, (of a vehicle, its driver) allow (a passenger) to get down or out: *The bus stopped to ~ down an old lady*.

set forth, (a) = set out (which is more usual). **set sth forth**, (formal) make known: ~ forth one's political views.

set in, (a) start and seem likely to continue: *The rainy season has ~ in*. (b) (of tides, winds); ~ 11 above) begin to flow: *The tide is ~ing in*, flowing towards the shore.

set off, start (a journey, race, etc): *They've ~ off on a trip round the world*. **set sth off**, (a) explode a mine, fireworks, etc. (b) make more striking by comparison: *This gold frame ~s off your painting very well*. (c) balance; compen-

sate: ~ off gains against losses. (d) mark off: ~ off a clause by a comma. **set sb off (doing sth)**, cause to start: *Don't ~ him off talking about football or he'll go on all evening*.

set on sb, attack: *She had been ~ on by muggers*. **be set on sth**, be determined to be or get: *His heart (= He) is ~ on being a doctor*.

set out, begin (a journey, etc): *They ~ out at dawn for (= to go to) the coast*. **set out to do sth**, have it as an aim or intention: *He ~ out to break the world record*. **set sth out**, (a) make known: ~ out one's reasons. (b) arrange: *He ~s out his ideas clearly in this essay*. (c) plant out.

set sb over sb, put him in control/command: *A younger man has been ~ over me*.

set 'to, begin doing something: *The engineers ~ to and repaired the bridge*.

set sth up, (a) place something in position: ~ up a statue. (b) establish (an institution, business, argument, etc): ~ up an office. Hence, **'set-up** n (informal) arrangement of an organization: *What's the ~ up here?* **set (oneself) up as**, (a) go into business as: *He has ~ (himself) up as a bookseller*. (b) believe oneself to be: *I've never ~ myself up as perfect*.

set sb up (as sth), get him started or established, eg by supplying money: *His father ~ him up in business*. **set up house**, start living in one. **set up shop**, ~ shop(1).

be set upon sth, = be set on sth.

set-square /'set skweə(r)/ n [C] triangular plate of wood, plastic, metal, etc with angles of 90°, 60° and 30° (or 90°, 45°, 45°), used for drawing lines at these angles.

set-tee /'setti:/ n [C] seat like a sofa, with sides and back, for two or more persons.

set-ter /'setə(r)/ n [C] 1 (breeds of) long-haired dog trained to stand motionless on scenting game. 2 (used as a suffix) person who, thing which, sets (various meanings): a 'bone~.

set-ting /'setɪŋ/ n [C] 1 framework in which something is fixed or fastened: *the ~ of a jewel*. 2 surroundings: *a beautiful ~ for a picnic*. 3 music composed for a poem, etc. ~ set²(12). 3 descent (of the sun, moon, etc) below the horizon: (as an adjective) *the ~ sun*.

settle¹ /'setl/ n [C] long, wooden seat with a high back and arms, the seat often being the lid of a chest.

settle² /'setl/ vt, vi (For special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ~ 8 below.)

1 make one's home in (permanently): ~ in London/in Canada/in the country. 2 come to rest (on); stay for some time (on): *The bird ~d on a branch. The dust ~d on everything*. 3 cause (a person) to become used to, or comfortable in, a new position (after a period of movement or activity): *The nurse ~d her patients for the night*, made them comfortable, etc. 4 make or become calm, untroubled: *We*

need a period of ~d weather for the harvest. Wait until the excitement has ~d. **5** make an agreement about; decide: *It's time you ~d the dispute/argument. Nothing is ~d yet. The lawsuit was ~d out of court*, a decision was reached by the parties themselves (and their lawyers) instead of by the court. **6** pay: ~ a bill. **7** (of dust, etc in the air, particles of solid substances in a liquid, etc) (cause to) sink; (of a liquid) become clear as solid particles sink: *We need a shower to ~ the dust.*

8 (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

settle down, sit or lie comfortably (after a period of movement or activity): *He ~d down in his armchair to read.* **settle (sb) down**, make or become calm and peaceful: *Wait until the children have ~d down before you start your lesson.* **settle (down) to sth**, give one's attention to: *It's terrible—I can't ~ (down) to anything today*, am too restless to do my work, etc. **settle down (to sth)**, become established (in a new way of life, new work, etc): ~ down to married life/in a new job. **settle for sth**, accept, although not altogether satisfactory: *I had hoped to get £200 for my old car but had to ~ for £180.* **settle (sb) in**, (help him to) move into a new house, flat, job, etc and put things in order: *You must come and see our new house when we're/we've ~d in.*

settle sth on/upon sb, (legal) give him (property, etc) for use during his lifetime: ~ part of one's estate on one's son. ⇨ **settlement** (2). **settle on/upon sth**, decide to have: *Which of the hats have you ~d on?*

settle (up) (with sb), pay what one owes: *I shall ~ (up) with you next month.*

settled /'setld/ *adj* **1** fixed; unchanging; permanent: ~ weather; a man of ~ opinions. **2** (of a bill) paid.

settlement /'setlmənt/ *n* **1** [U] the act of settling (a dispute, debt, etc); [C] instance of this: *The strikers have reached a ~ with the employers. I enclose a cheque in ~ of your account.* **2** [C] (statement of) property given to a person: a ~ marriage ~, one made by a man in favour of his wife. **3** [U] process of settling people in a colony; [C] new colony.

set-tler /'setl(r)/ *n* [C] person who has made his home in a newly developed country: *white ~s in Kenya.*

seven /'sevn/ *adj*, *n* [C] (of) 7.

seven-fold /-fəʊld/ *adj*, *adv* seven times as much, as great or as many.

sev-enth /'sevnθ/ *adj*, *n* [C] (abbr 7th) (of) one of 7 parts or the next after 6.

seven-thly *adv* in the 7th place.

seven-teen /'sevn'ti:n/ *adj*, *n* [C] (of) 17.

seven-teenth /'sevn'ti:nθ/ *adj*, *n* [C] (abbr 17th) (of) one of 17 parts or the next after 16.

seven-ti-eth *adj*, *n* [C] (abbr 70th) (of) one of

70 parts or the next after 69.

sev-enty /'sevənti/ *adj*, *n* [C] (of) 70. **in the seventies**, (a) (of a person's age, temperature, speed, etc) between 69 and 80. (b) between '60 and '80 in a century.

sever /'sevə(r)/ *vt*, *vi* **1** cut (the usual word): ~ a rope. **2** (fig) break off: ~ one's connections with her. **3** break (the usual word): *The rope ~ed under the strain.*

sever-ance /'sevərəns/ *n* [U]: ~ance pay, paid to an employee when his contract has ended.

sev-eral /'sevrəl/ *adj* **1** three or more; some but not many: *You will need ~ more. I've read it ~ times.* **2** separate; individual: *They went their ~ ways.* Each went his own way. □ *pron* a few; some: *S~ of us refused.*

se-vere /sɪ'vɪə(r)/ *adj* **1** stern, strict: ~ looks; be ~ with one's children. **2** (of the weather, attacks of disease, etc) strong, extreme: a ~ storm; ~ pain. **3** making great demands on skill, ability, patience and other qualities: *The pace was too ~ to be kept up for long.*

severe-ly *adv*

se-ver-ity /sɪ'verəti/ *n* (pl -ies) (formal) **1** [U] quality of being severe: *the ~ (= extreme cold) of the winter in Canada.* **2** (pl) severe treatment or experiences: *the severities of the winter campaign.*

sew /səʊ/ *vt*, *vi* (pt ~ed, pp ~n /səʊn/) work with a needle and thread; fasten with stitches; make (clothing) by stitching: ~ a button on. *This dress is hand-~n/~n by hand.* **sew sth up**, (a) join (at the edges) with stitches. (b) (informal) complete; (as a pp) having obtained control of: *We've got the market for dictionaries ~n up.*

sewer /'seʊə(r)/ *n* [C] person who sews.

sew-ing *n* [U] material (for clothes, etc) being sewn.

sewing-machine, machine for sewing.

sew-age /'sju:ɪdʒ/ *US*: 'su:-/ *n* [U] waste organic matter, etc carried off in sewers.

sewer¹ /'sju:ə(r)/ *US*: 'su:-/ *n* [C] underground channel (pipeline, etc) to carry off sewage and rainwater.

sewer² /'seʊə(r)/ *n* ⇨ sew.

sewn /səʊn/ *pp* of sew.

sex /seks/ *n* **1** [U] being male or female: *What is the cat's ~? Help them all, without distinction of race, age or ~.* **2** [C] males or females as a group: *the 'fair ~, women.* **3** [U] differences between males and females; consciousness of these differences: ~ appeal, attractiveness of a person of one sex to the other. **4** [U] sexual activity and everything connected with it.

sex-less *adj* neither male nor female.

sexy *adj* (-ier, -iest) sexually attractive.

sex-ist /'seksɪst/ *n* [C], *adj* (person) who considers women to be inferior to men.

sex-tant /'seksənt/ *n* [C] instrument used for measuring the altitude of the sun, etc (in order

to determine a ship's position, etc).

sex-ton /'seksən/ *n* [C] man who takes care of a church buildings, digs graves in the churchyard, etc.

sex-ual /'seksjuəl/ *adj* of sex or the sexes.

sexual 'intercourse, physical union of male and female persons or animals that produces offspring.

sexu-al-ity /'seksju'æləti/ *n* [U] sex characteristics or appeal.

shabby /'ʃæbi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** in bad repair or condition; poorly dressed: *wearing a ~ hat. You look ~ in those old clothes.* **2** (of behaviour) mean; unfair.

shab-bily /'ʃæbəlɪ/ *adv*

shack /ʃæk/ *n* [C] small, wooden shed, hut or house.

shackle /'ʃækl/ *n* [C] **1** one of a pair of iron rings joined by a chain for fastening a prisoner's wrists or ankles. **2** (fig) something that prevents freedom of action: *the ~s of convention*. □ *vt* put shackles on; prevent from acting freely.

shade /ʃeɪd/ *n* **1** [U; with *adj*, *verb* and *a* or *an*] **1** comparative darkness caused by the cutting off of direct rays of light: *a temperature of 35°C in the ~. The trees give a pleasant ~.* **2** (fig) comparative obscurity. **put sb/sth in the shade**, cause to appear small, unimportant, etc by contrast: *You are so clever that my poor efforts are put in the ~.* **3** [U] darker part(s) of a picture, etc; reproduction of the darker part of a picture: *There is not enough light and ~ in your drawing.* **4** [C] degree or depth of colour: *cloth in several ~s of blue.* **5** [C] degree of difference: *a word with many ~s of meaning.* **6** something that reduces light: *a 'lamp~.* □ *vt*, *vi* **1** keep direct light from: *He ~d his eyes with his hands.* **2** screen (a light, lamp, etc) to reduce brightness. **3** darken (parts of a drawing, etc) to give the appearance of light and dark. **4** change by degrees: *scarlet shading off into pink.*

shad-ing *n* (a) [U] use of black, etc to give light and shade to a drawing. (b) [C] small difference or variation.

shadow /'ʃædəʊ/ *n* **1** [C] area of shade, dark shape, thrown on the ground, a wall, floor, etc by something which cuts off the direct rays of light. **2** [C] something difficult to see, vague or unreal: *He's a ~ of his former self, is very thin and weak.* **3** (pl) partial darkness: *the ~s of evening.* **4** [C] dark patch or area: *have ~s round the eyes, thought to be due to no sleep, to illness, etc.* **5** (sing only) very small amount or degree: *without/beyond a ~ of doubt.* **6** person's inseparable friend or follower. □ *vt* **1** darken. **2** follow closely and watch the movements of: *The suspect was ~ed by detectives.*

Shadow 'Cabinet, members of the Opposition in Parliament who would form a Cabinet if they were in power.

shadow 'spokesman, Opposition MP selected to speak on a particular issue, eg housing.

shad-ow-y *adj*

shady /'ʃeɪdi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** giving shade from sunlight; situated in shade: *the ~ side of the street.* **2** of doubtful honesty: *a ~ deal.*

shaft /ʃɑ:ft/ *US: ʃæft/ n* [C] **1** (long stem of an) arrow or spear. **2** long handle of an axe or other tool. **3** one of the pair of bars (wooden poles) between which a horse is harnessed to pull a cart, etc. **4** long part of a column (between the base and the top). **5** long, narrow space, usually vertical, eg for descending into a coalmine, for a lift in a building, or for ventilation. **6** bar or rod joining parts of a machine, or transmitting power. **7** ray (of light).

shag /ʃæg/ *n* [U] coarse kind of cut tobacco.

shaggy /'ʃæɡi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** (of hair) rough, coarse and untidy. **2** covered with rough, coarse hair: *a ~ dog; ~ eyebrows.*

shake /'ʃeɪk/ *n* [C] shaking or being shaken: *a ~ of the head, to indicate 'no'.*

shake /'ʃeɪk/ *vt*, *vi* (pt shook /ʃʊk/, pp ~n /'ʃeɪkən/) **1** (cause to) move from side to side, up and down etc: *~ a rug; ~ a man by the hand; ~ one's head,* to indicate 'no', or doubt, disapproval, etc; *~ one's fist at him,* to show anger, defiance. *He was shaking with laughter/cold.* **2** shock; trouble; weaken: *They were badly ~n by the news.* **3** (of a person's voice) tremble; become weak: *Her voice shook with emotion.*

4 (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

shake down, become adjusted to a new environment, new conditions, etc: *The new teaching staff is shaking down nicely.*

shake sth from/out of sth, get from/out of by shaking: *~ apples from a tree; ~ sand out of one's shoes.*

shake sth off, free oneself from: *The thief ran fast and soon shook off the police.* **shake sth off**, get rid of quickly: *~ off a cold/a fit of depression.*

'shake on it, (informal) shake hands and agree: *Let's ~ on it.*

shake sth out, spread out by shaking: *~ out a tablecloth.*

shake sth up, (a) mix well by shaking: *~ up a bottle of medicine.* (b) restore something to shape by shaking: *~ up a cushion.* **shake sb up**, restore from apathy or laziness: *Some of these managers need shaking up—they're asleep on the job.* Hence, **'shake-up** *n*: *We need a good ~ up in our office.*

shak-ing /'ʃeɪkɪŋ/ *n* = shake: *give a pillow a good ~, shake it well.*

shaky /'ʃeɪki/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** (of a person, his movements, etc) weak; unsteady: *~ hands; speak in a ~ voice; feel very ~.* **2** unsafe; unreliable: *a ~ table. My French is a little ~.*

shak-ily /-əli/ *adv*

shale /ʃeɪl/ *n* [U] soft rock that splits easily into layers.

shall /ʃəl *strong form*: /ʃæl/ *auxiliary verb* (I *shall*, he *shall*, often shortened to I'll /aɪl/, He'll /hi:l/; *shall not* is often shortened to **shan't** /ʃɑːnt US: /ʃænt/; *pt should* /ʃʊd *weak form*: /ʃəd/; *should not* is often shortened to **shouldn't** /ʃʊdn't/) **1** (used to express the future tense): *We ~ / We'll arrive tomorrow. I'll see you soon. (Note: will is often used.)* **2** (used to form a future or conditional statement expressing the speaker's will or intention; with stress on *shall*, *should*, it expresses obligation or compulsion; without special stress on *shall*, *should*, it expresses a promise or a threat): *You say you will not do it, but I say you ~ do it. You shan't catch me so easily next time.* **3** (used to form statements or questions expressing the ideas of duty, command, obligation, conditional duty, and (in the *neg*) prohibition): *S ~ I (= Do you want me to) open the window? I asked the man whether the boy should wait. You should (= ought to) have been more careful.* **4** (*should* is used after *how*, *why*): *How should I know? Why should you/he think that?* **5** (*should* is used to express probability or expectation): *They should be there/have arrived by now.*

shal-lot /ʃə'lɒt/ *n* [C] sort of small onion.

shal-low /'ʃæləʊ/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** of little depth: *~ water.* **2** (fig) not reasonable or serious: *a ~ argument; ~ talk.* □ *n* [C] (often *pl*) shallow place in a river or in the sea.

sham /ʃæm/ *vi, vt* (-mm-) pretend to be: *He ~med dead/death. He's only ~ming.* □ *n* [C] **1** person who shams; something intended to deceive: *His love was only a ~.* **2** [U] pretence: *What he says is all ~.* □ *adj* false; pretended: *~ pity.*

shamble /'ʃæmbəl/ *vi* walk unsteadily as if unable to lift the feet properly: *The old man ~d up to me.* □ *n* [C] shambling walk.

shambles /'ʃæmbəlz/ *n* (used with a *sing verb*) **1** scene of bloodshed: *The place became a ~.* **2** scene of untidiness or confusion: *His flat is a complete ~.*

shame /ʃeɪm/ *n* [U] **1** sad feeling, loss of self-respect, caused by wrong, dishonourable or foolish behaviour, failure, etc (of oneself, one's family, etc): *feel ~ at having told a lie; hang one's head for/in ~.* **2** capacity for experiencing shame: *He has no ~/is without ~.* **3** [U] dishonour. **bring shame on sb/oneself**, dishonour him/oneself. **4** (with *a*, *an* but not *pl*) something unworthy; something that causes shame; a person or thing that is wrong: *It's a ~ to take the money for doing such easy work. He's a ~ to his family.* □ *vt* **1** cause shame to; cause a person to feel shame; bring disgrace on: *~ one's family.* **2** frighten or force (a person to do/not to do something): *~ a man into apologizing.*

shame-faced *adj* looking ashamed.

shame-ful /-fl/ *adj* causing or bringing shame: *~ful conduct.*

shame-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

shame-less *adj* without shame: *The ~less girl had no clothes on.*

sham-poo /ʃæm'puː/ *n* [C,U] (special liquid, etc for a) washing of the hair: *give her a ~ and set.* □ *vt* wash (the hair of the head): *Have you ~ed your hair yet?*

sham-rock /'ʃæmrɒk/ *n* [C] plant with (usually) three leaves on each stem (the national emblem of Ireland).

shandy /'ʃændi/ *n* [C,U] drink of beer and lemonade.

shank /ʃæŋk/ *n* [C] **1** leg, esp the part between the knee and the ankle. **2** straight part of an anchor, etc.

shan't /ʃɑːnt US: /ʃænt/ = *shall not*. ⇨ *shall*.

shanty /'ʃænti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) poorly made hut or house.

'shanty-town, area of a town with shanties.

shape /ʃeɪp/ *n* **1** [C,U] outer form; total effect produced by the outlines of something: *There were clouds of different ~s. What's the ~ of his nose?* **knock sth into/out of shape**, put it into/out of the right shape. **take shape**, become definite in form or outline: *The new building/His plan is beginning to take ~.* **2** sort, description: *I've had no help from him in any ~ or form, none of any sort.* **3** condition: *He is in good ~, is physically fit. Her affairs are in good ~, are well organized.* **4** [C] vague form: *I could see a ~ in the darkness.*

shape² /ʃeɪp/ *vi, vt* **1** give a shape or form to: *~ a pot on a wheel.* **2** (pp): *~d like a pear/pear-~d*, having the shape of a pear. **3** give signs of future shape or development: *Our plans are shaping well, showing promise of success.*

shape-less *adj* with no definite shape.

shape-ly /'ʃeɪpli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (esp of a person) having a pleasing shape: *a ~ pair of legs.*

share¹ /ʃeə(r)/ *n* **1** [C] part or division which a person has in, receives from, or gives to, a stock held by several or many persons, or which he contributes to a fund, expenses, etc: *We shall all have a ~ in the profits.* **go shares (with sb) (in sth)**, divide (profits, costs, etc) with others; become part owner (with others); pay (a part of an expense): *Let me go ~s with you in the taxi fare.* **2** [U] part taken or received by a person in an action, etc, eg of responsibility, blame: *You must take your ~ of the blame.* **3** [C] one of the equal parts into which the capital of a company is divided with which the holder can have a part of the profits. □ *vt, vi* **1** give a share of to others; divide and distribute: *~ (out) £100 among/between five men*, eg by giving them £20 each. **share sth with sb**, give a part to somebody else: *He*

would ~ his last pound with me. **2** have or use (with): *He hated having to ~ the hotel bedroom with a stranger.* **3** have a share: *I will ~ (in) the cost with you.* **share and share a'like**, have equal shares with others in the use, enjoyment, expense, etc of something.

'share-holder, owner of shares (3).

'share-out, *n* [C] distribution.

share² /ʃeə(r)/ *n* [C] blade of a plough.

shark /ʃɑ:k/ *n* [C] **1** sea-fish, often large and dangerous. **2** (fig) person who cheats to gain money.

sharp /ʃɑ:p/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** with a fine cutting edge: *a ~ knife*; with a fine point: *a ~ pin/needle*. ⇨ **blunt**. **2** well-defined; distinct: *a ~ outline*; *a ~ image*, (in photography) one with clear contrasts between light and shade. **3** (of curves, slopes, bends) changing direction quickly: *a ~ bend in the road*. **4** (of sounds) shrill; piercing: *a ~ cry of distress*. **5** quickly aware of things: *a ~ intelligence/sense of smell*. **keep a sharp look-out (for)**, look very carefully (for): *keep a ~ look-out for thieves*. **6** (of feelings, taste) producing a physical sensation like cutting or pricking: *a ~ pain*. **7** harsh; severe: *~ words*; *a ~ tongue*, of a person who criticizes, is easily angry, etc. **8** quick to take advantage: *a ~ lawyer*. **9** (music) (of a note) raised half a tone in pitch: *C ~*, (*#*). ⇨ **flat²** (5). □ *n* [C] (music) sharp note; the symbol # used to show this. □ *adv* **1** punctually: *at seven (o'clock) ~*. **2** suddenly; abruptly: *turn ~ to the left*.

sharpen /'ʃɑ:pən/ *vt, vi* make or become sharp: *~ a pencil*.

sharp-ener /'ʃɑ:pənə(r)/, thing that sharpens: *a 'pencil-~ener*.

sharp-ly *adv*

sharp-ness *n* [U]

shat-ter /'ʃætə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** break suddenly into small pieces: *The explosion ~ed every window in the building.* **2** (fig) destroy; be destroyed: *Our hopes were ~ed*.

shave /ʃeɪv/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* ~ed or, as in (4) below, ~n /'ʃeɪvn/) **1** cut (hair) off the chin, etc with a razor: *He is shaving off his beard.* **2** take off (a thin layer, etc): *~ off a piece of wood*. **3** pass very close to, almost but not touching: *The bus ~d by me.* **4** (*pp*) (as an adjective): *clean-~n*, without a beard. □ *n* [C] **1** shaving (of the face): *A sharp razor gives a good ~.* **2 a close/narrow shave**, a narrow escape from injury, danger, etc.

shaver, razor with an electric motor.

'shaving-brush, brush for spreading lather over the face before shaving.

shav-ings *n pl* thin pieces of wood which have been shaved (2) off.

shawl /ʃɔ:l/ *n* [C] large (usually square or oblong) piece of material worn about the shoulders or head of a woman; or wrapped round a baby.

she /ʃi:/ *pron* (⇨ her; they) **1** female person, animal, etc already referred: *My sister says ~ is going for a walk.* **2** (often as a prefix) female: *a'~goat*. *Is it a he or a ~?*

sheaf /ʃi:f/ *n* [C] (*pl* sheaves /ʃi:vz/) **1** stalks of corn, barley, etc tied together. **2** arrows, etc tied together.

shear /ʃiə(r)/ *vt* (*pt, ~ed, pp* shorn /ʃɔ:n/ or ~ed) **1** cut the wool off (a sheep) with shears. **2** (fig) take away completely from: *shorn of*, having lost completely: *The gambler came home shorn of his money*.

shears /ʃiəz/ *n pl* (also a pair of ~) large cutting instrument shaped like scissors, used to cut hedges, etc.

sheath /ʃi:θ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s /ʃi:θz/) cover for the blade of a weapon or tool: *Put the dagger back in its ~*.

'sheath-knife, knife, with a blade, that fits into a sheath.

sheathe /ʃi:ð/ *vt* put into a sheath.

sheaves /ʃi:vz/ ⇨ sheaf.

shed /ʃed/ *n* [C] small building, usually of wood, used for storing things (*'tool-~*, *'wood-~*, *'coal-~*), for sheltering animals (*'cattle-~*), for vehicles (*'engine-~*, *'bicycle-~*).

shed¹ /ʃed/ *vt* (*pt, pp* ~) (-dd-) **1** let (leaves, etc) fall; let come off: *Some trees ~ their leaves in autumn.* **shed blood**, (a) be wounded or killed. (b) cause the blood of others to flow: *The wicked ruler ~ rivers of blood*. ⇨ **bloodshed**. **shed tears**, = cry. **2** throw or take off; get rid of: *People on the beach began to ~ their clothes as it got hotter and hotter.* **3** spread or send out: *a fire that ~s warmth*; *a woman who ~s happiness*. **shed light on**, ⇨ **light²** (5).

she'd /ʃi:d/ = *she had*; *she would*.

sheen /ʃi:n/ *n* [U] brightness: *the ~ of silk*.

sheep /ʃi:p/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) grass-eating animal kept for its flesh as food (mutton) and its wool. ⇨ *ewe*, *lamb* and *ram*.

'sheep-dog, dog trained to help a shepherd to look after sheep.

'sheep-fold, enclosure for sheep.

'sheep-skin, rug of a sheep's skin with the wool on it; clothing made of such skins.

'sheep-ish /-ɪʃ/ *adj* (a) awkwardly self-conscious: *a ~ish-looking boy*. (b) (feeling) foolish or embarrassed because of a fault.

sheep-ish-ly *adv*

sheer /ʃiə(r)/ *adj* **1** complete; thorough; absolute: *~ nonsense*; *a ~ waste of time*; *by ~ chance*. **2** (of cloth, etc) finely woven and almost transparent: *~ nylon*. **3** (almost) without a slope; *a ~ drop of 50 metres*. □ *adv* straight up or down: *He fell 500 feet ~*.

sheet¹ /ʃi:t/ *n* [C] **1** rectangular piece of cotton, etc cloth, used in pairs for sleeping between: *put clean ~s on the bed*. **2** flat thin piece (of a material): *a ~ of glass/notepaper*. **3** wide expanse (of water, ice, snow, flame, etc):

The rain came down in ~s, very heavily.

'sheet-lightning, kind that comes in wide flashes of brightness (not in zigzags, etc).

'sheet music, published on sheets of paper, not in a book.

sheet-ing *n* [U] material used for making sheets(1).

sheet² /ʃi:t/ *n* [C] rope fastened at the lower corner of a sail to hold it and control the angle at which it is set.

sheik(h) /ʃeik/ *US*: /ʃi:k/ *n* [C] Arab chieftain; head of an Arab village, tribe, etc.

sheik(h)-dom /-dɒm/ *n* [C]

shelf /ʃelf/ *n* [C] (*pl* shelves /ʃelvz/) **1** flat piece of wood, metal, etc fastened at right angles to a wall or in a cupboard, etc, used to stand things on. **on the shelf**, (*informal*) (**a**) put aside as done with, eg of a person too old to continue working. (**b**) (of a woman) unmarried and considered as being unlikely to marry. **2** piece of rock on a cliff face, etc like a shelf (as used by rock-climbers).

shell /ʃel/ *n* [C] **1** hard outer covering of eggs, nuts, some seeds (eg peas) and fruits, and of some animals (eg snails) or parts of them.

go/retire into/come out of one's shell, become/stop being shy, reserved, quiet. **2** outside walls, etc of an unfinished building, ship, etc or of one of which the contents have been destroyed (eg by fire). **3** (*US* = *cartridge*) metal case filled with explosive, to be fired from a large gun. □ *vt,vi* **1** take out of a shell(1): ~ing peas. **2** fire shells(3) at: ~ the enemy's trenches. **3 shell out**, (*informal*) pay up (money, a required sum): Must I ~ out (the money) for the party?

'shell-fish, kinds of sea-animal (crabs, lobsters, etc) with shells(1).

'shell-proof *adj* built so that a shell(3) cannot break it.

'shell-shock, nervous or mental disorder caused by the noise of shells(3).

she'll /ʃi:l/ = *she will; she shall*.

shel-ter /'feltə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] condition of being kept safe, eg from rain, danger: take ~ from the storm. **2** [C] something that gives safety or protection: a 'bus ~, in which people wait for buses. □ *vt,vi* **1** give shelter to; protect: trees that ~ a house from cold winds; ~ (= hide, protect) an escaped prisoner. **2** take shelter: ~ under the trees.

shelve¹ /ʃelv/ *vt* **1** put (books, etc) on a shelf. **2** (*fig*) (of problems, plans, etc) postpone dealing with: ~ a problem.

shelve² /ʃelv/ *vi* (of land) slope gently.

shelves /ʃelvz/ *pl* of shelf.

shep-herd /'ʃepəd/ *n* [C] man who takes care of sheep. □ *vt* **1** take care of sheep. **2** guide or direct (people): The passengers were ~ed across the tarmac to the airliner.

shep-herd-ess /'ʃepədɪs/ *n* [C] woman shepherd.

sher-iff /'ʃerɪf/ *n* [C] **1** (also *High* ~) chief officer of the Crown in counties and certain cities, with legal and ceremonial duties. **2** (*US*) chief law-enforcing officer of a county.

sherry /'ʃerɪ/ *n* [U] kinds of yellow or brown wine from Spain, Cyprus, etc.

she's /ʃi:z/ = *she is; she has*.

shied /ʃaɪd/ ⇨ *shy*².

shield /ʃi:ld/ *n* [C] **1** piece of metal, leather, etc carried to protect the body when fighting. **2** representation of a shield with a coat of arms. **3** (*fig*) person or thing that protects. **4** (in machinery, etc) piece of metal, etc designed to keep out dust, wind, etc. □ *vt* **1** protect; keep safe: ~ one's eyes with one's hand. **2** protect (a person) from suffering, etc: ~ a friend from criticism.

shift¹ /ʃɪft/ *n* [C] **1** change of place or character: a ~ in emphasis. **2** change of one thing for another: a ~ from cars to bicycles. **3** [C] group of workmen who start work as another group finishes; period for which such a group works: on the 'day/night ~. **4** trick, way of avoiding a difficulty; clever way of getting something: use clever ~s to get some money. **5** woman's narrow dress without a waistline. **6** (*motoring*) mechanism for changing gear.

shift-less *adj* without ability to find ways of doing things.

shift² /ʃɪft/ *vt,vi* **1** change position or direction; transfer: ~ luggage from one hand to the other. Don't try to ~ the blame (on) to somebody else. **2** (*motoring*) change (gears): ~ into second/third gear. **3 shift for oneself**, manage as best one can (to make a living, etc) without help: When our father died we had to ~ for ourselves.

shifty *adj* (-ier, -iest) not to be trusted: a ~y customer; ~y behaviour.

shil-ling /'ʃɪlɪŋ/ *n* [C] **1** (until 1971) British coin with the value of twelve pennies. **2** unit of currency in Kenya, Uganda, etc.

shim-mer /'ʃɪmə(r)/ *vi, n* [U] (have a shine with a) wavering soft or faint light: moonlight ~ing on the water.

shin /ʃɪn/ *n* [C] front part of the leg below the knee. □ *vi* (-nn-) **shin up**, climb up (using arms and legs to grip something): ~ up a tree.

'shin-bone, inner and thicker of the two bones below the knee.

shine /ʃaɪn/ *vi,vt* (*pt,pp* shone /ʃɒn/ *US*: ʃəʊn/ but ⇨ 3 below) **1** give out or reflect light; be bright: The moon is shining. His face shone with excitement. **2** (*fig*) show particular ability or intelligence: He didn't ~ in the exams. I don't ~ at tennis. **3** (*informal*) (*pp* ~d) polish (which is more usual): ~ shoes. □ *n* (*sing only*) polish (which is more usual): Give your shoes a good ~. ⇨ also rain(1).

shiny *adj* (-ier, -iest) polished; bright: shiny shoes.

shingle /'ʃɪŋɡl/ *n* [U] area of small, rounded

pebbles on the seashore.

shin-gly /'ʃɪŋɡli/ *adj*

shingles /'ʃɪŋɡlz/ *n* (used with a *sing verb*) skin disease forming inflamed, irritating spots (often round the waist).

ship¹ /ʃɪp/ *n* [C] **1** large boat with an engine that can travel on a sea: *a 'sailing-~; a 'merchant-~; a 'war-~*. **2** (informal) = spacecraft. **3** (US informal) = aircraft.

'ship-breaker, contractor who buys and breaks up old ships (for scrap).

'ship-broker, agent of a shipping company; one who buys, sells and charters ships; agent for marine insurance.

'ship-builder, person whose business is building ships. Hence, **'ship-building** *n* [U]

'ship's-chandler, trader who sells equipment for ships.

'ship-load, as much cargo, or as many passengers, as a ship can carry.

'ship-mate, person belonging to the same crew: *Harry and I were ~mates in 1972.*

'ship-owner, person who owns a ship or ships.

'ship-shape *adj* tidy; in good order.

'ship-wreck *n* [U] loss or destruction of a ship at sea; [C] instance of this. □ *vi* destroy by shipwreck.

'ship-wright, shipbuilder.

'ship-yard, place where ships are built.

ship² /ʃɪp/ *vt, vi* (-pp-) **1** put, take, send, in a ship: *~ oil to Europe*. **2** take, send, by train, road, etc: *~ goods by express train*. **3** **ship oars**, take them out of the water into the boat. **4** **ship water**, (of a boat, etc) be flooded with water.

ship-ment *n* [U] putting of goods, etc on a ship; [C] quantity of goods shipped.

ship-per, person who arranges for goods to be shipped.

ship-ping *n* [U] all the ships of a country, port, etc.

'ship-ping-agent, shipowner's representative at a port.

-ship /-ʃɪp/ *suffix* **1** state of being; status, office: *friendship; professorship*. **2** talent; skill: *musicianship*.

shire /'ʃaɪə(r)/ *n* [C] = county (the usual word). □ *suffix* /-ʃə(r)/ (used in the names of certain counties): *Hamp-~, York-~*.

shirk /ʃɜ:k/ *vi, vi* try to avoid (doing something, responsibility, duty, etc): *He's ~ing (his duty).*

shirker, person who shirks.

shirt /ʃɜ:t/ *n* [C] man's article of clothing for the upper part of the body (of cotton, nylon, etc) with sleeves. **keep one's shirt on; (s/)** keep one's temper. **in one's shirt-sleeves**, not wearing a jacket.

shirty *adj* (-ier, -iest) (s/) *easily annoyed; bad-tempered.*

shiver /'ʃɪvə(r)/ *vi* tremble, esp from cold or

fear: *~ing like a leaf*. □ *n* [C] trembling that cannot be controlled: *The sight sent cold ~s down my back.*

shoal¹ /ʃəʊl/ *n* [C] great number of fish swimming together: *a ~ of herring*. □ *vi* form shoals.

shoal² /ʃəʊl/ *n* [C] shallow place in the sea, esp where there are sandbanks. □ *vi* become shallow(er).

shock /ʃɒk/ *n* **1** [C] violent blow or shaking (eg as caused by a collision or explosion): *the ~ of a fall*. **2** [C] effect caused by the passage of an electric current through the body: *If you touch that live wire you'll get a ~*. **3** [C] sudden and strong disturbance of the feelings or the nervous system (caused by bad news, severe injury, etc); [U] condition caused by such a disturbance: *The news of her mother's death was a terrible ~ to her. She died of ~ following an operation on the brain*. □ *vt* cause shock (3) to: *I was ~ed at the news of her death.*

'shock absorber, device in a motor-vehicle, etc which absorbs the vibrations, etc.

'shock tactics, (a) sudden use of many troops to attack (in war). (b) (fig) similar show of force to attack.

'shock treatment/therapy, use of electric shocks to cure mental illness.

'shock wave, sudden change in air-pressure in a region, eg behind a supersonic aircraft or a nuclear bomb.

shocker, person or thing that shocks.

shock-ing *adj* (a) very bad or wrong: *~ing writing/behaviour*. (b) causing shock (3): *~ing news*, eg of a major disaster.

shock-ing-ly *adv*

shod /ʃɒd/ ⇨ shoe *verb*.

shoddy /'ʃɒdi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) of poor quality: *a ~ piece of work*.

shoe /ʃu:/ *n* [C] **1** (also a pair of ~s) outer covering of leather, etc for the foot, esp one which does not reach above the ankle. **2** = horseshoe. **3** part of a brake that presses against the wheel or drum (of a bicycle, motor-vehicle, etc). □ *vt* (pt, pp *shod* /ʃɒd/) fit with shoes: *we'll shod for wet weather*.

'shoe-horn, device with a curved blade for getting the heel easily into a shoe.

'shoe-lace, cord for fastening a shoe.

'shoe-maker, person who makes shoes and boots.

'shoe-string, (US) = shoelace. **do sth on a shoestring**, do it (eg start a business) with a very small amount of money.

shone /ʃɒn US: ʃəʊn/ *pt, pp* of shine.

shoo /ʃu:/ *int* (cry used for telling children, pets, birds, etc to) go away. □ *vi* (pt, pp ~ed) make this cry.

shook /ʃʊk/ *pt* of shake.

shoot¹ /ʃu:t/ *n* [C] **1** new, young growth on a plant or bush. **2** party of people shooting for sport.

shoot² /ʃu:t/ vi, vt (pt, pp shot /ʃot/) **1** move, come, go, send, suddenly or quickly (*out, in, up, etc.*): *Flames were ~ing up from the burning house. The meteor shot across the sky. Rents have shot up* (= risen suddenly) *in the last few months. Tom is ~ing up fast, quickly growing tall. She shot an angry look at him/shot him an angry look.* **2** (of plants, bushes) send out new twigs or branches from a stem. **3** (of pain) happen suddenly and go quickly: *The pain shot up his arm.* **4** (of boats) move, be moved, rapidly over, through, etc: *~ a bridge, pass under it quickly.* **5** aim and fire with a gun or revolver; aim with a bow and send an arrow at; hit with a shell, bullet, arrow, etc; wound or kill (a person, animal, etc) by doing this: *They were ~ing at a target. The soldier was shot* (= executed by shooting) *for desertion. The seven bombers were shot down in flames. He had his arm shot off.* **6** film (a scene): *a ~ing script, one giving the order in which scenes are to be photographed, etc.* **7** (football, etc) make an attempt to score a goal.

'shoot-ing-gallery, place where shooting is practised with pistols or airguns.

,shooting **'star**, meteor seen as a moving star.

'shooting-stick, stick with a spiked end (to be pushed into the ground) and a handle which unfolds to form a seat.

-shooter /'ʃu:tə(r)/ suffix shooting implement: *a 'six-~, revolver firing six shots without reloading.*

shop /ʃop/ n [C] **1** (part of) a building where goods are shown and sold: *a butcher's ~. (US = store).* **set up shop**, set up in business as a retail trader. **all 'over the shop**, (a) in a great mess: *His clothes were all over the ~. (b) in every direction: We looked for him all over the ~.* **2** [U] a person's profession, etc and things connected with it. **talk shop**, talk about one's work, profession, etc. **3** = **workshop**: *a machine-~, the men on the ~ floor, the workers (not the management).* ⇨ closed shop. □ vi (-pp-) **1** go to shops to buy things (usually go shopping). **shop around**, (informal) visit many shops, markets, etc to obtain the best value for one's money, etc. **2** inform against, esp to the police: *~ on an accomplice.*

'shop-assistant, person who serves in a shop.

'shop-front, front of a shop with its window display, etc.

'shop-keeper, owner of (a small) shop.

'shop-lifter, person who steals things from shops. Hence, **'shop-lifting** n [U]

,shop-'steward, member of a branch of a trade union elected by the workers.

,shop-'window, window used for the display of things on sale.

shop-per, person who is shopping.

shop-ping n [U]: *do one's ~ing; a '~ing*

bag/basket, in which to carry purchases.

'shopping centre, part of a town where there are shops, markets, etc close together and often where cars are not allowed.

shore¹ /ʃɔ:(r)/ n [C] stretch of land bordering on the sea or a large body of water: *a house on the ~(s) of a lake.*

shore² /ʃɔ:(r)/ n [C] wooden support or prop (as set against the side of a ship while it is being built). □ vt **shore sth up**, support, prop up, (with a wooden beam, etc).

shore³ /ʃɔ:(r)/, **shorn** /ʃɔ:n/ ⇨ shear.

short¹ /ʃɔ:t/ adj (-er, -est) **1** (opposite of long) measuring little from end to end in space or time: *a ~ stick; ~ hair; a ~ way off, not far away; a ~ journey. in the short run*, ⇨ run¹(6). ⇨ also term(1). **short and sweet**, brief and (therefore) pleasant. **2** (opposite of tall) below the average height: *a ~ man/ mountain.* **3** not reaching the usual, stated or required number, amount, distance, etc: *have a ~ temper, be easily made angry. These goods are in ~ supply, only a few are available. The factory is on ~ time, working fewer hours per day, or days per week, than usual. You've given me ~ change, less than the correct change. short of (a) not enough of: ~ of money/breath/time. (b) distant from: have no petrol left five miles ~ of the garage. little/nothing short of, almost: Our escape was nothing ~ of a miracle.* **4** (of a person) saying very little or saying much in a few words; (of what he says) using a few words: *He/His answer was ~ and to the point. for short; short for*, as an abbreviation: *Benjamin, called Ben for ~. Ben is ~ for Benjamin. in short*, briefly. **the long and the short of it**, ⇨ long²(1). **5** (of cake, pastry) easily breaking or crumbling. **6** (of vowels or syllables) taking a short time: *There is a ~ vowel in 'ship' and a long vowel in 'sheep'.*

'short-bread, kind of dry cake or biscuit.

'short-comings, failure (to reach the standard, to do one's duty, etc).

,short-'circuit n [C] fault in the wiring so that an electric current flows without going through the resistance of a complete circuit. □ vt, vi **(a)** cause, make or take a short-circuit in. **(b)** (fig) shorten or avoid by taking a more direct route.

'short cut, way of getting somewhere, doing something, that is quicker than the usual way: *take a ~ cut across the fields.*

short drink, neat whisky, etc in small portions.

'short-fall, = deficit.

'short-hand, system of writing quickly using special symbols.

,short-'handed, having not enough workers or helpers.

'short list, list of candidates (eg for a job) reduced to a small number from which the final

choice is to be made: *be on the ~ list*. Hence,

'short-list *vt*.

'short-lived *adj* lasting for a short time: *a ~-lived success*.

'short-range *adj* (a) (of plans, etc) of use for a limited period. (b) (of missiles, etc) with a limited range¹ (3): *~range bombers*.

short sight, (a) inability to see distant objects clearly. (b) (fig) inability to forecast the obvious (and act accordingly). Hence,

'short-sighted *adj*: *a ~-sighted decision to refuse help*.

'short-tempered *adj* easily made angry.

'short-term *adj* related to a short period of time: *~term loans*.

'short-wave, radio wave of between 10 and 100 metres in length.

'short-winded *adj* (a) quickly breathless after physical activity. (b) (fig) unable or unwilling to act or speak for a long time.

short-ly *adv* (a) soon; in a short time: *~ly after(wards)*; *~ly before noon*. (b) briefly; in a few words. (c) sharply: *answer ~ly*.

short-ness *n* [U]

short² /ʃɔ:t/ *adv* 1 abruptly; suddenly: *stop ~*.

short of, except: *They would commit every crime ~ of murder*. 2 before the natural or expected time. **come/fall short of**, be insufficient, inadequate, disappointing (expectations, etc): *Your exam results fell ~ of my expectations*. **cut sth/sb short**, (a) interrupt; bring to an end before the usual or natural time: *The chairman had to cut ~ the discussion*.

(b) make short(er). **go short (of)**, do without: *I don't want you to go ~ (of money, etc) in order to lend me what I need*. **run short (of)**, reach the end: *We're running ~ of bread*. **sell sb short**, betray, cheat them. **be taken short**, (informal) need to go to the toilet at an inconvenient time.

short-age /'ʃɔ:tɪdʒ/ *n* [C, U] (amount of) deficiency; condition of not having enough: *'food ~s*; *a ~ of staff*.

shorten /'ʃɔ:tn/ *vt, vi* make or become shorter: *Can you ~ my dress?* *The days are beginning to ~*, eg in autumn.

short-en-ing /'ʃɔ:tənɪŋ/ *n* [U] fat used for making pastry light and flaky. ⇨ **short¹** (5).

shorts /ʃɔ:ts/ *n* (pl) short trousers extending to or above the knees, as worn by children, by adults for games, etc.

shot /ʃɒt/ *n* 1 [C] (sound of the) firing of a gun, etc: *hear ~s in the distance*. (**do sth**) **like a shot**, at once; without hesitation. 2 [C] (attempt at) hitting of something; attempt to do something, answer a question, etc; throw, stroke, hit, etc in certain games: *That remark was a ~ at me*, was aimed at me. **a shot in the dark**, a guess. **have a shot (at sth)**, try to do it: *Have a ~ at solving the problem*. *Let me have a ~ at it*. **a 'long shot**, a wild guess: *It's a long ~ but I think John must have*

stolen the bike. **not by a 'long shot**, far from (success, truth). 3 [C] that which is fired from a gun. ⇨ **shell** (3). 4 [C] heavy iron ball thrown in athletic competition called the **'~put**: *putting the ~*. 5 [U] (also **lead ~**) quantity of tiny balls of lead contained in the cartridge of a sporting gun (instead of a single bullet). 6 [C] person who shoots, with reference to his skill: *He's a first-class/good/poor ~*. 7 [C] photograph, or one of a series of photographs, taken with a cine-camera: *The exterior ~s were taken in Bermuda*. 8 (esp US) = **injection** (of a drug). **have/get/give sb a shot in the arm**, have/give something that revives or restores, eg the economy.

'shot-gun, sporting gun with a smooth bore firing cartridges containing shot (5).

'shot-put, ⇨ 4 above.

should /ʃʊd weak form ʃəd/ *v* ⇨ **shall**.

should-der /'ʃəʊldə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 that part of the body of a human being or animal where an arm or foreleg is joined to the trunk, or where the wing of a bird joins its neck: *He has one ~ a little higher than the other*. **'shoulder to 'shoulder**, (fig) united. **give sb the cold shoulder**, deliberately ignore him. **stand head and shoulders above** (others), (a) be considerably taller than. (b) (fig) be mentally or morally better than. **straight from the shoulder**, frankly. 2 (pl) part of the back between the shoulders: *give a child a ride on one's ~s*. 3 part of a bottle, tool, mountain, etc like a shoulder. ⇨ **hard shoulder**. □ *vt* 1 take the weight of responsibility: *~ a task/the responsibility for his debts*. 2 push with the shoulder: *be ~ed to one side*.

'shoulder-blade, either of the flat bones of the upper back, behind and below the neck.

'shoulder-strap, (a) narrow strap on the shoulders of a military uniform. (b) similar strap on woman's underwear or a dress.

shout /ʃaʊt/ *n* [C] loud call or cry: *They greeted him with ~s of 'Long live the President'*. □ *vi, vt* 1 speak or call out in a loud voice: *Don't ~ at me!* *He ~ed to attract attention*. 2 say in a loud voice: *~ (out) one's orders*. *He ~ed to me ~ed for me to come*. *'Go back!' he ~ed*. **shout sb down**, shout to prevent him from being heard: *The crowd ~ed the speaker down*.

shout-ing [U] shouts. **be all over bar the shouting**, (of a struggle, fight, etc) be finished except for the praise, cheers, etc to follow.

shove /ʃʌv/ *vi, vt* (informal) push: *~ a boat into the water*. □ *n* [C] push: *Give it a ~*.

shovel /'ʃʌv/ *n* [C] 1 tool like a spade, used for moving coal, snow, etc. 2 large device used for the same purpose, mechanically operated from a crane in a vehicle. □ *vt* (-ll-, US -l-) lift, move, clear, using a shovel: *~ the snow away from the garden path*; *~ a path through the snow*.

shovel-ful /-fʊl/, as much as a shovel can hold.

show¹ /ʃəʊ/ *n* 1 [U] showing (chiefly in): *by (a) ~ of hands*, (voting) by the raising of hands for or against (a proposal). 2 [C] collection of things publicly displayed, esp for competition, or as a public entertainment: *a 'flower'/'horse'/'cattle' ~*. **on show**, exhibited. 3 [C] (informal) natural display: *Those trees make a fine ~*. 4 [C] kind of public entertainment, eg circus, theatre, on radio, TV, etc: *Have you seen any good ~s lately?* 5 [C] (informal) performance (not theatrical, etc): *put up a good/poor ~*, do something well/badly. **steal the show**, attract all the attention. 6 [C] (informal) organization; business; something that is happening: *Who's running this ~?* Who is in control? 7 outward appearance; impression: *He didn't offer even a ~ of resistance*. 8 [U] something done to attract envy: *She does it for ~*, to make others envious. *They're fond of ~*.

'show-boat, river steam-boat on which the theatrical performances were given (esp on the Mississippi, US).

'show-business, business of entertaining the public.

'show-case, case with glass sides and (or) top, for displaying articles in a shop, museum, etc.

'show-down, (sf) full and frank declaration of one's intentions, etc.

'show-girl, girl who sings or dances in a musical play, revue, etc.

'show-jumping, display of skill in riding horses over fences, barriers, etc.

'show-man, (a) organizer of public entertainments (esp circuses). (b) person (esp in public life) who uses publicity, etc to attract attention to himself: *Some politicians are great ~men and very little else*.

'show-place, one that tourists go to see: *old palaces, castles and other ~-places*.

showy *adj* (-ier, -iest) likely to attract attention because (too much) decorated or ornamented, or (too) brightly coloured: *a ~y dress*.

show² /ʃəʊ/ *vt, vi* (pt ~ed, pp ~n /ʃəʊn/) 1 cause to be seen: *You must ~ your ticket at the barrier. What films are they ~ing this week?* 2 allow to be seen: *A dark suit will not ~ the dirt. My shoes are ~ing signs of wear.* 3 be visible or noticeable: *Does the mark of the wound still ~?* His fear ~ed in his eyes. 4 be visible: *His annoyance ~ed itself in his looks.* **show one's face**, appear: *He's ashamed to ~ his face at the tennis-club.* **have nothing to show for it/sth**, have nothing that is evidence of what one has achieved or tried to achieve. 5 give; grant: *He ~ed me great kindness.* 6 give evidence or proof of having or being: *She ~ed great courage. His new book ~s him to be a first-rate novelist.* 7 take, lead a

person into/out of a place: *We were ~n into the waiting-room.* 8 make clear; cause (a person) to understand: *He ~ed me how to do it/ how he had done it. That ~s how little you know.* **show sb the way**, (fig) set an example. 9 **show sb/sth off**, display (him/it) to advantage: *a bikini that ~s off her figure well.* **show off**, make a display of one's wealth, learning, abilities, etc in order to impress people: *a man who is always ~ing off.* **show sb/sth up**, make the truth about (a dishonest, disreputable, etc person or thing) known: *~ up a fraud.* **show sb up**, attract criticism towards him: *Some children often ~ their mothers up by crying in the street.* **show up**, (a) be conspicuous, easily visible: *Her wrinkles ~ed up in the strong sunlight.* (b) (informal) put in an appearance; be present (at): *Three people didn't ~ up.*

'show-off, person who shows off: *He's a dreadful ~-off*, is always trying to attract attention, etc.

show-ing *n* (usually *sing*) (act of) displaying or pointing out; appearance: *a firm with a poor financial ~ing*, whose financial accounts do not appear to be good.

shower /'ʃəʊə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 brief fall of rain, sleet or hail; sudden sprinkle of water (as from a fountain). 2 (washing by using a) device which sprays water from above. 3 large number of things arriving together: *a ~ of stones/ insults.* □ *vt, vi* 1 send or give, in a shower: *They ~ed the hero with honours.* 2 fall in a shower: *Good wishes ~ed (down) on the bride.* 3 have a shower(2): *I take/ have a ~ every morning.*

show-ery *adj* (of the weather) with frequent showers.

shown /ʃəʊn/ *pp* of show².

shrank /'ʃræŋk/ *pt* of shrink.

shrap-nel /'ʃræpnəl/ *n* [U] fragments of shell or bullets packed inside a shell.

shred /ʃred/ *n* [C] 1 strip or piece scraped, torn or broken off something. 2 (fig) very small amount: *not a ~ of truth in what she says; not a ~ of evidence against me.* □ *vt* (-dd-) tear into shreds.

shrew /ʃru:/ *n* [C] 1 small animal like a mouse that feeds on insects. 2 bad-tempered, scolding woman.

shrew-ish /-ɪʃ/ *adj* scolding.

shrewd /ʃru:d/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 having, showing, sound judgement and common sense: *~ businessmen; ~ arguments.* 2 likely to be correct or effective: *make a ~ guess.*

shrewd-ly *adv*

shrewd-ness *n* [U]

shriek /ʃri:k/ *vi, vt* 1 scream. 2 say, make, in a screaming voice: *~ out a warning; ~ with laughter.* □ *n* [C] scream: *~s of girlish laughter; the ~ of the brakes.*

shift /ʃɪft/ *n* [U] **get/give sb short shift**, get/give little attention to because not

deserving: *They gave us/We got short ~.*

shrill /ʃrɪl/ *adj* (-er, -est) (of sounds, voices, etc) sharp; piercing; high-pitched: *a ~ voice/whistle.*

shrimp /ʃrɪmp/ *n* [C] small shellfish used for food. □ *vi* catch shrimps: *go ~ing.*

shrine /ʃraɪn/ *n* [C] 1 tomb or casket containing holy relics; altar or chapel with special associations or memory. 2 building or place associated with a person deeply respected or venerated.

shrink /ʃrɪŋk/ *vi, vt* (*pt* shrank /ʃræŋk/, or *shrunk* /ʃrʌŋk/, *pp* shrunk, or, as an *adj* shrunken /'ʃrʌŋkən/) 1 make or become less, smaller (esp of cloth through wetting): *Will this soap ~ woollen clothes? They will ~ in the wash. Look at these shrunken jeans!* 2 **shrink from/back**, move back, show unwillingness to do something (from shame, dislike, etc): *A shy man ~s from meeting strangers.*

'shrink-age /-ɪdʒ/ *n* [U] process, degree, of shrinking: *The ~age in our book export trade is serious.*

shrivel /'ʃrɪvl/ *vi, vi* (-ll, US also -l-) (cause to) become dried or curled (through heat, frost, dryness or old age): *The heat ~led up the leaves. He has a ~led face, with the skin wrinkled.*

shroud /ʃraʊd/ *n* [C] 1 cloth or sheet (to be) wrapped round a corpse. 2 something which covers and hides: *a ~ of mist.* 3 (*pl*) ropes supporting a ship's masts; ropes linking a parachute and the harness. □ *vt* 1 wrap (a corpse) in a shroud. 2 cover; hide: *~ed in darkness/mist; a crime ~ed in mystery.*

shrove /ʃrəʊv/ ⇨ *shrive*.

Shrove Tuesday /ʃrəʊv 'tʃu:zdi/ US: 'tu:z- *n* day before the beginning of Lent.

shrub /ʃrʌb/ *n* [C] plant with a woody stem, lower than a tree, and (usually) with several separate stems from the root.

shrub-bery /'ʃrʌbəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) place, eg part of a garden, planted with shrubs.

shrug /ʃrʌg/ *vi* (-gg-) lift (the shoulders) slightly (to show indifference, doubt, etc).

shrug sth off, dismiss it as not deserving attention. □ *n* [C] such a movement: *with a ~ of the shoulders/a ~ of despair.*

shrunken /'ʃrʌŋkən/ ⇨ *shrink*.

shud-der /'ʃʌdə(r)/ *vi* tremble as with fear or disgust: *~ with cold/horror; ~ at the sight of blood. He ~ed to think of it.* □ *n* [C] uncontrollable shaking.

shuffle /'ʃʌfl/ *vi, vi* 1 walk without raising the feet properly. 2 move (playing-cards, etc) one over the other to change their relative positions: *He ~d the papers together and put them in a drawer.* 3 do something in a careless way: *~ through one's work.* 4 (*fig*): *~ off responsibility onto others, get rid of it by passing it to others.* 5 keep shifting one's position; try to

avoid giving an answer, a decision etc. □ *n* [C]

1 shuffling movement. 2 change of relative positions: *give the cards a ~; a Cabinet ~, giving members different duties.* 3 instance of dishonesty; misleading statement or action.

shun /ʃʌn/ *vt* (-nn-) avoid: *~ publicity/society.*

'shun /ʃʌn/ *int* short for *Attention!* (as a word of command).

shunt /ʃʌnt/ *vi, vi* 1 send (railway wagons, coaches, etc) from one track to another, esp to keep a track clear: *~ a train on to a siding.* 2 (of a train) be moved to a siding. 3 (*fig*) put aside (a project); leave (a person) unoccupied, or inactive.

shun-ter, (esp) railway employee who shunts wagons, etc.

shush /ʃʊʃ/ *int* call for silence.

shut /ʃʌt/ *vi, vi* (*pt, pp* shut) (-tt-) (For special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*, ⇨ 5 below.) 1 move (a door, one's lips, etc) into position to stop an opening: *~ the doors and windows; ~ a drawer; ~ one's mouth.*

shut/close one's ears/eyes to, deliberately ignore: *He ~ his eyes to her faults. He ~ his ears to all appeals for help.* **shut the door on**, refuse to consider: *Why have you ~ the door on further negotiations?* 2 become closed: *The door won't ~.* 3 bring the folding parts of (something) together: *~ a book.* (Note: *close* is more usual.) 4 catch or squash by shutting something: *I ~ my fingers in the door.*

5 (special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*):

shut (sth) down, (of a factory, etc) stop working; end activity: *The workshop has ~ down and the workers are unemployed.* Hence, **'shut-down** *n* [C] (temporary or permanent) closing of a factory, etc.

shut sb in, keep or enclose: *We're ~ in by hills here, surrounded by hills. They ~ the boy in his bedroom, kept him there.*

shut sth off, stop the supply or flow of, eg gas, steam, water.

shut sb/sth out, keep out; exclude: *~ out immigrants/competitive goods.*

shut sth up, (a) close and secure all the doors and windows: *~ up a house before going away for a holiday.* (b) put away for safety: *~ up one's jewels in the safe.* **shut (sb) up**, (cause him to) stop talking: *Tell him to ~ up. Can't you ~ him up?*

shut-ter /'ʃʌtə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 movable cover (usually of wood and hinged) for a window, to keep out light or thieves. **put up the shutters**, (*fig*) stop doing business (for the day, or permanently). 2 device that opens to admit light through the lens of a camera. □ *vt* provide with, close with, shutters.

shuttle /'ʃʌtl/ *n* [C] 1 (in a loom) instrument with two pointed ends by which thread is carried between other threads. 2 (in a sewing-

machine) sliding holder which carries the lower thread. □ *vt, vi* (cause to) move like a shuttle.
'shuttle-cock, cork with feathers in it, hit across a net in the games of shuttlecock and badminton.

'shuttle service, service (of trains, airlines, etc) between places not far apart.

shy¹ /ʃaɪ/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (of persons) self-conscious and uncomfortable in the presence of others; (of behaviour, etc) showing this: *He's not at all ~ with women. She gave him a ~ look/smile.* **2** (of animals, birds, fish, etc) easily frightened. **3** *shy of*, hesitating about: *Don't be ~ of telling me what you want.* **fight shy of**, ⇨ *fight*².

shy-ly *adv*

shy-ness *n* [U]

shy² /ʃaɪ/ *vi* (*pt, pp* shied /ʃaɪd/) (of a horse) turn aside from in fear or alarm: *The horse was ~ing at the hedge.*

Sia-mese /ˌsaɪəˈmiːz/ *adj, n* [C] **1** (also ~ *twin*) (of) one of two persons joined together from birth. **2** (of an) oriental breed of cat.

sib-ling /ˈsɪblɪŋ/ *n* [C] brother or sister (the usual words).

sic /sɪk/ *adv* (*Latin*) thus (placed in brackets to show that the preceding word, statement, etc is correctly quoted, etc even though this seems unlikely or is incorrect).

sick /sɪk/ *adj* **1** *be* ~, throw up food from the stomach; *feel* ~, feel that one is about to do this. ⇨ *seasick*. **2** unwell; ill: *He has been ~ for six weeks.* (Note: *sick* is normal US usage, *ill* or *unwell* are normal GB usage.) **sick at heart**, very sad, disappointed. **fall sick**, become ill. **3**, **sick (and 'tired) of**; **sick to 'death of**, (*informal*) very tired of, disgusted with: *I'm ~ to death of being blamed for everything that goes wrong.* **4** **feel sick at/about**, (*informal*) unhappy, filled with regret: *feel ~ at failing the examination.* **5** **sick for**, filled with a longing for: ~ *for home*. ⇨ *homesick*. **6** (*modern use*) treating sadness or misfortune as funny: ~ *humour/jokes*. □ *vt* **sick sth up**, (*informal*) throw up from the stomach.

'sick-bay, (**a**) (Navy) part of a ship for those who are ill. (**b**) medical centre on a university campus, etc.

'sick-bed, bed of a sick person.

'sick-leave, permission to be away from duty or work because of illness: *be/go on ~ leave*.

'sick-list, list of those who are ill (in a regiment, on a warship, etc).

'sick-pay, pay to an employee who is absent because ill.

sicken /ˈsɪkən/ *vi, vt* **1** *be* in the first stages of (an illness): *The child is ~ing from something.* **2** cause to feel disgusted: *Torture is ~ing.* **3** feel sick to see: *They ~ed at the sight of so much slaughter.* **4** become tired of, disgusted with: *He ~ed of trying to bring about reforms.*

sick-en-ing /ˈsɪkənɪŋ/ *adj* disgusting; unpleasant: ~ing *smells/news*.

sick-ish /ˈsɪkɪʃ/ *adj* a little sick or sickening: *feel ~; a ~ smell.*

sickle /ˈsɪkl/ *n* [C] short-handled tool with a curved blade for cutting grass, grain, etc.

sick-ly /ˈsɪkli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** often in poor health: *a ~ child.* **2** having the appearance of sickness or ill health: *These plants are/look ~.*

3 suggesting unhappiness: *a ~ smile.* **4** causing, or likely to cause, a feeling of sickness or distaste: *a ~ smell/taste.*

sick-ness /ˈsɪknɪs/ *n* **1** [U] illness; ill-health.

2 [C, U] (an) illness or disease: *suffering from 'sea-~.* **3** [U] tendency to vomit.

'sickness benefit, (State) payment to a person absent from work through illness.

side¹ /saɪd/ *n* [C] **1** one of the flat or fairly flat surfaces of a solid object: *the six ~s of a cube.* *Please carry the box with this ~ up.* **2** one of the surfaces which is not the top or the bottom: *A box has a top, a bottom, and four ~s.* **3** one of the surfaces which is not the top, bottom, front or back: (as an adjective) *the ~ entrance of the house* (not the front or back entrance). **4** (*maths*) one of the lines of a figure such as a rectangle or triangle. **5** either of the two surfaces of a thin, flat object or of material such as paper: *Write on one ~ of the paper only. Which is the right ~ of the cloth, the side intended to be seen?* **6** inner or outer surface of something vertical, sloping, round or curved: *the ~ of a mountain.* **7** one of the two halves of a person on his left or right, esp from armpit to hip: *Come and sit by/at my ~.* **side by side**, close together. **8** one of the two halves of an animal from foreleg to hindleg, esp as part of a carcass: *a ~ of beef/bacon.* **9** part of an object, area, space, etc away from, at a distance from, a central line real or imaginary: *the left/right/shady/sunny ~ of the street; the east ~ of the town; the debit/credit ~ of an account.* **on/from all sides; on/ from every side**, in/from all directions; everywhere. **put sth on one side**, (**a**) put it aside, apart. (**b**) postpone dealing with it. **10** one of two groups or parties of people who are opposed (in games, politics, war, etc) or who hold different beliefs, opinions, etc: *be on the winning/losing ~; faults on both ~s; to pick (= choose) ~s. The school has a strong ~, eg a good football team.* **be on sb's side**, be a supporter. **let the side down**, give an inferior performance and disappoint one's colleagues, team-mates, etc. **take sides (with)**, support (a person, a group) in a dispute. ⇨ *side*². **11** aspect or view that is not complete; aspect different from or opposed to other aspects: *look on the bright ~ of things/ life; study all ~s of a question; a man with many ~s to his character. There are two ~s to the story, two points of view. on the 'high/*

'low, etc side, rather high/low, etc: *Prices are on the high ~*. **12** line of descent through a parent: *a cousin on my father's ~*.

'side-arms *n pl* (a) swords or bayonets, worn at the left side by soldiers. (b) pistol worn at the right side (usually in a holster).

'side-board, table with drawers and cupboards, placed against a wall.

'side-burns/-boards = side-whiskers.

'side effect, secondary or indirect effect, eg an undesirable effect of a drug used for a specific purpose.

'side-glance, look to or from one side.

'side issue, question of less importance (in relation to the main one).

'side-line, (a) class of goods sold in addition to the chief class of goods; occupation which is not one's main work. (b) (*pl*) (space immediately outside) lines round a football pitch, tennis-court, etc at the sides.

'side-long *adj, adv* (directed) to or from one side: *a ~ long 'glance*.

'side-road, minor road branching off a main road.

'side-saddle *n* [C] woman's saddle, made so that both feet may be on the same side of the horse. □ *adv* on a side-saddle.

'side-show, (a) small show at a fair or exhibition. (b) activity of small importance in relation to the main activity.

'side-step *n* [C] step taken to one side (eg to avoid a blow in boxing). □ *vt, vi* (-pp-) (a) avoid (a blow, etc) by stepping to one side. (b) (*fig*) avoid answering (a question). (c) move, step, to one side.

'side-street, = side-road.

'side-stroke, (kinds of) stroke used in swimming in which one side is above and the other below the water.

'side-track *n* [C] railway siding. □ *vt* (a) turn (a train) into a siding. (b) (*fig*) turn (a person's attention) from his work.

'side-view, view obtained from the side.

'side-walk, (US) = pavement.

side-wards /-wədz/, **sideways** /-weɪz/ *adv* to, towards, from, the side; with the edge first: *look ~ ways at her; walk/carry a chair ~ ways through a narrow opening*.

'side-whiskers *n pl* (of men) hair on the sides of the face near the ears.

side² /saɪd/ *vi* **side with**, take part, be on the same side (as a person in an argument or quarrel): *It is safer to ~ with the stronger party*.

-sided /saɪdɪd/ *suffix* have a specified number of sides: *a five-~ shape*.

sid-ing /saɪdɪŋ/ *n* [C] short railway track to and from which trains may be moved (from the main lines).

sidle /saɪdl/ *vi* move (away from/up to a person) in a shy or nervous way: *The little girl was sidling up to me*.

siege /saɪdʒ/ *n* [C,U] (period of) operations of

armed forces who surround and blockade a town or fortress in order to capture it: *a ~ of 50 days*. **lay siege to**, attack: *lay ~ to a town*. **raise a siege**, end it by forcing the enemy's forces to withdraw.

si-en-na /sɪ'ena/ *n* [U] kind of reddish-yellow earth used as a colouring matter.

sieve /sɪv/ *n* [C] utensil with wire network for separating finer grains, etc from coarse grains, etc or solids from liquids. **have a head/memory like a sieve**, be incapable of remembering anything. □ *vt* put through, sift with, a sieve: *sieving soil*.

sift /sɪft/ *vt, vi* **1** put, separate by putting, through a sieve: *~ the cinders*. **2** shake through a sieve: *~ flour*. **3** fall, pass, come through, as from a sieve. **4** (*fig*) examine carefully: *~ the evidence*.

sigh /saɪ/ *vi, vt* **1** take a deep breath that can be heard (showing sadness, tiredness, relief, etc). **2** (of the wind) make a sound like sighing. **3** feel a longing (for): *~ for the return of a lost friend*. **4** express with sighs: *~ out a prayer*. □ *n* [C] act of, sound of, sighing: *with a ~ of relief*.

sight¹ /saɪt/ *n* **1** [U] power of seeing: *lose one's ~*, become blind; *have long/short or near ~*, be able to see things well only at long/short range; *have good/poor ~* (= eyesight). **know sb by sight**, know him by his appearance only. **2** [U] seeing or being seen: *Their first ~ of land came after three days at sea*. **catch sight of**; **have/get a sight of**, begin to see; succeed in seeing: *If ever I catch ~ of him again, I'll ask for the money he owes me*. **lose sight of**, ⇨ lose(3). **at first sight**, when first seen; without examination, etc: *He fell in love with her at first ~*. **At first ~ the problem seemed insoluble**. **at (the) sight of**, on seeing: *They all laughed at the ~ of the old man dancing with a girl of sixteen*. **3** [U] range of seeing; distance within which seeing is possible: *in/within/out of (one's) ~*, (of objects, etc) visible/invisible; *The train was still in ~/ was not yet out of ~*. *Victory was not yet in ~*, not yet probable. **in/within/out of sight of sth**, (of the viewer) where it can/cannot be seen: *We are not yet within ~ of land*, can't see it. *We are now within ~ of finishing this job*, are near to the end. **come into/go out of sight**, come near enough/go too far away to be visible. **keep out of sight**, stay where one cannot be seen. **4** [U] opinion: *All men are equal in the ~ of God*. **5** [C] something seen or worth seeing; (*pl*) noteworthy buildings, places, features, etc of a place or district. **see the sights**, ⇨ see¹(2). **a sight for sore eyes**, person or thing one enjoys seeing. **6** (*sing with a, an*) (*informal*) person or thing that produces unfavourable comment: *What a ~ you are! She 'does look a ~!* **7** [C] device that helps to aim or observe when using a rifle, telescope, etc.

'sight-seeing, visiting sights(5) as a tourist.

'sight-seer, person who visits sights(5).

sight² /saɪt/ *vt* **1** get sight of, esp by coming near: *After many months at sea, Columbus ~ed land.* **2** observe (a star, etc) by using sights(7); adjust the sights(7) of a gun.

sight-ing, occasion on which something is seen: *~ings of a new star.*

-sighted /saɪtɪd/ *suffix* have the kind of sight(1) mentioned: *'far-/'long-~.*

sight-less /'saɪtlɪs/ *adj* blind (the usual word).

sign¹ /saɪn/ *n* [C] **1** mark, object, symbol, used to represent something: *mathematical ~s, eg +, -, ×, ÷.* **2** word or words, design, etc on a board or plate to give a warning, or to give directions: *'traffic ~s, eg for a speed limit, a bend in the road.* **3** something that gives evidence, points to the existence or probability of something: *the ~s of suffering on his face. Are dark clouds a ~ of rain?* **4** movement of the hand, head, etc used with or instead of words; signal. **5** symbol and name (often painted on a board) displayed by traders and shopkeepers (*'shop-~s*), and (*'pub-~*) by many public houses to advertise their business.

'sign-board, = sign(5).

'sign-language, used by deaf and dumb persons.

'sign-painter, person who paints sign-boards.

'sign-post, post placed at a crossroads or road junction with signs on its arms giving directions to different places.

sign² /saɪn/ *vt, vi* **1** write one's name on (a letter, document, etc) to show that one is the writer or that one accepts or agrees with the contents: *~ a letter/a cheque; ~ one's name, write it for this purpose.* **sign sth away**, give up (rights, property, etc) by signing one's name. **sign off**, (a) end (a letter, etc) with a signature. (b) (radio, TV) end broadcasting (by saying goodnight, etc). **sign sb on/up**, (of an employer, etc) employ: *The firm ~ed on fifty more workers last week.* **2** write one's name on a document, etc: *Please ~ on the dotted line.* **sign on/up**, (of a worker, etc), sign an agreement about employment. **3** make known (to a person) an order or request by making signs(4): *He ~ed to me to be quiet.* (Note: *signal* is more usual.)

sig-nal /'sɪgnəl/ *n* [C] **1** (making of a) movement, (showing of a) light, (sending of a) message, device used, to give a warning, an order or information; order, warning, etc given in this way: *'traffic ~s, for cars, etc in the streets.* **2** event which is the immediate cause of general activity, etc: *The arrival of the President was the ~ for an outburst of cheering.* **3** electronic impulse in radio, TV, etc; sound or TV image, transmitted or received: *an area with a poor/*

excellent TV ~. □ *vt, vi* (-ll-, US -l-) make a signal to; send by signal: *~ a message; ~ (to) the waiter to bring the menu; ~ that one is about to turn left.*

'signal-box, building on a railway from which signals and movements of trains are controlled.

'signal-man, (a) person who operates signals on a railway, (b) man who sends and receives signals (in the army and navy).

sig-nal-ler (US = **sig-naler**) /'sɪgnələ(r)/ *n* [C] person who signals, esp a soldier.

sig-na-tory /'sɪgnətəri/ US: -tɔːri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (person, country, etc) that has signed an agreement: *the signatories to the Treaty.*

sig-na-ture /'sɪgnətʃə(r)/ *n* [C] person's name signed by himself: *Can I have your ~ on these letters?*

'signature tune, tune (a few bars of a piece of music) identifying a broadcasting station or a particular programme or performer.

sig-net /'sɪgnɪt/ *n* [C] private seal used with or instead of a signature.

'signet-ring, finger ring with a signet in it.

sig-ni-fi-cance /sɪg'nɪfɪkəns/ *n* [U] meaning; importance: *a speech of great/little ~.*

sig-ni-fi-cant /sɪg'nɪfɪkənt/ *adj* having a special or important meaning: *a ~ speech.*

sig-ni-fi-cant-ly *adv*

sig-ni-fi-ca-tion /sɪg'nɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [C] (*formal*) (intended) meaning (of a word, etc).

sig-nify /'sɪgnɪfaɪ/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) (*formal*) **1** make known (one's views, intentions, purpose, etc); be a sign of; mean: *He signified his agreement/that he agreed by nodding. Does a high forehead ~ intelligence?* **2** (*formal*) be of importance: *It signifies much/little.*

Sikh /sɪ:k/ *n* member of an Indian sect believing in one God, founded in the 16th century.

si-lage /'saɪlɪdʒ/ *n* [U] kind of dry, green cattle food.

si-lence /'saɪləns/ *n* [U] **1** condition of being quiet or silent; absence of sound: *the ~ of night/of the grave.* **2** condition of not speaking, answering (questions, spoken or written), or making comments, etc; (with a, an) period (of saying nothing): *Your ~ on recent events surprises me. There was a short ~ and then uproar broke out.* **in silence**, silently: *listen in ~ to a speaker.* □ *vt* make (a person or thing) silent; cause to be quiet(er): *~ one's critics/the enemy's guns.*

si-lencer, device that reduces the noise made by the exhaust of a petrol engine, a gun, etc.

si-lent /'saɪlənt/ *adj* **1** making no or little sound; not accompanied by any sound: *a ~ prayer; with ~ footsteps.* **2** saying little or nothing; giving no answer, views, etc: *You'd better be ~ about what happened. Her husband is the strong, ~ type.* **3** written but not pronounced: *a ~ letter, eg b in doubt, w in wrong.*

silent film, one without a sound track.

sil-lent-ly *adv*

sil-hou-ette /'sɪlu:'et/ *n* [C] picture in solid black showing only the outline; outline of a person or object seen against a light background: ~s of famous authors. **in sil-houette**, produced as a silhouette. □ *vt* (passive) shown, exhibited, in silhouette: ~ed against the sky.

sili-con /'sɪlɪkən/ *n* [U] non-metallic element (symbol **Si**) occurring in powdered or crystal forms.

silicon chip, (microelectronics) tiny circuit contained in silicon crystal, becoming commonly used in communications, industry, etc where small reliable electronic control is useful.

silk /sɪlk/ *n* 1 [U] fine, soft thread from the cocoons of certain insects; material made from this: (as an adjective) ~ scarves. 2 [C] (in England) Queen's/King's Counsel (abbr **QC**, **KC**). **take silk**, become a QC/KC.

'silk-worm, caterpillar that spins silk to form a cocoon.

silken /'sɪlən/ *adj* soft and smooth; soft and shining: a ~ voice; ~ hair.

silky /'sɪlki/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) soft, shiny, smooth, like silk: a ~ voice.

sill /sɪl/ *n* [C] flat shelf at the base of a window: a vase of flowers on the 'window-~.

silly /'sɪli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (appearing to be) foolish: say ~ things. How ~ of you to do that! □ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (chiefly used to or by children) silly person: Don't be a ~!

silt /sɪlt/ *n* [U] sand, mud, etc carried by moving water (and left at the mouth of a river, in a harbour, etc). □ *vt, vi* (cause to) become stopped with silt: The sand has ~ed up the mouth of the river.

sil-ver /'sɪlvə(r)/ *n* [U] 1 shining white metal (symbol **Ag**) used for ornaments, coins, utensils, etc: 'table ~, spoons, forks, teapots, dishes, etc. 2 silver vessels, dishes, articles, eg candlesticks, trays: have all one's ~ taken by burglars. 3 (as an adjective) the colour of silver: the ~ moon. **Every cloud has a silver lining**, ☐ lining(1). 4 (of sounds) soft and clear: He has a ~ tongue. 5 silver(3) coins: £20 in notes and £5 in ~. □ *vi, vi* 1 coat with (something that looks like) silver: The years have ~ed her hair. 2 become white or silver colour: Her hair had ~ed.

silver jubilee, 25th anniversary of a sovereign's rule.

silver medal, medal of silver given as the second prize.

silver paper, (informal) thin, light foil made of tin or aluminium (as used for packing cigarettes, etc).

'silver plate, spoons, dishes, etc of silver or copper coated in silver.

the silver screen, (informal) cinema industry.

'silver-smith, manufacturer of silver articles; merchant who sells these.

'silver wedding, 25th anniversary.

sil-very *adj* like silver: the ~y notes of a temple bell.

simi-lar /'sɪmɪlə(r)/ *adj* like; of the same sort: My wife and I have ~ tastes in music. Your guitar is ~ to mine. They are ~.

simi-lar-ly *adv*

simi-lar-ity /'sɪmɪlə'rɪti/ *n* (pl -ies) [U] likeness; state of being similar; [C] point or respect in which there is likeness: many similarities between the two men.

sim-ile /'sɪmɪli/ *n* [C, U] (use of) comparison of one thing to another, eg He is as brave as a lion.

sim-mer /'sɪmə(r)/ *vi, vt* 1 be, keep (something), almost at boiling-point: S~ the stew for an hour. 2 be filled with (anger, etc), which is only just kept under control: ~ with rage/annoyance. **simmer down**, (fig) become calm (after being angry or excited).

sim-per /'sɪmpə(r)/ *vi, n* [C] (give a) silly, self-conscious smile.

simple /'sɪmpl/ *adj* (-r, -st) 1 not mixed; not divided into parts; having only a small number of parts: a ~ machine. 2 plain; not much decorated or ornamented: ~ food/cooking; a ~ design. 3 not highly developed: ~ forms of life. 4 easily done or understood; not needing great effort: written in ~ English; a ~ task. 5 innocent; straight-forward: ~ folk. 6 inexperienced; easily deceived: I'm not so ~ as to suppose you really like me. 7 with nothing added; absolute: a ~ fact. **pure and simple**, (informal) absolute(ly), unquestionably: It's a case of kill or be killed, pure and ~.

'simple-minded *adj* unsophisticated.

sim-ply /'sɪmpli/ *adv* (a) in a simple(2) manner: dress simply; simply dressed. (b) completely; absolutely: His pronunciation is simply terrible, is very bad indeed. She looks simply lovely. (c) nothing more nor less than: He is simply a workman. It is simply a matter of working hard.

simple-ton /'sɪmptən/ *n* [C] (dated) foolish person, esp one who is easily deceived.

sim-ple-ity /'sɪmplɪ'ti/ *n* [U] (formal) the state of being simple: A small child often has a look of ~. **be simplicity it'self**, (informal) be extremely easy.

sim-plify /'sɪmplɪfaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) make simple; make easy to do or understand: a simplified reader/text.

sim-ple-fi-ca-tion /'sɪmplɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U] act or process of making simple; [C] instance of simplifying; thing simplified.

simu-late /'sɪmjuleɪt/ *vt* (formal) pretend to be; pretend to have or feel: ~d innocence; insects that ~ dead leaves.

simu-la-tion /'sɪmjʊ'leɪʃn/ *n* [U] pretence; imitation.

sim-ul-ta-neous /ˌsɪmlɪ'teɪniəs/ *US*: /saɪm-/ *adj* happening or done at the same time: ~ signing of an agreement.

sim-ul-ta-neous-ly *adv*

sin /sɪn/ *n* **1** [U] breaking of God's laws; behaviour that is against the principles of morality. **2** [C] instance of this; immoral act such as telling a lie, stealing, adultery: *confess one's ~s to a priest; ask for one's ~s to be forgiven.* ⇨ original sin. **the seven deadly sins**, pride, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, sloth. **3** [C] (*informal*) offence against convention; something considered to be not common sense: *It's a ~ to stay indoors on such a fine day.* □ *vi* (-nn-) commit sin; do wrong: *We are all liable to ~|capable of ~ing.*

sin-ner /ˈsɪnə(r)/, person who sins/has sinned.

sin-ful /-fl/ *adj* wrong; wicked.

sin-ful-ness *n* [U]

since /sɪns/ *adv* **1** (with the perfect tenses) after a date, event, etc in the past; before the present time; between some time in the past and the present time, or the time referred to: *The town was destroyed by an earthquake ten years ago and has ~ been rebuilt. He left home in 1970 and has not been heard of ~.* **ever since**, throughout the whole of a period of time referred to and up to the present: *He went to Italy in 1970 and has lived there ever ~.* **2** (*dated*) (used with the simple tenses) ago (the usual word): *He did it many years ~.* □ *prep* (with perfect tenses in the main clause) after; during a period of time after: *She hasn't been home ~ her marriage.* □ *conj* **1** from the past time when: *Where have you been ~ I last saw you? How long is it ~ you were in London?* **2** as: *S~ we've no money, we can't buy it.*

sin-cere /ˈsɪnsɪə(r)/ *adj* **1** (of feelings, behaviour) genuine; not pretended: *It is my ~ belief that...* **2** (of persons) not expressing feelings that are pretended.

sin-cere-ly *adv* in a sincere manner. **Yours sincerely**, formula used to end a letter to a friend, or informally in a business letter.

sin-cer-ity /ˈsɪnsərətɪ/ *n* [U] the quality of being sincere: *speaking in all ~, very sincerely and honestly.*

sinew /ˈsɪnju:/ *n* [C] tendon (strong cord) joining a muscle to a bone.

sin-ewy *adj* tough; having strong sinews.

sing /sɪŋ/ *vi, vt* (*pt* sang /sæŋ/, *pp* sung /sʌŋ/) **1** make musical sounds with the voice, produce words one after the other to a tune: *She ~s well. He was ~ing a French song. He was ~ing to the guitar. She sang the baby to sleep.* **2** make a humming, buzzing or ringing sound: *The kettle was ~ing (away) on the cooker.* **3** celebrate in verse. **sing sb's praises**, praise him with enthusiasm. **4 sing out (for)**, shout (for).

singer, person who sings, esp in public.

sing-ing, (esp) art of the singer: *teach ~ing; take ~ing lessons.*

singe /sɪndʒ/ *vt, vi* blacken the surface of by burning; burn slightly: *Careful! You're ~ing that dress!* □ *n* [C] slight burn (on cloth, etc).

single /ˈsɪŋɡl/ *adj* **1** one only; one and no more: *a ~ ticket, for a journey to a place, not back.* *in single 'file*, (moving, standing) one behind the other in a line. **2** not married: *~ men and women; remain ~.* **3** for the use of, used for, done by, one person: *a ~ bed; reserve (at a hotel) two ~ rooms and one double room.* □ *n* [C] **1** (in tennis and golf) game with one person on each side. **2** (in cricket) hit for which one run is scored. **3** (short for a) single ticket: *two second-class ~s to Leeds.* □ *vt* **single sb/ sth out**, select from others (for special attention, etc): *He ~d me out for criticism.*

single-breasted *adj* (of a coat) having only one row of buttons down the front.

single-handed *adj, adv* done by one person without help from others.

single-minded *adj* having, intent on, only one purpose.

singles, tennis, etc match between two persons.

sing-ly /ˈsɪŋɡli/ *adv* one by one; by oneself.

sing-glet /ˈsɪŋɡlɪt/ *n* [C] (GB) sleeveless cotton T-shirt; vest.

sing-song /ˈsɪŋsɒŋ/ *n* [C] meeting of friends to sing songs together (esp unplanned): *have a ~ round the piano.*

sing-gu-lar /ˈsɪŋɡjʊlə(r)/ *adj* **1** (*dated*) uncommon; strange: *look ~ in a dress, to be unconventional.* **2** (*formal*) outstanding: *a man of ~ courage and honesty.* **3** (*gram*) of the form used in speaking or writing of one person or thing: *The ~ of 'children' is 'child'.* □ *n* [C] the singular form: *What is the ~ of 'parties'?*

sing-gu-lar-ly *adv* (*formal*) strangely; peculiarly.

sing-gu-lar-ity /ˈsɪŋɡjʊləˈrɪti/ *n* (*pl*-ies) (*formal*) [U] strangeness; [C] something unusual or strange.

sin-is-ter /ˈsɪnɪstə(r)/ *adj* **1** suggesting evil or the likelihood of coming misfortune: *a ~ beginning.* **2** showing a bad temper; unkind: *a ~ face; ~ looks.* **3** (in heraldry) on the left side of the shield.

sink /sɪŋk/ *n* [C] **1** fixed basin (of china, steel, etc) with a drain for taking away water, usually in a kitchen. **2** = cesspool.

sink /sɪŋk/ *vi, vt* (*pt* sank /sæŋk/, *pp* sunk /sʌŋk/, and, as an adjective, sunken /ˈsʌŋkən/) **1** go down, esp below the horizon or the surface of water or other liquid or a soft substance, eg mud: *The sun was ~ing in the west. Wood does not ~ in water, it floats. The ship sank.* **2** slope downwards; become lower or weaker: *The foundations have sunk.* **3** make by digging: *~ a well; place (something) in a hole made by digging: ~ a post one metre deep in*

the ground. **4** *sink in/into*, (of liquids, and fig) go down deep: *The rain sank into the dry ground.* ⇨ oblivion. **5** (fig) lose faith, hope, etc: *have a ~ing feeling*, feel all hope is lost. *His heart sank at the thought of failure.* **6** (fig) (of warnings, information) be understood, learnt: *I've explained it to you often but nothing ~s in!* **7** come to a lower level or state (physical or moral): *~ into a deep sleep*; *~ into crime.* *The old man has sunken cheeks.* *His voice sank to a whisper.* **6** cause or allow to sink: *~ a ship.* *He sank (= lowered) his voice to a whisper. Let us ~ our differences (= put them out of our thoughts, forget them), and work together.*

sink-able /-əbl/ *adj* (of a boat, etc) that can be sunk.

sinu-ous /'sinjuəs/ *adj* (formal) full of curves and twists.

sinus /'sainəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) hollow in a bone, esp one of several air-filled cavities in the bones of the skull linked to the nostrils.

-sion *suffix* ⇨ -tion.

sip /sɪp/ *vt, vi* (-pp-) drink, taking a very small quantity at a time: *~ (up) one's coffee.* □ *n* [C] (quantity taken in a) sipping.

si-phon (also **syphon**) /'saɪfn/ *n* [C] **1** bent or curved tube, pipe, etc so arranged (like an inverted U) that liquid will flow up through it and then down. **2** bottle from which soda-water can be forced out by the pressure of gas in it. □ *vt, vi* **siphon sth off/out**, draw (liquid) out or off through or as if through a siphon.

sir /sɜ:(r)/ *n* **1** respectful form of address to a man (eg to a school teacher or by a shop-assistant): *Please ~, can I have a pencil? Can I help you, ~?* (ie in a shop). **2** (used to begin letters): *My dear S~; Dear S~.* **3** prefix to the name of a knight or baronet: *Sir Winston Churchill.*

sire /'saɪə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (old use) father or male ancestor. **2** male parent of an animal: *race-horses with pedigree ~s.* □ *vt* (esp of horses) be the sire of: *a Derby winner ~d by Pegasus.*

si-ren /'saɪərən/ *n* [C] **1** (Greek myth) one of a number of winged women whose songs charmed sailors and caused their destruction; (hence) woman who attracts and is dangerous to men. **2** ship's whistle for sending warnings and signals. **3** device for producing a loud shrill noise (as a warning, etc): *an ambulance with its ~s wailing.*

sir-loin /'sɜ:lɔɪn/ *n* [C, U] best part of loin of beef.

si-sal /'saɪzl/ *n* [U] plant with leaves which provide strong fibre used for making rope.

sissy /'sɪsɪ/ *n* [C], *adj* (boy or young man who is) girlish or without manly qualities such as courage, strength.

sis-ter /'sɪstə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** daughter of the same parents as oneself or another person: *my/your/his ~.* ⇨ half-sister, step-sister. **2**

woman who behaves like a sister: *She was a ~ to him.* **3** (GB) senior hospital nurse. **4** member of a religious society; nun: *S~s of Mercy.* **5** woman of the same society, profession, trade union, socialist party, etc as another.

sis-ter-hood /-hʊd/ *n* (a) [U] feeling of a sister for a sister. (b) [C] society of women who live together in a religious order, belong to a socialist organization, do charitable works, etc.

sister-in-law /'sɪstər ɪn lɔ:/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s-in-law) sister of one's husband or wife; wife of one's brother.

'sister-ship, of the same design, type, etc (as another).

sis-ter-ly *adj* of, like, a sister: *~ly love.*

sit /sɪt/ *vi, vt* (*pt, pp* sat /sæt/) (-tt-) (For special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*, ⇨ 9 below.) **1** take or be in a position in which the body is upright and supported by the buttocks (resting on the ground or on a seat): *~ on a chair/on the floor/in an armchair/at a table or desk/on a horse.* **sit tight**, (a) remain firmly in one's place, esp in the saddle. (b) (informal) hold firmly to one's opinions, not give in to opposition, etc. **2** cause to sit; place in a sitting position: *He lifted the child and sat (= seated) her at a little table.* **3** (of Parliament, a law court, a committee, etc) hold meetings: *The House of Commons was still ~ing at 3am.* **4** keep one's seat on (a horse, etc): *She ~s her horse well.* **5** (of birds) rest (on a branch, fence, etc) with the body close to it: *~ing on a branch.* **6** (of domestic fowls) remain on the nest in order to hatch eggs: *That hen wants to ~.* **7** (of clothes) suit, fit, hang: *The coat ~s badly across the shoulders.* **8** act as a baby-sitter.

9 (special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*):

sit back, (a) settle oneself comfortably back, eg in a chair. (b) (fig) rest (after great activity, etc). (c) take no (further) action.

sit down, take a seat: *Please ~ down, all of you.* **a sit-down 'strike**, strike by workers who refuse to leave the factory, etc until their demands are considered or satisfied.

sit for, (a) take (an examination). (b) pose (for one's portrait, photograph).

sit in, (of workers, students, etc) demonstrate by occupying a building (or part of it) and staying there until their demands are met: *There are reports of students ~ing in at several universities.* Hence, **'sit-in** *n* [C] such a demonstration. **sit in on sth**, attend (a discussion, etc) as an observer, not as a participant.

sit on sb, (sl) prevent him from interfering, opposing, etc. **sit on sth**, (a) be a member of (a jury, committee, etc). (b) (informal) neglect to deal with: *They've been ~ing on my application for a month.*

sit out, sit outside: *~ting out in the garden.*
sit sth out, (a) stay to the end of (a performance, etc): *~ out a play.* (b) take no part in (esp a dance): *I think I'll ~ out the next dance.*

sit up, not go to bed (until later than the usual time): *The nurse sat up with her patient all night.* **sit (sb) up**, (cause to) take a sitting position: *The patient is well enough to ~ up in bed now.* *S~ up straight!* (**make sb**) **sit up (and take notice)**, (informal) alarm or frighten him; have one's interest (suddenly) stimulated.

sit upon, = sit on.

si-tar /sɪ'tɑ:(r)/ *n* [C] Indian stringed musical instrument with a long neck.

site /saɪt/ *n* [C] place where something was, is, or is to be: *a ~ for a new school*; *a 'building ~*.
 □ *vi* position; *Where have they decided to ~ the new factory?*

sit-ter /sɪ'tɜ:(r)/ *n* [C] 1 person who is sitting for a portrait. 2 hen that sits(6): *a good/poor ~*. 3 bird or animal that is sitting and therefore easy to shoot. 4 = baby-sitter.

sit-ting /sɪ'tɪŋ/ *n* [C] 1 time during which a court of law, Parliament, etc is in session: *during a long ~*. 2 period of time during which one is engaged continuously in a particular occupation: *finish reading a book at one ~*. 3 act of posing for a portrait or photograph. 4 occasion of sitting down (for a meal, etc): *In this hotel 100 people can be served at one ~*, ie together. 5 collection of eggs on which a hen sits.

sitting 'duck, an easy target or victim.

sitting member, candidate in a parliamentary election who held the seat before.

'sitting-room, room for general daytime use.

sitting 'tenant, one already in occupation of a house, etc.

situ-ated /sɪ'tʃuətid/ *adj* 1 (of a town, building, etc) placed: *The village is ~ in a valley.* 2 (of a person) in (certain) circumstances: *I'm badly ~ at the moment*, in difficult circumstances.

situ-ation /sɪ'tʃu'eɪʃn/ *n* [C] 1 position (of a town, building, etc). 2 condition, state of affairs, esp at a certain time: *be in an embarrassing ~*. 3 work, employment, eg in domestic service: *S~s vacant*, *S~s wanted*, headings of newspaper advertisements of employment offered and asked for.

six /sɪks/ *adj*, *n* [C] (of) 6. **six of one and half a dozen of the other**, very little difference between the one and the other. **at sixes and sevens**, in confusion.

'six-pence, (a) (GB) coin worth (formerly) six pennies, or (since 1971) 2½p. (b) the sum of six pennies.

'six-penny *adj* costing sixpence.

'six-fold /-fəʊld/ *adj*, *adv* six times as much or as many or as great.

six-teen /sɪks'ti:n/ *adj*, *n* [C] (of) 16.

six-teenth /sɪks'ti:nθ/ *adj*, *n* [C] (abbr 16th) (of) one of 16 parts or the next after 15.

sixth /sɪksθ/ *adj*, *n*, [C] (abbr 6th) (of) one of 6 parts or the next after 5.

sixth 'sense, power to be aware of things independently of the five senses.

sixth-ly *adv*

six-ti-eth /sɪks'ti:əθ/ *adj*, *n* [C] (abbr 60th) (of) one of 60 parts or the next after 59.

sixty /sɪks'ti/ *adj*, *n* [C] (of) 60. **in the six-ties**, (a) (of a person's age, temperature, speed, etc) between 59 and 70. (b) between '59 and '70 in a century.

size¹ /saɪz/ *n* 1 [U] degree of largeness or smallness: *about the ~ of* (= about as large as) *a duck's egg.* *They're both of a ~*, are the same size. **cut sb down to size**, reduce him to his correct level of (un)importance. 2 [C] one of the degrees of size in which articles of clothing, etc are made: *~ five shoes*; *three ~s too big.* *I take ~ ten.* □ *vi* 1 arrange according to size. 2 **size sb/sth up**, (informal) form a judgement or opinion of.

size-able /-əbl/ *adj* fairly large.

size² /saɪz/ *n* [U] sticky substance used to glaze paper, stiffen cloth, etc. □ *vi* stiffen or treat with size.

sizzle /sɪzl/ *vi*, *n* [C] (informal) 1 (make the) hissing sound as of something cooking in fat: *sausages sizzling in the pan.* 2 (fig) be in a state of great heat: *a sizzling hot day.*

skate /skeɪt/ *n* [C] (also a pair of ~s) a sharp-edged steel blade to be fastened to a boot for moving smoothly over ice. ⇨ roller-skate. □ *vi* 1 move on skates. 2 (fig) **skate over/round a difficulty/problem**, make only passing and cautious reference to it.

'skate-board *n* board on wheels, used to stand on and ride as a sport. □ *vi* do this.

skater, person who skates.

'skat-ing *n* [U] (sport of) moving on skates.

'skat-ing-rink, specially prepared surface for skating.

ske-daddle /skɪ'dædl/ *vi* (informal) (esp of children) run away.

skein /skeɪn/ *n* [C] length of silk or wool or thread coiled loosely into a bundle.

skel-eton /'skelɪtn/ *n* [C] 1 bony framework of an animal body; bones of an animal body in the same relative positions as in life. **a skel-eton in the cupboard**, something of which a person is ashamed and which he tries to keep secret. 2 framework of a building, plan, to which details are to be added.

'skeleton key, one that will open a number of different locks.

skeleton staff/crew/service, etc, one reduced to the smallest number needed.

sketch /sketʃ/ *n* [C] 1 rough, quickly made drawing: *make a ~ of a harbour.* 2 short account or description; general outline, without

details: *He gave me a ~ of his plans for the expedition.* **3** short, humorous play or piece of writing. □ *vt, vi* **1** make a sketch of. **sketch sth out**, give a rough plan of; indicate without detail: *~ out plans for a new road.* **2** practise the art of making sketches: *I often go into the country to ~.*

sketchy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) done roughly and without detail or care. (b) incomplete: *He has a ~y knowledge of geography.*

skew /skju:/ *adj* twisted or turned to one side; not straight.

skewer /'skju:ə(r)/ *n* [C] pointed stick of wood or metal for holding meat together while cooking. □ *vi* fasten with a skewer.

ski /ski:/ *n* [C] (pl ~ or ~s) (also a pair of ~s) long, narrow strip of wood, etc strapped under the foot for moving over snow. □ *vi* (pt, pp ~d, present participle ~ing) move over snow on skis: *go ~ing.*

'ski-jump, steep slope before a sharp drop to let a skier leap through the air.

'ski-lift, seats hanging from an overhead cable for carrying skiers uphill.

'ski-plane, aircraft fitted with skis instead of wheels, to enable it to land on snow.

skier /'ski:ə(r)/, person using skis.

skid /skɪd/ *n* [C] **1** slipping movement, often sideways, of the wheels of a car, etc on a slippery or icy road, or while turning a corner: *How would you get out of/correct a ~?* **2** piece of wood or metal fixed under the wheel of a cart, etc to prevent it from turning, to control the speed when going downhill. **3** log, plank, etc used to make a track over which heavy objects may be dragged or rolled. □ *vi* (-dd-) (of a car, etc) move or slip sideways, etc.

skies /skaɪz/ *pl* of sky.

skiff /skɪf/ *n* [C] small, light, rowing boat.

skill-ful (US = **skill-ful**) /'skɪlf/ *adj* having or showing skill: *~ driving.*

skill-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

skill /skɪl/ *n* [U] **1** ability to do something well. **2** [C] particular kind of skill.

skilled *adj* (needing a person who is) trained; experienced: *~ed workmen.*

skim /skɪm/ *vt, vi* (-mm-) **1** remove floating matter from (the surface of a liquid): *~ milk; ~ cream off the milk.* **2** move lightly over (a surface), not touching, or only lightly or occasionally touching (it): *The swallows were ~ming (over) the water.* **3** **skim through sth**, read quickly, noting only the chief points: *~ through a newspaper.*

skimp /skɪmp/ *vt, vi* supply, use, the minimum of what is needed: *They are so poor that they have to ~.*

skimpy *adj* (-ier, -iest)

skin /skɪn/ *n* **1** [U] (substance forming the) outer covering of the body of a person or animal: *We all got wet to the ~, thoroughly wet (eg in heavy rain).* **by the skin of one's**

teeth, by a narrow margin. **get under one's skin**, (fig) (a) cause irritation or anger. (b) cause infatuation. **have a thin/thick skin**, (fig) be easily hurt/not easily hurt by unkindness, bad criticism, swearing, etc. Hence, **thin-/thick-skinned** *adj*. ⇨ also **soak** (5). **2** [C] animal's skin with or without the hair or fur: *'rabbit-~s.* **3** [C,U] outer covering of a fruit, or plant: *slip on a ba'nana ~.* **4** [C,U] thin layer that forms on boiled milk: *the ~ on a milk pudding.* □ *vt, vi* (-nn-) take the skin off: *~ a rabbit.*

'skin-deep *adj* (of beauty, feelings, etc) only on the surface; not deep or lasting.

'skin-diving, form of sport in which a person swims under the water without a diving-suit, with goggles over the eyes and a snorkel or aqualung to help breathing.

'skin-flint, (st) = miser.

'skin-graft, (in surgery) the removal of layers of skin from one part of the body to another part, eg to grow over a bad scar.

'skin-tight *adj* (of clothing) fitting closely to the body: *~tight 'jeans.*

skinny *adj* (-ier, -iest) having little flesh, not fat.

skint /skɪnt/ *adj* (GB st) very poor.

skip /skɪp/ *vi, vt* (-pp-) **1** jump lightly and quickly: *The lambs were ~ping about in the fields.* **2** jump over a rope which is turned over the head and under the feet as one jumps. **3** go from one place to another quickly: *~ over/across to Paris for the weekend.* *He ~ped off* (= left) *without saying anything to any of us.* **4** change from one subject to another when talking: *He ~s from one excuse to another.* **5** go from one part (of a book, etc) to another without reading, paying attention, etc: *We'll ~ the next chapter.* □ *n* [C] skipping movement: *a hop, a ~ and a jump.*

'skip-ping-rope, length of rope with handles, used in the children's game of skipping. ⇨ **skip**¹ (2).

skip² /skɪp/ *n* [C] **1** cage or bucket in which men or materials are raised and lowered in mines and quarries. **2** large metal container for carrying away builders' refuse, etc.

skip-per /'skɪpə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** captain, esp of a small merchant ship or fishing-boat. **2** (informal) captain of a team in games such as football and cricket. □ *vi* act as captain: *~ a team*

skir-mish /'skɜ:mɪʃ/ *n* [C] fight between small parts of armies or fleets. □ *vi* engage in such a fight.

skirt /skɜ:t/ *n* [C] **1** woman's article of clothing that hangs from the waist. **2** part of a dress, etc that hangs from the waist. **3** (pl) = outskirts (which is more usual). □ *vi, vi* be on, pass along, the edge of: *Our road ~ed the forest.*

'skirt-ing-board, line of boards fixed round the walls of a room close to the floor.

skit /skɪt/ *n* [C] short piece of humorous writing making fun of a person, idea, style, etc: *a ~ on Wagner/on 'Macbeth'*.

skit-tish /'skɪtɪʃ/ *adj* **1** (of horses) excitable; lively; difficult to control. **2** (*fig*) (of women) frivolous; excitable.

skittles /'skɪtlz/ *n pl* (used with a *sing verb*) (game in which a ball is thrown to knock down) a number of bottle-shaped pieces of wood (called a *skittle*).

skulk /skʌlk/ *vi* hide, move secretly, because afraid, or to avoid work or duty, or with an evil purpose: *~ing about in the corridors*.

skull /skʌl/ *n* [C] bony framework of the head: *have a thick ~*, be stupid.

skunk /skʌŋk/ *n* [C] small, bush-tailed N American animal able to send out a strong evil smell as a defence when attacked.

sky /skaɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl skies* /skaɪz/) the space we look up to from the earth, where we see the sun, moon and stars. (*Note: usually sing with the, but with a, an when used with an adj: a clear, blue ~, and often pl: The skies opened and the rain fell.*) ⇨ *pie*.

sky-blue *adj, n* [U] (of) the bright blue colour of the sky on a cloudless day.

sky-high *adv* so as to reach the sky: *When the bomb exploded, the bridge was blown ~ high*.

sky-lark, small bird that sings as it flies up into the sky. □ *vi* = *lark*¹: *~larking about at school*.

sky-light, window in a sloping roof.

sky-line, outline of hills, buildings, etc, defined against the sky: *the ~line of New York*.

sky-rocket *vi* (of prices) rise quickly.

sky-scraper, very tall building.

sky-ward(s) /'skaɪwəd(z)/ *adj, adv* toward(s) the sky; upward(s).

slab /slæb/ *n* [C] thick flat (usually square or rectangular) piece of stone, etc: *paved with ~s of stone; a ~ of chocolate*.

slack¹ /slæk/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** giving little care or attention to one's work: *Don't get ~ at your work*. **2** inactive; with not much work to be done or business being done: *Trade/Business is ~ this week*. **3** loose, not tight: *a ~ rope*. **4** slow-moving: *periods of ~ water*, when the tide is neither ebbing nor flowing. □ *vi* **1** be lazy or careless in one's work: *Don't ~ off in your studies*. **2** reduce speed: *S ~ up before you reach the crossroads*. **3** make (a rope, etc) loose.

slack-ly *adv*

slack-ness *n* [U]

slack² /slæk/ *n* the ~, that part of a rope, etc that hangs loosely.

slacken /'slækən/ *vt, vi* **1** make or become slower, less active, etc: *The ship's speed ~ed*. **2** make or become loose(r): *~ the ropes/reins*.

slacks /slæks/ *n pl* (dated) trousers, not part of a suit, worn informally.

slag /slæg/ *n* [U] waste matter remaining when metal has been extracted from ore.

'slag-heap, hill of slag (from a mine).

slain /sleɪn/ *pp* of slay.

slake /sleɪk/ *vt* **1** satisfy or make less strong (thirst, desire for revenge). **2** change the chemical nature of (lime) by adding water.

sla-lom /'slɑ:lɒm/ *n* [C] ski-race along a zig-zag course marked out by poles with flags.

slam /slæm/ *vt, vi* (-mm-) **1** shut violently and noisily: *~ the door (to); ~ the door in his face*.

2 be shut violently: *The door ~med (to)*. **3** put, throw or knock with force: *She ~med the box down on the table*. □ *n* [C] **1** noise of something being slammed: *the ~ of a car door*. **2** (in whist, bridge): *a grand ~*, taking of 13 tricks; *a small ~*, taking of 12 tricks.

slan-der /'slɑ:ndə(r) *US*: 'slæn-/ *n* [C, U] (offence of making a) false statement that damages a person's reputation. □ *vt* use or contain slander.

slan-derer, person who uses slander.

slan-der-ous /-əs/ *adj* using or containing slander.

slang /slæŋ/ *n* [U] words, phrases, meanings of words, etc sometimes used in conversation but not suitable for writing or for formal occasions (marked *sl* in this dictionary). □ *vt* abuse: *Stop ~ing me*. **a** **'slanging match**, a long exchange of insults and accusations.

slangy *adj* (-ier, -iest) using slang.

slant /slɑ:nt *US*: slænt/ *vi, vt* **1** slope: *His handwriting ~s from right to left*. **2** present information, etc so that it is seen from, and supports, a particular point of view (often prejudiced), eg in a newspaper. □ *n* [C] **1** slope. **2** (informal) point of view (prejudiced or biased) when thinking about something; *a new ~ on the political situation*.

slap /slæp/ *vt* (-pp-) **1** strike with the palm of the hand; smack: *She ~ped his face/~ped him on the face*. **2** put something down with a slapping noise: *He ~ped the book down on the table*. □ *n* [C] quick blow with the palm of the hand or with something flat. □ *adv* straight; directly: *The car ran ~ into the wall*.

'slap-dash *adj, adv* careless(ly): *a ~dash worker*.

'slap-happy *adj* carefree.

'slap-stick *n* [U] comedy using violence.

'slap-up *adj* (sl) first-class; extremely good: *a ~up dinner at a ~up restaurant*.

slash /slæʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** make a cut or cuts in (or at something) with sweeping strokes; strike with a whip: *His face had been ~ed with a razor-blade*. **2** condemn with force and energy: *a ~ing attack on the government's policy*. **3** (informal) cut, reduce, greatly: *~ prices/taxes/ salaries*. □ *n* [C] act of slashing; long cut or gash.

slat /slæt/ *n* [C] thin narrow piece of wood, metal or plastic material, eg as in Venetian

blinds or louvered doors.

slate /sleɪt/ *n* 1 [U] kind of blue-grey stone that splits easily into thin, flat layers; [C] one of these layers, square or oblong, used for making roofs: *a ~ quarry*. 2 [C] sheet of slate in a wooden frame for writing on (as formerly used by school-children). **a clean slate**, no cause for criticism, discredit, etc. **wipe the slate clean**, forgive all past offences. □ *vt* 1 cover (a roof, etc) with slates. 2 (informal) criticize severely (esp in a review of a book, play, etc).

slaty *adj* of or like slate.

slaughter /ˈslɔ:tə(r)/ *n* [U] 1 killing of animals (esp for food). 2 killing of many people at once: *the ~ on the roads*, the killing of people in road accidents. □ *vt* kill (animals, people) in large numbers.

slaughter-house, place where animals are butchered for food.

slaugh-ter-er, (a) person who kills animals for food. (b) person who kills many people.

slave /sleɪv/ *n* [C] 1 person who is the property of another and must serve him. 2 person compelled to work very hard for someone else: *You mustn't make ~s of your workers*. 3 person completely in the power of, under the control of, a habit, etc: *a ~ to duty/passion/convention/drink*. □ *vi* work hard: *Poor Jim! He's been slaving away* (eg cooking) *for three hours!*

slave-driver, (esp) person who makes those who are under him work very hard.

slave ship, ship used in the slave-trade.

Slave States, southern States of N America in which there was slavery before the Civil War.

slave-trade/-traffic, capturing, transportation, buying and selling, of slaves.

slavery /ˈsleɪvəri/ *n* [U] (a) condition of being a slave: *sold into ~ry*. (b) custom of having slaves: *men who worked for the abolition of ~ry*. (c) hard or badly paid work.

slav-ish /ˈsleɪvɪʃ/ *adj* like, fit for, a slave.

slaver /ˈsleɪvə(r)/ *vi* let spit run from the mouth (over). □ *n* [U] saliva.

slay /sleɪ/ *vt* (pt slew /slu:/, pp slain /sleɪn/) (literary) kill, murder.

sleazy /ˈsli:zi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (informal) dirty, untidy: *a ~ hotel*.

sled /sled/ *n* = sledge.

sledge /sledʒ/ *n* [C] vehicle with runners (long, narrow strips of wood or metal) instead of wheels, used on snow, larger types being pulled by horses or dogs and smaller types used in sport for travelling downhill at speed. □ *vi, vt* travel or carry by sledge: *go sledging*.

sledge-hammer /ˈsledʒ hæmə(r)/ *n* [C] heavy hammer with a long handle, used for driving posts into the ground, and by blacksmiths.

sleek /sli:k/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 (of hair, an ani-

mal's fur, etc) soft, smooth and glossy. 2 (of a person) having such hair. □ *vt* make sleek: *~ a cat's fur*.

sleep ¹ /sli:p/ *n* 1 [U] condition of the body and mind at rest as happens regularly every night, in which the eyes are closed and the muscles, nervous system, etc are relaxed: *How many hours ~ do you need?* 2 (with *a, an*) period of sleep: *have a short/good/restful ~*. 3 **get to sleep**, manage to fall asleep: *I couldn't get to ~ last night*. **go to sleep**, fall asleep.

sleep ² /sli:p/ *vi, vt* (pp, pt slept /slept/) 1 rest in the condition of sleep, be or fall asleep: *We go to bed to ~*. *She slept (for) eight hours*. **sleep like a top/log**, very deeply, well. 2 provide beds for: *This hotel ~s 300 guests*. 3 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

sleep around, (informal) be promiscuous.

sleep sth off, recover from (a party, headache, etc) by sleeping: *~ off a bad headache/a hangover*.

sleep on, continue to sleep: *Don't wake him up—let him ~ on for another hour*. **sleep on sth**, leave the answer, solution, to a problem, etc to the next day.

sleep through sth, not be woken up by (a noise, the alarm-clock, etc).

sleep with sb, have sexual intercourse with.

sleepers /ˈsli:pə(r)/ *n* [C] 1 person who sleeps: *a heavy/light ~*, one who is hard/easy to wake up. 2 heavy beam of wood (or similarly shaped piece of other material) on a railway track, etc supporting the rails. 3 (bed or berth in a) sleeping-car on a train.

sleeping /ˈsli:pɪŋ/ (in compounds):

sleeping-bag, warmly lined and waterproof bag in which to sleep, eg in a tent.

sleeping-car, railway coach fitted with beds or berths.

sleeping partner, person who owns a share in a business but does not do any work in it.

sleeping-pill, one that contains a drug to encourage sleep.

sleeping-sickness, disease caused by the tsetse-fly with a weakening of the mental powers and (usually) death.

sleep-less /ˈsli:plɪs/ *adj* without sleep: *pass a ~ night*.

sleepy /ˈsli:pɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) 1 needing, ready for, sleep: *feel/look ~*. 2 (of places, etc) quiet; inactive: *a ~ little village*. 3 (of some kinds of fruit) over-ripe: *~ bananas*, soft and brown inside.

sleep-ily /-əli/ *adv*

sleet /sli:t/ *n* [U] falling snow or hail mixed with rain. □ *vi*: *It was ~ing*, Sleet was falling.

sleety *adj* (-ier, -iest)

sleeve /sli:v/ *n* [C] 1 part of clothing that covers all or part of the arm: *one's ~shirt-~s*. **have sth up one's sleeve**, have an idea,

plan, etc which one keeps secret for future use.
laugh up one's sleeve, be secretly amused.
2 stiff envelope for a record.

sleeve-less *adj* without sleeves.

sleigh /sleɪ/ *n* [C] sledge, esp one drawn by a horse: *go for a ~-ride/a ride in a ~*. □ *vi, vt* travel, carry (goods), by sleigh.

sleight /slaɪt/ *n* (usually in) **sleight of hand**, great skill in using the hand(s) in performing tricks, juggling, etc.

slen-der /ˈslendə(r)/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** small in width or circumference compared with height or length: *~ fingers; a ~ waist*. **2** (of persons) slim: *a woman with a ~ figure*. **3** slight; inadequate: *have ~ means/hopes*.

slen-der-ness *n* [U]

slept /slept/ *pt, pp* of sleep.

slew /slu:/ *pt* of slay.

slice /slaɪs/ *n* [C] **1** thin, wide, flat piece cut off something, esp bread or meat. **2** part, share or price: *Smith took too big a ~ of the credit for our success*. **3** utensil with a wide, flat blade for cutting, serving or lifting (eg cooked fish, fried eggs). **4** (golf, tennis, etc) stroke that causes the ball to go spinning off in a different direction. □ *vt, vi* **1** cut into slices: *licing (up) a loaf*. **2** (golf, tennis, etc): *~ the ball*, ⇨ 4 above.

slick /sɪk/ *adj* (informal) **1** smooth; slippery: *The roads were ~ with wet mud*. ⇨ oil slick. **2** done smoothly and efficiently, perhaps with a little deceit: *a ~ business deal*. **3** (of a person) doing things in a slick way: *a ~ salesman*.

slide¹ /slaɪd/ *n* [C] **1** act of sliding(1); smooth stretch of ice, hard snow, etc on which to slide: *have a ~ on the ice*. **2** smooth slope down which persons or things can slide (eg a wooden or metal slope made for children to play on). **3** picture, diagram, etc on photographic film (and usually mounted in a frame). **4** glass plate on which is placed something to be examined under a microscope. **5** part of a machine, etc that slides (eg the U-shaped part of a trombone). **6** = landslide(a). **7** = hair-slide.

slide² /slaɪd/ *vi, vt* (*pt, pp* slid /slɪd/) **1** (cause to) move smoothly over, slip along, a polished surface: *children sliding on the ice*. *The drawers of this desk ~ in and out easily*. **let things slide**, not take care of, organize, do, them. **2** have, become, gradually, without being fully aware: *~ into dishonesty/bad habits*. **3** (cause to) move quickly, or so as to avoid observation: *The thief slid behind the curtains*. *She slid a coin into his hand*.

'slide-rule, device of two rulers with logarithmic scales, one of which slides in a groove, used for calculating quickly.

slid-ing door, one that is pulled across an opening (instead of turning on hinges).

slid-ing scale, scale by which one thing, eg wages, goes up or down in relation to changes in something else, eg the cost of living.

slight¹ /slaɪt/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** slim; slender; frail-looking: *a ~ figure*. **2** small; not serious or important: *a ~ error; a ~ headache; without the ~est difficulty*, with no difficulty at all. *She takes offence at the ~est thing*, is very easily offended.

slight-ly *adv* (a) slenderly: *a ~ly built boy*. (b) to a small degree: *The patient is ~ly better today*. *I know her ~ly*.

slight² /slaɪt/ *vt* treat without proper respect or courtesy: *She felt ~ed because no one spoke to her*. □ *n* [C] failure to show respect or courtesy: *suffer ~s*.

slim /slɪm/ *adj* (-mer, -mest) **1** slender: *a ~-waisted girl*. **2** (informal) small; insufficient: *~ hopes/chances of success*. □ *vi* (-mm-) eat less, take exercise, etc in order to reduce one's weight and become thin: *~ming exercises*.

slim-ness *n* [U]

slime /slaɪm/ *n* [U] **1** soft, thick, sticky mud. **2** sticky substance from snails, etc: *a trail of ~*.

slimy /ˈslaɪmi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) of, like, covered with, slime. (b) (fig) disgustingly dishonest, flattering, etc: *That slimy boy gets everything he wants*.

sling /slɪŋ/ *n* [C] **1** band of material, length of rope, chain, etc looped round an object, eg a barrel, a broken arm, to support or lift it. **2** strip of leather (held in the hand in a loop) used to throw stones to a distance. **3** act of throwing. □ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* slung /slʌŋ/) **1** throw with force: *naughty boys ~ing stones at girls*. **sling sb out**, (informal) throw him out (of a room, party, etc). **2** support (something) so that it can swing, be lifted, etc: *~ a rope over the cliff; with his bag slung over his shoulder*.

'sling-back *adj* (of shoes) with a strap at the back, not a heel: *~back shoes*.

slink /slɪŋk/ *vi* (*pt, pp* slunk /slʌŋk/) go or move (off, away, in, out, by) in a secret or sneaking way.

slip¹ /slɪp/ *n* [C] **1** act of slipping; false step; slight error caused by carelessness or inattention: *make a ~*. **a slip of the tongue/pen**, error in speaking/writing. **give sb the slip**, escape, get away, from him. **2** = pillow-slip. **3** loose sleeveless clothing worn under a dress. **4** young, slender person: *a (mere) ~ of a boy/girl*. **5** (usually *pl*) sloping way (of stone or timber) down to the water, on which ships are built, or pulled up out of the water for repairs. **6** (cricket) one of the fielders: *first/second/leg ~*; (*pl*) part of the ground where these fielders stand. **7** [U] liquid clay for coating earthenware or making patterns on it.

'slip-cover, detachable cover for a piece of furniture.

'slip-knot, (a) knot which slips along the cord round which it is made to tighten or loosen the loop. (b) knot which can be undone by a pull.

'slip-over, knitted article of clothing to be pulled on (over a shirt, etc).

'slip-road, road for joining or leaving a motorway.

'slip-stream, stream of air from the propeller or jet engine of an aircraft.

'slip-up, (informal) \diamond slip² (5).

'slip-way, = slip (5).

slip² /slɪp/ vi, vt (-pp-) **1** fall or almost fall as the result of losing one's balance: *He ~ped on the icy road and broke his leg.* **2** go or move quietly or quickly, esp without attracting attention: *She ~ped away/out/past without being seen. The years ~ped (= passed) by.* **3** move, get away, escape, fall, by being difficult to hold, or by not being balanced, fastened: *The fish ~ped out of my hand. The blanket ~ped off the bed.* **let sth slip.** (a) allow it to fall from one's hands, escape, or be neglected: *Don't let the opportunity ~.* (b) accidentally reveal (a secret, etc). **slip through one's fingers.** (fig) fail to keep a hold on. **slip one's mind.** \diamond mind¹ (2). **4** put, pull on or push off, with a quick, easy movement: *~ a coat on/off; ~ into/out of a dress.* **5** allow (small mistakes, etc) to enter, esp by carelessness: *errors that have ~ped into the text.* **slip up**, (informal) make a mistake. Hence, **'slip-up** n [C]. **6** move smoothly and effortlessly; go with a gliding motion: *The ship ~ped through the water.* **7** get free from; let go: *~ anchor, detach a ship from the anchor; ~ a stitch*, (in knitting) move a stitch from one needle to the other without knitting it.

'slipped disc, \diamond disc (2).

slip-per /'slɪpə(r)/ n [C] (also a pair of ~s) loose-fitting, soft shoe worn in the house.

slip-pery /'slɪpəri/ adj (-ier, iest) **1** (of a surface) smooth, wet, polished, etc so that it is difficult to hold, to stand on, or to move on: *~ roads.* **2** (fig) (of a subject) needing care: *We're on ~ ground when dealing with this subject.* **3** (fig) (of persons) unreliable; not to be trusted: *He's as ~ as an eel.*

slit /slɪt/ n [C] long, narrow cut, tear or opening. \diamond vt (pt, pp slit) (-tt-) **1** make a slit in; open (by slitting) *~ a man's throat; ~ an envelope open.* **2** be cut or torn lengthwise: *The shirt has ~ down the back.*

slither /'slɪðə(r)/ vi slide or slip unsteadily: *~ down an ice-covered slope.*

sliver /'slɪvə(r)/ n [C] **1** small, thin strip of wood; splinter. **2** thin piece cut off a large piece: *a ~ of cheese.* \diamond vt, vi break off, into, slivers.

slob-ber /'slɒbə(r)/ vi, vt **1** let saliva run from the mouth (as a baby does). **2** make wet with saliva: *The baby has ~ed its bib.* \diamond n [U] saliva running from the mouth.

sloe /sləʊ/ n [C] small, bluish-black wild plum, fruit of the blackthorn.

slog /slɒg/ vi, vt (-gg-) **1** hit hard and wildly,

esp in boxing and cricket: *~ (at) the ball.* **2** work, etc long and hard: *~ing away at one's work.* \diamond n [U] (informal) work: *all this hard ~ for nothing.*

slog-ger, person who slogs.

slo-gan /'sləʊɡən/ n [C] striking and easily remembered phrase used to advertise something, or to make clear the aim(s) of a group, campaign, etc: *political ~s.*

sloop /slu:p/ n [C] **1** small one-masted sailing-ship. **2** (modern use) small warship used for anti-submarine escort duty.

slop /slop/ vi, vt (-pp-) **1** (of liquids) spill over the edge: *The tea ~ped (over) into the saucer.* **2** cause to spill: *~ beer over the counter of a pub.*

3 empty buckets containing urine, etc: *The prisoners had to ~ out every morning.* **4** make a mess with: *~ing paint all over the floor.* **5** splash: *Why do some children love ~ping about in puddles?* \diamond n **1** (pl) dirty waste water from the kitchen or from bedrooms (where there are no basins with running water and drains).

2 (pl) urine, excrement (in buckets, as in a prison cell). **3** [U] liquid food, eg milk, soup, esp for people who are ill. **4** [U] swill (for pigs).

slope /sləʊp/ n **1** [C, U] slanting line; position or direction at an angle, less than 90°, to the earth's surface or to another flat surface: *the ~ of a roof; a hill with a ~ of 1 in 5.* **2** area of rising or falling ground: *'mountain ~s; 'ski ~s.* \diamond vi, vt **1** have a slope: *Our garden ~s (down) to the river.* **2** cause to slope. **3** (informal) **slope off**, go off or away (to avoid somebody, or escape doing something): *children sloping off after a meal to escape the washing-up.*

sloppy /'slɒpi/ adj (-ier, -iest) **1** wet or dirty with rain, etc; full of puddles: *The melting snow made the roads ~.* **2** (informal) not done with or using care and thoroughness: *a ~ workman/piece of work.* **3** (informal) foolishly sentimental; weakly emotional: *~ talk about girlfriends and boyfriends.*

slop-pily /-əli/ adv in a careless manner: *slop-pily (= carelessly) dressed.*

slop-pi-ness n [U]

slosh /slɒʃ/ vt, vi **1** (sl) hit (somebody): *~ him on the chin.* **2** splash about in water or mud. **3** throw water or other liquid.

sloshed adj (informal) drunk.

slot /slɒt/ n [C] **1** narrow opening through which something is to be put, eg for a coin in a machine to buy something, eg tickets, cigarettes, sweets. **2** slit, groove or channel into which something fits or along which it slides. **3** (informal) right or suitable place for something (in a broadcast programme, scheme, etc): *too many advertising ~s.* \diamond vt (-tt-) make a slot in: *~ 30000 graduates a year into jobs, find jobs for them.*

sloth /slɒθ/ n **1** [U] laziness; idleness. **2** [C] S American mammal which lives in the branches of trees and moves very slowly.

slough /-fl/ *adj* inactive; lazy.

slouch /sloʊtʃ/ *vi* stand, sit or move, in a lazy, tired way: *boys who ~ about at street corners all day.* □ *n* [C] lazy attitude or way of walking: *walk with a ~.*

sloven /sloʊn/ *n* [C] person who is untidy, dirty.

slovenly /sloʊnli/ *adj* untidy, dirty, careless: *a ~ appearance*

slow¹ /sləʊ/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** not quick; taking a long time: *a ~ runner; a ~ journey.* **2** at less than the usual rate or speed. *in slow motion.* (of film) with the number of exposures per second greatly increased (so that when the film is shown at normal rate the action appears to be slow). **3** not quick to learn: *a ~ child.* **4** not acting immediately; acting only after a time; *~ poison. He is ~ to anger/~ to make up his mind.* **5** (of watches and clocks) showing a time behind the correct time (eg 1.55 when it is 2.00): *That clock is five minutes ~.* **6** not sufficiently interesting or lively: *We thought the party was rather ~.* **7** (of a surface) of such a nature that what moves over it tends to do so at a reduced speed: *a ~ running track.*

'slow-coach, person who is slow in action or who has out-of-date ideas.

slow handclap, slow clapping (to show disapproval).

slow-ly *adv* in a slow manner.

slow-ness *n* [U]

slow² /sləʊ/ *adv* (-er, -est) **1** at a low speed; slowly: *Tell the driver to go ~er.* *go slow.* (a) (of workers in a factory, etc) work slowly as a protest, or in order to get attention to demands, etc. Hence, *go-¹slow* *n* [C]. (b) be less active: *You ought to go ~ until you feel really well again.* **2** *~¹going/¹moving*, going/moving slowly.

slow³ /sləʊ/ *vi, vt* (cause to) go, work, etc at a slower speed: *S~ up/down before you reach the crossroads. You should ~ up a bit (= stop working so hard) if you want to avoid a breakdown.*

slow-worm /sloʊ wɜ:m/ *n* [C] small, legless European lizard.

sludge /slʌdʒ/ *n* [U] **1** thick, greasy mud. **2** thick, dirty oil or grease.

slug¹ /slʌg/ *n* [C] slow-moving creature like a snail but without a shell.

slug² /slʌg/ *n* [C] bullet of irregular shape.

slug³ /slʌg/ *vt, vi* (-gg-) (US informal) **1** shoot(5). **2** hit hard; punch.

slug-gish /s'lʌgɪʃ/ *adj* inactive; slow-moving: *a ~ river; feeling ~.*

sluice /slu:s/ *n* [C] **1** apparatus, device, for regulating the level of water by controlling the flow into or out of (a canal, lake, etc). **2** artificial water channel, eg one made by gold-miners for rinsing gold from sand and dirt. **3** flow of water above, through or below a floodgate. □ *vi, vi* **1** send a stream of water

over; wash with a stream of water: *~ ore*, to separate it from gravel, etc. **2** *sluice out*, (of water) rush out as from a sluice.

'sluice-gate/-valve, = **1** above.

'sluice-way, = **2** above.

slum /slʌm/ *n* [C] street of dirty, crowded houses; such a house: *live in a ~.* □ *vi* (-mm-) (informal) live very cheaply: *They've been ~ming off me for years.*

slummy *adj* of slums: *a ~ my part of the town.*

slum-ber /s'lʌmbə(r)/ *vi, vt* (literary) **1** sleep peacefully or comfortably. **2** pass (time) in sleep: *~ away a hot afternoon.* □ *n* (often pl) sleep.

slump /slʌmp/ *vi* **1** drop or fall heavily: *Tired from his walk, he ~ed into a chair.* **2** (of prices, trade, business activity) fall steeply or suddenly. □ *n* [C] general drop in prices, etc; business depression.

slung /slʌŋ/ *pt, pp* of sling.

slunk /slʌŋk/ *pt, pp* of slink.

slur /slɜ:(r)/ *vt, vi* (-rr-) **1** join (sounds, letters, words) so that they are indistinct. **2** deal quickly with in an attempt to conceal: *He ~red over the dead man's faults and spoke chiefly of his virtues.* □ *n* [C] **1** suggestion of having done wrong: *cast a ~ on her reputation; keep one's reputation free from (all) ~s.* **2** act of slurring sounds.

slush /slʌʃ/ *n* [U] **1** melting, dirty snow. **2** (fig) foolish sentiment.

'slush fund, one used for bribes.

slut /slʌt/ *n* [C] untidy and careless or immoral woman.

slut-tish /-tɪʃ/ *adj*

sly /sli/ *adj* (-er, -est) deceitful; keeping or doing things secretly; seeming to have, suggesting, secret knowledge: *a ~ look. on the sly*, secretly.

sly-ly *adv*

smack¹ /smæk/ *n* [C] **1** (sound of a) blow given with the open hand; sound of the lips parted suddenly or of a whip: *with a ~ of the lips*, with this sound (suggesting enjoyment of food or drink). □ *vt* **1** strike with the open hand: *If you say that again, I'll ~ your face.* **2** part the lips with a smacking sound to show pleasure (at food or drink, etc). □ *adv* in a sudden and violent way: *It hit me ~ in the eye.*

smack-ing, act or occasion of hitting with the palm of the hand: *That child needs a good ~ing.*

smack² /smæk/ *n* [C] small sailing-boat for fishing.

smack³ /smæk/ *vi* have a slight flavour or suggestion (of): *opinions that ~ of heresy.*

small /smɔ:l/ *adj* (-er, -est) (opposite of large) **1** not large in degree, size, etc: *a ~ town/room/audience/sum of money. on the 'small side*, too small. **2** not doing things on a large scale: *~ farmers/businessmen/shopkeepers.* **3** unimportant: *a ~ mistake.* **4** morally mean;

ungenerous: *Only a ~ man/a man with a ~ mind would behave so badly.* Hence, **small-minded** *adj.* **5** of low social position: *great and ~*, all classes of people. **6** *in a 'small way*, modestly, unpretentiously: *He contributed to scientific progress in a ~ way.* **7** little or no: *He failed, and ~ wonder*, It is not surprising. **8** *n* **1** (with the) slenderest part: *the ~ of the back.* **2** (*pl*) (*informal*) small articles of clothing (for laundering).

'small-arms *n pl* weapons light enough to be carried in the hand by a soldier.

small beer, (*informal*) unimportant (quantity, matter, etc).

small change, coins of small value: *Can you give me ~ change for this note?*

'small-fry, person(s) of no importance.

'small-holder, person owning a small-holding.

'small-holding, (*in GB*) piece of land under fifty acres in size.

the small hours *n pl* the three or four hours after midnight.

small letters *n pl* not capitals.

'small-pox *n* [U] serious contagious disease which leaves permanent marks on the skin.

'small talk, about everyday and unimportant social matters.

'small-time *adj* (*informal*) of minor importance; third-rate.

small-ness *n* [U]

smart¹ /smɑ:t/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** bright; new-looking; clean; well-dressed: *a ~ dress/suit/car.* You look very ~. **2** fashionable; part of high society: *the ~ set.* **3** clever; skilful; having a good, quick brain: *a ~ student/officer.* **4** quick; brisk: *walk at a ~ pace.* **Look smart!** Hurry up! **5** severe: *a ~ rebuke; a ~ slap on the ear.*

smart-ly *adv*

smart-ness *n* [U]

smart² /smɑ:t/ *vt* feel or cause a sharp pain (of body or mind): *The smoke made my eyes ~.* *She was ~ing with anger.* **3** *n* [U] sharp pain, bodily or mental: *The ~ of his wound kept him awake.*

smarten /'smɑ:tn/ *vt, vi* make or become smart(1,4): *~ oneself up to see visitors.*

smash /smæʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** break, be broken, with force into small pieces: *~ a window.* *The firemen ~ed in/down the doors.* **2** rush, force a way, (into, through, etc): *The car ~ed into a wall.* **3** defeat thoroughly: *~ the enemy.*

smash a record, (*in sport, etc*) set up a far better record. **4** (*tennis*) hit (a ball) downwards over the net with a hard, overhand stroke. **5** (*of a business firm*) go bankrupt. **6** *n* [C] **1** breaking to pieces. **2** (*tennis*) stroke in which the ball is brought swiftly down. **3** *adv* with a smash: *go/run ~ into a wall.*

'smash-and-'grab raid, one in which a thief breaks a shop-window, eg a jeweller's,

and grabs valuables from behind it.

'smash-up, collision (of cars, trains, etc).

smasher /'smæʃə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** violent blow. **2** person or thing considered to be very fine: *That girl's a ~!*

smashing /'smæʃɪŋ/ *adj* (*dated/sl*) excellent.

smat-ter-ing /'smætərɪŋ/ *n* (usually *sing* with *a, an*) slight knowledge (of a subject): *a ~ of French.*

smear /smiə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** cover or mark with something oily or sticky; spread (something oily, etc) on: *~ one's hands with grease; hands ~ed with blood.* **2** make dirty, greasy marks on. **3** (*fig*) defame (a person, his reputation): *a ~ campaign*, effort to discredit a person.

4 *n* [C] mark made by smearing: *a ~ of paint.*

smell¹ /smel/ *n* **1** [U] that one of the five senses special to the nose: *S~ is more acute in dogs than in men.* **2** [C, U] that which is noticed by means of the nose; quality that affects this sense: *What a nice/horrible/unusual ~!* **3** (used without an *adj*) bad or unpleasant quality that affects the nose: *What a ~!* **4** (usually *sing* with *a, an*) act of breathing in through the nose to get the smell(2) of: *Have a ~ of this egg and tell me whether it's good.*

smell² /smel/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* smelt /smelt/) **1** (not used in the progressive tenses; often used with *can, could*) be aware of through the sense of smell: *Can/Do you ~ anything unusual? I can ~ something burning.* **2** *smell a rat*, **3** rat(2).

2 (used in progressive tenses) use one's sense of smell in order to learn something: *S~ this and tell me what it is.* **3** (*fig*) discover by means of the sense of smell. **4** (*fig*) discover by intuition. **5** (not used in the progressive tenses) have the sense of smell: *Do/Can fishes ~?* **6** give out a smell (of the kind specified by an *adj* or *adv*); suggest or recall the smell (of): *The flowers ~ sweet. Your breath ~s of brandy.* (Note: if there is no *adj*, the suggestion is usually something unpleasant: *His breath/He ~s.*)

'smell-ing-salts *n pl* sharp-smelling substances used as a cure for faintness, etc.

smelly *adj* (-ier, -iest) (*informal*) having a bad smell: *~y feet.*

smelt¹ /smelt/ *vt* melt (ore); separate (metal) from ore by doing this.

smelt² *pp, pt* of smell².

smile /smaɪl/ *n* [C] pleased, happy, amused or other expression on the face, with (usually a parting of the lips and) loosening of the face muscles: *There was a pleasant/amused ~ on her face.* *He was all ~s*, looked very happy. **2** *vi, vt* **1** give a smile; show pleasure, amusement, sympathy, contempt, etc by this means: *He never ~s. What are you smiling at?* **2** express by means of a smile: *Father ~d his approval.* **3** give the kind of smile indicated: *~ sweetly.*

smirsch /smɜ:ʃ/ *vt* **1** make dirty. **2** (*fig*) dis-

honour. □ *n* [C] (fig) blot or stain.

smirk /smɜ:k/ *vi*, *n* [C] (give a) silly, self-satisfied smile.

smite /smaɪt/ *vt, vi* (pt *smote* /smaʊt/, *pp* *smitten* /'smɪtn/) (old use) **1** strike; hit hard: *The sound of an explosion smote our ears.* **2** affect greatly: *He was smitten with guilt/smitten with that pretty girl.* **3** defeat utterly: *smitten by our enemies.*

smith /smɪθ/ *n* [C] worker in iron or other metals: *a black~.*

smithy /'smɪði/, blacksmith's workshop.

smith-er-eens /sɪmɪðə'ri:nz/ *n pl* small fragments: *broken to into ~.*

smock /smɒk/ *n* [C] loose shirt (with smocking on it) like an overall.

smock-ing, kind of ornamentation on clothing made by gathering the cloth tightly with stitched patterns.

smog /smɒg/ *n* [U] fog with smoke, exhaust fumes from motor-vehicles, etc.

smoke¹ /sməʊk/ *n* **1** [U] visible vapour with particles of carbon, etc coming from a burning substance: *~ pouring from factory chimneys; cigarette ~.* **go up in smoke.** (a) be burnt up. (b) (fig) be without result, leave nothing permanent or worth while behind. **2** [C] (informal) (act of smoking) a cigarette, etc: *stop working and have a ~.*

'smoke-screen, (a) clouds of smoke made to hide military operations. (b) (fig) explanation, etc designed to mislead people about one's real intentions, etc.

'smoke-stack, (a) outlet for smoke and steam from a steamship. (b) tall chimney.

smoke-less *adj* (a) that burns without smoke: *~less fuel.* (b) free from smoke: *a ~less zone*, where smoke is prohibited.

smoky *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) full of smoke: *smoky chimneys/fires.* (b) like smoke in smell, taste or appearance: *smoky bacon.*

smoke² /sməʊk/ *vi, vt* **1** give out smoke, or something thought to be like smoke, eg visible vapour or steam: *a smoking volcano.* **2** (of a fire or fireplace) send out smoke into the room (instead of up the chimney): *This fireplace ~s badly.* **3** draw in and let out the smoke of burning tobacco or other substance: *~ a pipe/cigar.* **4** bring (oneself) into a specific state by smoking tobacco: *He ~d himself sick.* **5** dry and preserve (meat, fish) with smoke (from wood fires). **6** stain, darken, dry, with smoke: *~d glass*, eg through which to look at the sun. **7** send smoke on to (plants, insects) (to kill pests). **smoke sth out**, force to leave by smoking: *~ out snakes from a hole.*

smoker, person who habitually smokes tobacco: *a heavy/light ~*, person who smokes often/not often.

smok-ing *n* [U] habit, act, of smoking(3).

smol-der /'sməʊldə(r)/ ⇨ smoulder.

smooth¹ /smu:ð/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** having a

surface like that of glass; free from roughness: *~ paper/skin; ~ to the touch; a ~ sea*, calm, free from waves. ⇨ rough³(1). **2** (of movement) free from shaking, bumping, etc: *a ~ ride in a car.* **3** (of a liquid mixture) free from lumps; well beaten or mixed: *mix to a ~ paste.* **4** free from harshness of sound or taste; flowing easily: *a ~ voice; ~ claret/whisky.* **5** (of a person, his manner) flattering, polite (often with a suggestion of insincerity): *~ manners.* □ *vt, vi* **1** make smooth: *~ away/over obstacles/difficulties*, get rid of them. **2** become calm: *The sea has ~ed down.* □ *n* [C] act of smoothing: *give one's hair a ~.*

smooth-ly *adv* in a smooth manner: *Things are not going very ~ly.* There are problems, obstacles, interruptions, etc.

smooth-ness *n* [U]

smote /smaʊt/ *pt* of smite.

smother /'sməðə(r)/ *vt* **1** cause the death of, by stopping the breath of or by keeping air from. **2** put out (a fire); keep (a fire) down (so that it burns slowly) by covering with ashes, sand, etc. **3** cover, wrap up: *~ a grave with flowers/a child with kisses/one's wife with kindness; be ~ed with/in dust by passing cars.* **4** control; hold back: *~ a yawn/one's anger.* □ *n* (usually *sing* with *a, an*) cloud of dust, smoke, steam, spray, etc.

smoul-der (US = *smol-*) /'sməʊldə(r)/ *vi* **1** burn slowly without flame. **2** (fig) (of feelings, etc) exist but be unseen, undetected, etc: *~ing discontent/hatred.* □ *n* [U] slow burning: *The ~ became a blaze.*

smudge /smʌdʒ/ *n* [C] dirty mark: *You've got a ~ on your cheek.* □ *vt, vi* **1** make a smudge on. **2** (of ink, paint, etc) become blurred or smeared: *Ink ~s easily.*

smug /smʌg/ *adj* (-ger, -gest) having, showing, a character that is easily satisfied and without imagination, kindness for others, etc: *a ~ smile/young man.*

smug-ly *adv*

smuggle /'smʌgl/ *vt* **1** get (goods) secretly and illegally (into, out of, a country, through the customs, across a frontier): *smuggling drugs into England.* **2** take (a person or thing) secretly and in defiance of rules and regulations: *~ a letter/news into a prison.*

smug-gler /'smʌglə(r)/, person who smuggles.

smut /smʌt/ *n* **1** [C] (mark or stain made by a) bit of soot, dirt, etc. **2** [U] disease of corn (wheat, etc) that causes the ears to turn black. **3** [U] indecent or obscene words, topics: *Don't talk ~.* □ *vt* (-tt-) mark with smuts(1).

smutty *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) dirty with smuts. (b) containing smut(3): *~ty stories.*

snack /snæk/ *n* [C] light meal (sandwiches, pies, etc).

'snack-bar/-counter, where snacks may be eaten.

snag /snæg/ *n* [C] **1** rough or sharp object, root of a tree, hidden rock, which may be a source of danger. **2** (informal) hidden, unknown or unexpected difficulty or obstacle: *There's a ~ in this plan somewhere.*

snail /sneɪl/ *n* [C] kinds of animal with a soft body, no limbs and with a spiral shell. **at a 'snail's pace**, very slowly.

snake /sneɪk/ *n* [C] **1** kinds of long, legless reptile, some of which are poisonous. **2** (fig) insincere, harmful person who pretends to be a friend. □ *vi* move in twists and glides: *The road ~s through the mountains.*

'snake-charmer, person who can control snakes with music.

snap /snæp/ *vt, vi* (-pp-) **1** (try to) catch with the teeth: *The dog ~ped at my leg.* **2** (fig) (try to) catch quickly: *They ~ped at the offer, offered eagerly to accept it.* **snap sth up**, buy eagerly: *The cheapest clothes were quickly ~ped up.* **3** break with a sharp crack; open or close with, make a sudden, sharp sound: *The rope ~ped. He ~ped down the lid of the box.* **4** say (something) quickly, sharply: *The sergeant ~ped out his orders.* **snap at sb**, speak quickly to him in an angry voice. **5** take a photograph of. **6 snap out of it**, get out of a mood, habit, etc. □ *n* **1** [C] act or sound of snapping: *The dog made a ~ at the meat. The lid shut with a ~.* **2** [C] = cold snap. **3** [C] kinds of small biscuit: *'ginger-~s.* **4** [C] = snapshot. **5** (used as an adjective) done quickly with little or no warning: *a ~ e'lection/ de'cision.*

'snap-shot, quickly taken photograph with a hand camera.

snappy *adj* (informal): *Make it ~py!* Hurry up!

snare /sneə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** trap for catching small animals and birds. **2** (fig) something that tempts one to expose oneself to defeat, disgrace, loss, etc: *His promises are a ~ and a delusion.* □ *vt* catch in a snare: *~ a rabbit.*

snarl¹ /sna:ɪ/ *vi, vt* **1** (of dogs) show the teeth and growl (at). **2** (of persons) speak in an angry voice. □ *n* [C] act, sound, of snarling.

snarl² /sna:ɪ/ *n* [C] tangle; confused state: *the 'traffic ~s in a big town.* □ *vt, vi* (cause to) become jammed: *The traffic (was) ~ed up.* Hence, **'snarl-up** *n* [C]

snatch /snætʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** put out the hand suddenly and take: *He ~ed the letter from me! ~ed the letter out of my hand.* He ~ed at (ie tried to seize) the letter but was not quick enough. **2** get quickly or when a chance occurs: *~ an hour's sleep/meal; ~ a kiss.* □ *n* [C] **1** act of snatching: *make a ~ at the letter.* **2** (as an adjective): *a ~ decision, made quickly.* **3** short outburst or period: *overhear ~es of conversation.*

snatcher, person who snatches.

sneak /sni:k/ *vi, vt* go quietly and secretly (*in,*

out, away, back, past, etc). □ *n* [C] (informal) cowardly, harmful person.

sneak-ing *adj* (a) secret, sly: *have a ~ing respect/sympathy for him*, respect, etc which is not shown openly. (b) *a ~ing suspicion*, a vague, puzzling one.

sneak-er /'sni:kə(r)/ *n* [C] (also a pair of ~s) (esp US) canvas shoe soled with rubber, rope, etc; tennis shoe.

sneer /sniə(r)/ *vi* show contempt by using a wrinkled nose and an insincere smile (and perhaps despising words): *~ at politics.* □ *n* [C] sneering look, smile, etc.

sneer-ing-ly *adv*

sneeze /sni:z/ *n* [C] sudden, uncontrollable outburst of air through the nose and mouth: *Coughs and ~s spread diseases.* □ *vi* make a sneeze: *sneezing into a handkerchief.* **not to be sneezed at**, (informal) worth having even though it is small: *A prize of £50 is not to be ~d at.*

snick /snɪk/ *vt, vi, n* [C] (make a) small cut in something.

snicker /'sni:kə(r)/ *vi, n* [C] = snigger.

snide /snaɪd/ *adj* sneering; suggesting unpleasant thoughts: *~ remarks about their friendship.*

sniff /snɪf/ *vi, vt* **1** draw air in through the nose so that there is a sound: *~ing and sneezing.* **2** sniff(1) to show disapproval or contempt. **3** draw in through the nose as one breathes: *~ the sea-air; ~ (at) a rose.* *The dog was ~ing (at) the lamp-post.* □ *n* [C] act or sound of sniffing; breath (of air, etc): *One ~ of this stuff is enough to kill you.*

sniffle /'snɪfl/ *vi* = snuffle.

snig-ger /'sni:gə(r)/ *n* [C] short giggle (esp at something improper, or in a cynical manner). □ *vi* laugh in this way.

snip /snɪp/ *vt, vi* (-pp-) cut with scissors or shears, esp in short, quick strokes: *~ off the ends of the string.* □ *n* [C] **1** cut made by snipping; thing cut off (something large). **2** (informal) bargain: *Only 50p! It's a ~!*

snipe¹ /snaɪp/ *n* [C] (pl unchanged) bird with a long bill which lives in marshes.

snipe² /snaɪp/ *vi, vt* fire shots (at) from a hiding-place, usually at long range; kill or hit in this way.

sniper, person who snipes.

snip-pet /'snɪpɪt/ *n* [C] **1** small piece cut off: *a ~ of cloth to use as a sample.* **2** (pl) bits (of information, news, etc): *catch only ~s of the conversation.*

snitch /snɪtʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** (st) steal (something of little or no value). **2** inform (on a person).

snivel /'sni:vəl/ *vi* (GB -ll; US -l-) cry from insincere grief, sorrow or fear; complain, cry, in a miserable way: *a harassed woman with six ~ling children.*

snob /snɒb/ *n* [C] person who pays too much respect to social position or wealth, or who

dislikes persons who are of lower social position: *'~ appeal, power to attract the interest of snobs.*

snob-bery /'snɒbəri/, state, quality, of being snobbish.

snob-bish /-ɪʃ/ *adj* of or like a snob.

snob-bish-ly *adv*

snooker /'snu:kə(r)/ *n* [U] game played with 15 red balls and 6 balls of other colours on a billiard-table.

snook /snu:p/ *vi* **snook into**, enquire into matters one is not properly concerned with.

snook around, look for faults, breaking of laws, etc (to gain an advantage).

snooty /'snu:ti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (*informal*) snobbish.

snoot-ily /-ɪli/ *adv*

snooze /snu:z/ *vi, n* [C] (*informal*) (take a) short sleep (esp in the daytime): *have a ~ after lunch.*

snore /sno:(r)/ *vi* breathe roughly and noisily while sleeping. *n* sound of snoring: *His ~s woke me up.*

snorer, person who snores.

snorkel, schnor-kel /'snɔ:kl, 'ʃn-/ *n* [C] **1** tube that enables a submarine to take in air while submerged. **2** short, bent tube held in the mouth, for a swimmer to take in air while under water.

snort /snɔ:t/ *vi, vt* **1** force air violently out through the nose; do this to show impatience, contempt, etc: *~ with rage (at her/the idea).* **2** express by snorting: *~ out a reply. 'Never!', he ~ed.* *n* [C] **1** act or sound of snorting: *give a ~ of contempt.* **2** snorkel (of a submarine).

snout /snoʊt/ *n* [U] (*vulgar*) mucus of the nose.

snotty *adj* (*vulgar*) (a) running with, wet with, mucus. (b) annoyed.

'snotty-nosed, *adj* superior; snobbish: *You ~-nosed little creep.*

snout¹ /snaʊt/ *n* [C] **1** nose (and sometimes the mouth or jaws) of an animal (esp a pig). **2** front of something, thought to be like a snout.

snout² /snaʊt/ *n* (*prison sl*) [U] tobacco; [C] cigarette.

snow¹ /snoʊ/ *n* **1** [U] frozen vapour falling from the sky in soft, white flakes; mass of such flakes on the ground, etc: *a heavy fall of ~.*

'snow-ball *n* [C] (a) mass of snow pressed into a hard ball for throwing in play. (b) something that increases quickly in size as it moves forward. *vi, vt* (a) throw snowballs (at). (b) grow quickly in size, importance, etc: *Opposition to the war ~balled.*

'snow-blind *adj* (temporarily) unable to see because the eyes are tired by the glare of the sun on snow.

'snow-bound *adj* unable to travel because of heavy falls of snow.

'snow-drift, snow heaped up by the wind.

'snow-drop, bulb plant with small white flowers at the end of winter.

'snow-fall, (esp) amount of snow that falls on one occasion or in a period of time.

'snow-flake, one of the collections of small crystals in which snow falls.

'snow-man, figure of a man made of snow by children.

'snow-plough (US -plow), device for pushing snow from roads and railways.

'snow-shoes *n pl* frames with leather straps for walking on deep snow without sinking in.

'snow-storm, heavy fall of snow, esp with strong wind.

'snow-white *adj* as white as snow.

snow² /snoʊ/ *vi, vt* **1** (of snow) come down from the sky: *It ~ed all day.* **be snowed in/up**, be prevented by heavy snow from going out. **2** come in large numbers or quantities: *Gifts and messages ~ed in on her birthday. She was ~ed under with work/with invitations to dinner parties.*

snowy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) covered with snow: *~y roofs.* (b) characterized by snow: *~y weather.*

snub /snʌb/ *vt* (-bb-) ignore, treat with contempt (esp a younger or less senior person); reject (an offer) in this way: *be/get ~ed by a civil servant.* *n* [C] snubbing words or behaviour: *suffer a ~.*

snub nose /'snʌb nəʊz/ *n* [C] short, turned up nose.

'snub-nosed *adj*

snuff¹ /snʌf/ *n* [U] powdered tobacco to be taken up into the nose by sniffing: *take a pinch of ~.*

'snuff-box, box for snuff.

snuff² /snʌf/ *vt, vi* cut or pinch off the burnt black end of the wick of (a candle).

snuffle /'snʌfl/ *vi* make sniffing sounds; breathe noisily (as when the nose is partly stopped up with catarrh). *n* [C] act or sound of snuffling.

snug /snʌg/ *adj* (-gg-) **1** sheltered from wind and cold; warm and comfortable: *~ in bed.* **2** neat and tidy; rightly or conveniently placed or arranged: *a ~ cabin, on a ship.* **3** closely fitting: *a ~ jacket.*

snug-ly *adv*

snuggle /'snʌgl/ *vi, vt* lie or get (close to a person) for warmth, comfort or affection: *The child ~d up to its mother. She ~d down in bed, made herself comfortable.*

so¹ /səʊ/ *adv* of degree to such an extent: *It is not ~ big as I thought it would be. We didn't expect him to stay ~ long, as long as he did stay. He is not ~ stupid as to do that. He was ~ ill that we had to send for a doctor. There were ~ many that we didn't know where to put them all. I'm ~ glad to see you! so far; so far, so good, ⇨ far²(2). so long as, ⇨ long²(1). ⇨ also much¹.*

so² /səʊ/ *adv* of manner **1** in this (that) way; thus: *Stand just ~. S~ it was (= That is how)*

I became a sailor. As you treat me, ~ I shall treat you. **and 'so on/forth**, and other things of the same kind. **2 so that**, (a) in order that: *Speak clearly, ~ that they can understand you.* (b) with the result that: *Nothing more was heard of him, ~ that people thought he was dead.* **so... that**, (a) with the intent that: *We have ~ arranged matters that one of us is always on duty.* (b) with the result that, in a way that: *It ~ happened that I couldn't attend the meeting.* **so as to**, in order to; in such a way that: *I'll have everything ready ~ as not to keep you waiting.* **3** (used as a substitute for a word, phrase or situation): *I told you ~!* That is what I told you! **4** (used to express agreement): *A: 'It was cold yesterday.' B: 'S~ it was.'* **5** also: *You are young and ~ am I, ie I also am young.*

'so-called, having this description but perhaps wrongly or doubtfully: *Your ~called friends won't help you in your troubles.*

'so-so *adj* (informal) not very good: *'How are you feeling?' 'Only ~-~.'*

so-and-so *'səʊ n səʊ*, person not needing to be named (because known to be critical, etc): *Don't worry about what old ~-and-~ says.*

so³ *'səʊ* *conj* **1** therefore; that is why: *The shops were closed ~ I couldn't get any. She asked me to go, ~ I went.* **2** (used in exclamations) *S~ there you are!*

soak *'səʊk* *vt, vi* **1** become completely wet by being in liquid or by absorbing liquid: *The clothes are ~ing in soapy water.* **2** cause something to absorb as much liquid as possible: *S~ the cloth in the dye for one hour.* **3** absorb; take in (liquid): *Blotting-paper ~s up ink.* **4** **soak oneself in sth**, (fig) absorb: *~ oneself in the atmosphere of a place.* **5** (of rain, etc) make very wet: *We all got ~ed (through).* **be soaked to the skin**, get completely wet. **6** enter and pass through: *The rain had ~ed through the roof.* *□ n* [C] act of soaking: *Give the sheets a good ~.* **in soak**, being soaked: *The sheets are in ~.*

soap *'səʊp* *n* [U] substance made of fat or oil, etc, used for washing and cleaning: *a bar/cake of ~*; *use plenty of ~ and water.* *□ vi* **1** apply soap: *~ oneself down.* **2** (informal) use flattery to try to please. *⇒ soft soap.*

'soap-box, packing-case used by a speaker to stand on (in a street, park, etc).

'soap-bubble, filmy ball of soapy water, full of air.

'soap-flakes/-powder, used to wash clothes.

'soap opera, TV or radio serial on domestic and romantic themes.

'soap-suds *n pl* bubbly lather of soap and water.

soapy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) of or like soap: *This bread has a ~y taste.* (b) (fig) over-anxious to

please: *He has a ~y voice.*

soar *'sɔ:(r)* *vi* **1** (of birds, aircraft) fly or go up high in the air. **2** (fig) rise high up: *Prices ~ed when war broke out.*

sob *'sɒb* *vi, vt* (-bb-) **1** draw in the breath sharply and irregularly from sorrow or pain, esp while crying: *She ~ed her heart out*, cried a great deal. **2** tell while sobbing: *She ~bed out the story of her son's death in the car crash.* *□ n* [C] act or sound of sobbing: *The child's ~s gradually died down.*

so-ber *'səʊbə(r)* *adj* **1** self-controlled; serious in thought, etc; calm: *make a ~ estimate of what is possible*; *~ colours*, not bright. **2** avoiding drunkenness; not drunk: *Does he ever go to bed ~?* *□ vi, vi* **1** make or become sober (1): *The bad news ~ed all of us.* **2** make or become sober (2): *Leave him to ~ up.*

so-ber-ly *adv* in a controlled, serious way.

so-bri-ety *'səʊbrɪəti* *n* [U] (formal) quality or condition of being sober (1).

soc-cer *'sɒkə(r)* *n* [U] association football.

so-ci-able *'səʊjəbl* *adj* friendly; liking company.

so-ci-ably */-əbli* *adv*

so-cia-bil-ity *'səʊʃəbɪləti* *n* [U]

so-cial *'səʊʃl* *adj* **1** living in groups, not separately: *~ ants. Man is a ~ animal.* **2** of people living in communities; of relations between persons and communities: *~ customs/reforms/welfare.* **3** of or in society: *one's ~ equals*, persons of the same class as oneself in society. **4** for companionship: *a ~ club.* **5** = sociable. *□ n* [C] social gathering, eg one organized by a club.

'Social 'Democrat, (politics) person who wishes society to change gradually to a system of democratic socialism.

'social se'curity, government provisions for helping people who are unemployed, ill, disabled, etc: *The family is on ~ security*, receiving such help.

'social 'science, eg psychology, politics.

'social worker, trained person who works to improve the social welfare of individuals.

so-cially */-ʃəli* *adv*

so-cial-ism *'səʊʃəlɪzəm* *n* [U] first phase of communism; social and economic system which is replacing capitalism, based on the public ownership of the means of production and the abolishing of the exploitation of man by man.

so-cial-ist */-ɪst* *n* [C] supporter of, believer in, socialism. *□ adj* of socialism.

so-cial-ize (also **-ise**) */-aɪz/ vi* make socialist.

so-cial-ite *'səʊʃəlaɪt* *n* [C] person well-known in fashionable society.

so-ci-ety *'səʊsaɪəti* *n* (pl **-ies**) **1** [U] social way of living; system whereby people live together in organized communities: *a danger to ~*, person, idea, etc that endangers the bodily or moral welfare of the members of a commun-

ity. **2** [C] social community; *modern industrial societies*. **3** [U] company; companionship: *spend an evening in the ~ of one's friends*. **4** [U] people of fashion or distinction in a place, district, country, etc; the upper classes: *leaders of ~*. ⇨ *high society*. **5** [C] organization of persons formed with a purpose; club; association: *the school de'bating ~*; *a co-operative ~*; *the S~ of Friends*.

so-cio-logi-cal /səʊsiə'lɒdʒɪkəl/ *adj* of sociology.

so-cio-logi-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*.

so-ci-ol-ogist /səʊsi'ɒlədʒɪst/ *n* [C] student of, expert in, sociology.

so-ci-ol-ogy /səʊsi'ɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] science of the nature and growth of society and social behaviour.

sock¹ /sɒk/ *n* [C] (also *a pair of ~s*) **1** woollen, cotton, etc covering for the foot and ankle. **pull one's socks up**, improve, make a greater effort: *You won't pass the exam if you don't pull your ~s up!* **2** loose sole used inside a shoe.

sock² /sɒk/ *n* [C] (*sl*) blow given with the fist: *Give him a ~ on the jaw!* □ *vt* (*sl*) give (a person) such a blow: *S~ him on the jaw!* □ *adv* (*sl*) exactly: *It hit her ~ in the eye*.

socket /'sɒkɪt/ *n* [C] natural or artificial hollow into which something fits or in which something turns: *the 'eye-~s*; *a ~ for an electric light bulb*.

sod /sɒd/ *n* [U] upper layer of grassland including the grass with its roots and earth; [C] square or oblong piece of this.

soda /'səʊdə/ *n* [U] common chemical substance used to make soap, glass, etc: *'baking-~*, kind used in cooking.

'soda-water, water containing carbon dioxide gas to make it bubble.

sod-den /'sɒdn/ *adj* **1** soaked through: *clothes ~ with rain*. **2** (of bread, etc) moist or sticky because undercooked.

so-dium /'səʊdiəm/ *n* [U] silver-white metal (symbol **Na**) occurring naturally only in compounds: ~ *chloride*, (**NaCl**) common salt.

sod-omy /'sɒdəmi/ *n* [U] anal sexual intercourse, esp between males.

sofa /'səʊfə/ *n* [C] long seat with raised ends and back, on which several persons can sit or one person can lie.

soft /sɒft/ *US: sɒft/ adj* (-er, -est) **1** (opposite of *hard*) changing shape easily when pressed: ~ *soil/ground/mud*. **a soft landing**, (eg of a spacecraft on the moon) one that avoids damage or destruction. **2** (of surfaces) smooth and delicate: ~ *fur*; ~ *furnishings*, curtains, etc. **3** (of light, colours) restful to the eyes: *lampshades that give a ~ light*. **4** (of sounds) not loud: ~ *music*; *in a ~ voice*. **5** (of outlines) indistinct. **6** (of answers, words, etc) mild; gentle; intended to please: *a ~ answer*; *have a ~ tongue*. **7** (of the air, weather) mild: *a ~*

breeze/wind. **8** (of water) free from mineral salts and therefore good for washing: *as ~ as rainwater*. **9** (of certain sounds): *C is ~ in 'city' and hard in 'cat'*. *G is ~ in 'gin' and hard in 'get'*. **10** easy: *have a ~ job*, an easy, well-paid job.

11 not having strength and determination: *Are the young people today getting ~?* **12** sympathetic; considerate: *have a ~ heart*. **13** (*informal*) easily affected, fooled: *He's not as ~ as he looks*. *Jack is ~* (= sentimentally silly) *about Anne*.

'soft-boiled adj (of eggs) boiled so that the yolk is liquid.

'soft currency, one that is not convertible to gold, or into hard currencies.

'soft drink, non-alcoholic fruit juice.

'soft-headed adj idiotic; foolish.

'soft-hearted adj sympathetic; kind.

'soft option, alternative which is thought to need little effort.

'soft palate, back part of the roof of the mouth.

'soft-pedal vi, vt (*fig*) make (a statement, etc) less definite or confident.

'soft soap, (a) liquid soap. (b) (*fig*) flattery.

□ **'soft-soap vt** flatter.

'soft-spoken adj having a gentle voice; saying pleasant, friendly things.

'soft-ware, data, programmes, etc not forming parts of a computer but used for its operation. ⇨ *hardware*.

soft-ly adv

soft-ness n [U]

soft-en /'sɒfn/ *US: 'sɒ:fn/ vt, vi* **1** make or become soft: *curtains that ~ the light*; *people who are ~ed by luxurious living*. **2** make (something) easier to bear: *Her gentle manner ~ed the effect of the news*. **soften the blow**, make suffering easier to bear.

soft-ener n [C] something used to soften water.

soggy /'sɒgi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (esp of ground) heavy with water.

sog-gi-ness n [U]

soil /sɔɪl/ *n* [C,U] ground; earth, esp the upper layer of earth in which plants, trees, etc grow: *good/poor/sandy ~*; *a man of the ~*, one who works on the land (and likes to do so). □ *vi, vi* **1** make dirty: *He refused to ~ his hands*, refused to do dirty work. **2** become soiled: *material that ~s easily*.

so-journ /'sɒdʒn/ *US: sɔʊ'dʒɔrn/ vi, n* [C] (*literary*) (make a) stay (with a person, at or in) for a time.

sol-ace /'sɒlɪs/ *n* [C,U] (*formal*) (that which gives) comfort or relief (when one is in trouble or pain): *The invalid found ~ in music*. □ *vt* give relief to: *The unhappy man ~d himself with whisky*.

so-lar /'sɒlə(r)/ *adj* of the sun.

solar cell, device (as used in satellites) which converts solar energy into electric energy.

solar energy, energy of sunlight as used to make electricity.

solar panel, device (in a roof, etc) which attracts solar energy (as a method of heating, lighting).

solar plexus /'pleksəs/, group of nerves at the pit of the stomach.

the 'solar system, the sun and the planets which revolve round it.

the solar year, time taken by the earth to go round the sun, about 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds.

sold /səʊld/ *pt, pp* of sell.

sol-dier /'sɒldɪə(r) *US*: /səʊdər/ *n* [U] easily melted alloy used, when melted, to join harder metals, wires, etc. □ *vt* join with solder.

'solder-ing-iron, tool used for this work.

sol-dier /'sɒldɪə(r)/ *n* [C] member of an army: *three ~s, two sailors and one civilian*. □ *vi* serve as a soldier: *be tired of ~ing*. **'soldier on**, continue bravely with one's work, etc in the face of difficulties.

sole¹ /səʊl/ *n* [C] flat sea-fish with a delicate flavour.

sole² /səʊl/ *n* [C] under surface of a human foot, or of a sock, shoe, etc. □ *vt* put a sole on (a shoe, etc): *send a pair of shoes to be ~ed and heeled*.

-soled suffix (with the kind mentioned): *rubber~d boots*.

sole³ /səʊl/ *adj* **1** one and only; single: *the ~ cause of the accident*. **2** restricted to one person, company, etc: *We have the ~ right of selling the article*.

sole-ly *adv* alone; only: *~ly responsible; ~ly because of you*.

sol-emn /'sɒləm/ *adj* **1** done with religious or other ceremony; causing deep thought or respect: *a ~ silence as the coffin was carried out of the church; a ~ oath, serious and important*. **2** serious-looking: *~ faces; look as ~ as a judge*.

sol-emn-ly *adv*

sol-em-nity /sə'lemnəti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) (*formal*) **1** [U] seriousness; gravity. **2** [U] (but also *pl*) solemn ceremony: *The Queen was crowned with all ~/with all the proper solemnities*.

sol-em-nize (also -ise) /'sɒləmnaɪz/ *vt* perform (a religious ceremony, esp a wedding) with the usual rites.

sol-icit /sə'lisɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** ask (for) seriously; make determined requests (for): *Both the candidates ~ed my vote*. **2** (of a prostitute) make an immoral sexual offer (to), esp in a public place.

sol-ici-tor /sə'lisɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (*GB*) lawyer who prepares legal documents, eg wills, sale of land or buildings, advises clients on legal matters, and speaks on their behalf in lower courts. ⇨ *barrister*. **2** (*US*) person who solicits trade, support, etc.

Sol-icitor-¹General, one of the principal

law officers in the British Government, advising on legal matters.

sol-ici-tous /sə'lisɪtəs/ *adj* (*formal*) anxious, concerned about (a person's welfare, etc) or to help somebody: *~ to please; ~ for her comfort*.

sol-ici-tous-ly *adv*

sol-ici-tude /sə'lisɪtju:d *US*: -tʊd/ *n* [U] (*formal*) concern or anxiety: *my deep ~ for your welfare*.

solid /'sɒlɪd/ *adj* **1** not in the form of a liquid or gas: *When water freezes and becomes ~, we call it ice*. **2** firm; heavy: *a man with good ~ flesh on him*. **3** without holes or spaces; not hollow: *a ~ sphere*. **4** of strong material or construction; able to support weight or resist pressure: *~ buildings/furniture*. ⇨ *rock*¹ (2). **5** that can be depended on: *~ arguments; a ~ (= financially sound) business firm; a man of ~ character*. **6** of the same substance throughout: *made of ~ gold*. **7** unanimous; undivided: *There was a ~ vote in favour of the proposal*. **8** continuous; without a break: *wait for a ~ hour; sleep ten ~ hours/ten hours ~*. **9** (*maths*) having length, breadth and thickness: *a ~ figure, eg a cube*. □ *n* [C] **1** body or substance which is solid, not a liquid or a gas. **2** (*maths*) figure of three dimensions.

solid-ly *adv*

sol-id-ity /sə'lɪdɪti/, **solid-ness** *n* [U] quality of being solid: *the ~ity of a building/argument*.

sol-i-dar-ity /sə'lɪdərɪti/ *n* [U] unity because of common interests or feelings: *national ~ in the face of danger*.

sol-id-ify /sə'lɪdɪfaɪ/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) make or become solid, hard or firm.

sol-il-oquy /sə'lɪləkwɪ/ *n* [C, U] (*pl* -ies) **1** (instance of) speaking one's thoughts aloud. **2** (in drama) speech in which a character speaks his thoughts without a listener.

sol-il-oquize (also -ise) /sə'lɪləkwəɪz/ *vi* talk to oneself; think aloud.

sol-i-taire /sə'lɪtɛə(r) *US*: /sɒlɪtɛə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (ornament such as an earring with a) single gem or jewel. **2** (*US*) = *patience* (3).

sol-i-tary /'sɒltrɪ *US*: -teri/ *adj* **1** (living) alone; without companions; lonely: *a ~ life; a ~ walk*. **2** only one: *not a ~ one/instance*. **3** seldom visited: *a ~ valley*.

'solitary confinement, prison punishment by which a person is kept in a separate cell.

sol-i-tar-ily /sə'lɪtrəli *US*: /sɒlɪ'terəli/ *adv*

sol-i-tude /'sɒltɪtju:d *US*: -tʊd/ *n* **1** [U] being without companions; solitary state: *live in ~*. **2** [C] lonely place: *spend six months in the ~s of the Antarctic*.

solo /'sɒləʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** piece of music (to be) performed by one person: *a violin/piano ~*. **2** any performance by one person: (as an *adverb*) *fly ~; (as an adjective) his first ~ flight*. **3**

[U] kind of whist in which one player opposes others.

'solo-ist /-ɪst/, person who gives a solo (1).

sol-stice /'sɒlstɪs/ *n* [C] either time (*summer* ~, about 21 June; *winter* ~, about 22 December) at which the sun is farthest N or S of the equator.

sol-uble /'sɒljʊbl/ *adj* **1** that can be dissolved. **2** = solvable.

solu-bil-ity /sə'lju'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

sol-ution /sə'lu:ʃn/ *n* **1** [C] answer (to a question, etc); way of dealing with a difficulty: *Perhaps economy is the ~ to/of your financial troubles.* **2** [U] process of finding an answer or explanation: *problems that defy ~*, cannot be solved. **3** [U] process of dissolving a solid or a gas in liquid: *the ~ of sugar in tea.* **4** [C,U] liquid that results from this process: *a ~ of salt in water; a salt ~.*

solv-able /'sɒlvəbl/ *adj* that can be solved or explained.

solve /sɒlv/ *vt* find the answer to (a problem, etc); explain (a difficulty): *~ a crossword puzzle.*

sol-vent /'sɒlvənt/ *adj* **1** of the power of dissolving or forming a solution: *the ~ action of water.* **2** having money enough to meet one's debts. □ *n* [C] substance (usually a liquid) able to dissolve another substance: *grease ~*, eg petrol.

sol-ven-ty /-nsɪ/ *n* [U] being solvent (2).

sombre (US = **som-ber**) /'sɒmbə(r)/ *adj* dark-coloured; gloomy: *a ~ January day; ~ clothes/colours.*

sombre-ly (US = **som-ber-ly**) *adv*

som-brero /sɒm'breərəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) hat with a wide brim (as worn in Latin American countries).

some¹ /səm *weak form* səm/ *adj* **1** (used to show an amount or quantity, a certain degree or number (more than two): *Please give me ~ milk. There are ~ children outside. S~ (= Some people) say that...* (Note: *some* is used in affirmative sentences; usually replaced by *any* in questions and negative sentences: *Have you any milk? We haven't any milk;* used in sentences where doubt or negation is implied. *Some* and *any* are *pl* equivalents of the numeral article *a*, *an*, of numeral *one*, and the indefinite pron 'one'.) **2** (used in questions if the speaker expects, or wishes to suggest, an affirmative answer: *Aren't there ~ stamps in that drawer?* **3** (used in questions which are really invitations or requests: *Will you have ~ cake?* **4** (used after *if*, introducing something supposed: *If we had ~/any money, we could buy it. If we find ~/any, we'll share them with you.* (Note: *some* or *any* can be used.) **5** (used with *more*): *Give me ~ more. Won't you have ~ more?* (Note: compare *Do you want any more? I haven't any more.*) **6** (always /səm/) (contrasted with *the rest*, *other(s)*, and *all*): *S~*

children learn languages easily. S~ work is pleasant. **7** (always /səm/) (used to show that the person, place, object, etc is unknown, or when the speaker does not wish to be specific): *He's living at ~ place in East Africa. I've read that story before in ~ book or other.* **8** about; approximately: *That was ~ twenty years ago.* **9** (always /səm/) considerable quantity or number of: *I shall be away for ~ time, a fairly long time. The railway station is ~ distance (= quite a long way) from the village.* **10** (always /səm/) (used suggest 'to a certain extent'): *That is ~ help* (ie *It helps to a certain extent*) *towards understanding the problem.*

some² /səm/ *pron* (*Some* as a *pron* is used in the same ways as *some*, *adj*, **1,2,3** and **4**. *S~ of* and *any of* are equivalent to *a few of*, *a little of*, *part of*): *S~ of these books are quite useful.* (Compare: *I don't want any of these (books). I don't want any of this (paper).*) *I agree with ~ (= part) of what you say. Scotland has ~ of the finest scenery in the world.* □ *adv* ⇨ **some(8)** above.

-some /-səm/ *suffix* (used to form an adjective) likely to, productive of: *quarrelsome.*

some-body /'sʌmbədi/, **some-one** /'sʌmwʌn/ *pron* **1** a person (unknown or unnamed): *There's ~ at the door.* (Note: replaced by *anybody* or *anyone* in questions, negative sentences: *Is there anyone at home? There isn't anybody at home.*) **2** (often with *a*; also in the *pl*) a person of some importance: *If you had studied harder at college you might have become ~. He's nobody here but he's a ~ in his own village.*

some-how /'sʌmhaʊ/ *adv* **1** in some way (or other); by one means or another: *We must find money for the rent ~ (or other). We shall get there ~.* **2** for some (vague) reason (or other): *S~ I don't trust that man.*

some-one /'sʌmwʌn/ *n* = somebody.

some-place /'sʌmpleɪs/ *adv* (US informal) = somewhere: *I've left my bag ~.*

som-er-sault /'sʌməsɔ:lt/ *n* [C] leap or fall in which one turns over completely before landing on one's feet: *turn/throw a ~.* □ *vi* turn a somersault.

some-thing /'sʌmθɪŋ/ *pron* **1** a thing, object, event, etc (unknown, unnamed, etc): *There's ~ on the floor. I want ~ to eat. There's ~ (= some truth, some point) in what he says.* (Note: replaced by *anything* in questions, negative sentences: *Is there anything in that box? There isn't anything to eat.*) **2** or **something**. (used to show absence of precise information): *I hear he has broken an arm or ~, met with an accident and has broken a limb, etc.* □ *adv* **something like**, (**a**) a little like: *The noise sounded ~ like an explosion.* (**b**) approximately: *It cost ~ like £10.*

some-time /'sʌmtaɪm/ *adv* **1** at a point in time: *I saw him ~ in May. It was ~ last sum-*

mer. I will speak to him about it ~. (Note: do not confuse with some time as in: I have been waiting some time: I ~ have letters from him. I have ~ had letters from him. 'Do you ever go to discos?' 'S~.')

some-times /səmtaɪnz/ *adv* occasionally; from time to time: *I ~ have letters from him. I have ~ had letters from him. 'Do you ever go to discos?' 'S~.'*

some-way /səmwet/ *adv* (US informal) = somehow.

some-what /səmwɒt/ *US: -hwɒt/ adv* to some extent; in some degree: *I was ~ surprised/disappointed.*

some-where /səmwɛə(r)/ *US: -hwɛər/ adv* in, at, to, a place (unknown, unnamed, etc): *It must be ~ near here. He lost it ~ between his office and the station. (Note: replaced by anywhere in questions, negative sentences: Is it anywhere near here? I didn't go anywhere yesterday.)*

son /sɒn/ *n* [C] **1** male child of a parent. **2** (used as a form of address, eg by a priest): *my ~. 3* person having the qualities, etc shown: *~s of freedom*, those who have inherited freedom from their ancestors.

the Son of God/Man, Jesus Christ.

'son-in-law *n* [C] (*pl* ~s-in-law) husband of one's daughter.

so-nata /sə'nɑ:tə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) musical composition for one instrument (eg the piano), or two (eg piano and violin), normally with three or four movements.

song /sɒŋ/ *US: sɔ:ŋ/ n* [U] singing; music for the voice: *burst into ~; the ~ (= musical sound) of the birds. 2* [U] (*poetic*) poetry; verse. **3** [C] poem set to music and intended to be sung: *pop ~s.*

'song-bird, bird (eg blackbird, thrush) noted for its musical sound.

'song-book, collection of songs (with both words and music).

song-ster /stɔ:(r)/, (**a**) singer. (**b**) songbird.

sonic /sɒnɪk/ *adj* relating to sound, sound-waves or the speed of sound: *a ~ bang/boom*, noise made when an aircraft travels faster than the speed of sound ⇨ supersonic, ultrasonic.

son-net /sɒnɪt/ *n* [C] kind of poem containing 14 lines, each of 10 syllables, and with a formal pattern of rhymes.

sonny /sɒni/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) familiar form of address to a young boy.

son-or-ous /sɒnərəs/ *adj* (*formal*) **1** having a full, deep sound: *the ~ note of a large bell. 2* (of language, words, etc) making a deep impression: *a ~ style.*

son-or-ous-ly *adv*

soon /su:n/ *adv* (-er, -est) **1** not long after the present time or the time in question; in a short time: *We shall ~ be home. We shall be home quite ~ now. He'll be here very ~. It will ~ be*

five years since we came to live in London. soon after, a short time after: *He arrived ~ after three. (Note: the opposite of soon after is a little before.) 2* early: *How ~ can you be ready? Must you leave so ~? 3 as/so soon as*, at the moment that; when; not later than: *He started as ~ as he received the news. We didn't arrive so/as ~ as we had hoped. no sooner... than*, immediately when or after: *He had no ~er/No ~er had he arrived home than he was asked to go out again. No ~er said than done*, ie done immediately. **4** (used to show comparatives): *The ~er you begin the ~er you'll finish. The ~er the better. as soon as not*, more willingly: *I'd go there as ~ as not. sooner or later*, now or (much) later: *You'll get it back ~er or later. sooner than*, in preference to: *He would ~er resign than be involved in bribery.*

soot /sɒt/ *n* [U] black powder in smoke, or left by smoke on surfaces. □ *vt* cover with soot.

sooty *adj* (-ier, -iest) black with, like, soot.

sooth-sayer /sʊ:θseɪ(r)/ *n* [C] (old use) fortune-teller.

soothe /su:ð/ *vt* **1** make (a person, his nerves, passions) quiet or calm: *~ a crying baby; a soothing voice. 2* make (pains, aches) less sharp or severe: *a soothing lotion for the skin*, eg against sunburn.

sooth-ing-ly *adv*

sop /sɒp/ *n* [C] **1** piece of bread, etc soaked in milk, soup, etc. **2** something offered to prevent trouble or to give temporary satisfaction: *ask a tenant to leave and offer money as a ~. □ vt* (-pp-) **1** soak (bread, etc in soup, etc). **2** absorb (liquid): *~ up the water with this towel.*

sop-ping *adj, adv* thoroughly (wet): *~ping wet.*

soph-is-ti-cated /sə'fɪstɪkətɪd/ *adj* **1** having lost natural simplicity through experience of the world; cultured: *a ~ girl; with ~ tastes. 2* with the latest improvements and refinements: *~ modern weapons. 3* (of mental activity) cultured, elaborate: *a ~ discussion/argument.*

soph-is-ti-ca-tion /sə'fɪstɪkeɪʃn/ *n* [U]

sop-or-ific /sɒpə'rɪfɪk/ *n* [C], *adj* (substance, drink, etc) producing sleep.

sop-ping /sɒpɪŋ/ *adj* ⇨ sop.

soppy /sɒpi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** very wet. **2** (*dated informal*) foolishly sentimental: *I'm ~ on/about his sister.*

so-prano /sə'prænəʊ/ *US: -'præn-/ n* [C] (*pl* ~s), *adj* (person having the) highest singing voice of women and girls and boys.

sor-cer-er /sɔ:sərə(r)/ *n* [C] man who practises magic with the help of evil spirits.

sor-cer-ess /sɔ:sərɪs/ *n* [C] woman sorcerer.

sor-cery /sɔ:səri/ *n* (*pl* -ies) [U] **1** witchcraft (the usual word). **2** (*pl*) evil acts done by sorcery.

sor-did /'sɔːdɪd/ *adj* **1** (of conditions) poor, dirty, uncomfortable: *a ~ slum; living in ~ poverty*. **2** (of persons, behaviour, etc) without respect or honour.

sor-did-ly *adv*

sore /sɔː(r)/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** (of a part of the body) tender and painful; hurting when touched or used: *a ~ knee/throat*. **a** **sight for sore eyes**, welcome, pleasant, person or thing. **2** filled with sorrow; sad: *a ~ heart*. **3** causing sorrow or annoyance. **a sore point/subject**, one that hurts the feelings when talked about. **4** hurt in one's feelings: *feel ~ about not being invited to the party*. □ *n* [C] **1** sore place on the body (where the skin or flesh is injured). **2** (fig) painful subject or memory: *Let's not recall old ~s*.

sore-ly *adv* (a) (formal) severely: *~ly afflicted*. (b) greatly: *More financial help is ~ly needed*.

sore-ness *n* [U]

sor-row /'sɒrəʊ/ *n* [C,U] (cause of) grief or sadness; regret: *express ~ for having done wrong; to my great ~*. □ *vi* feel grief (at/for/over): *~ing over her child's death*.

sor-row-ful /-fəl/ *adj* feeling, showing, causing, sorrow.

sorry /'sɒri/ *adj* **1** feeling regret or sadness: *We were ~ to hear of your father's death*. **be/feel sorry (about/for sth)**, feel regret: *Aren't you ~ for/about what you've done?* **be/feel sorry for sb**, (a) feel sympathy: *I feel ~ for anyone who has to drive in weather like this*. (b) feel pity: *I'm ~ for you, but you have been rather foolish*. **2** (used to express mild regret or an apology): *'Can you lend me a pound?' - 'S~, but I can't'*. **3** (-ier, -iest) pitiful: *a ~ sight*.

sort¹ /sɔːt/ *n* [C] **1** group or class of persons or things which are alike in some way: *Pop music is the ~ she likes most*. *We can't approve of this ~ of thing/these ~ of things/things of this ~*. **2** *a good sort*, (esp) a person who is likable, who has good qualities. **3** *out of sorts*, (informal) feeling unwell, depressed.

sort² /sɔːt/ *vt, vi* arrange in groups; separate things of one sort from things of other sorts: *The boy was ~ing/~ing out/over the foreign stamps he had collected*. *We must ~ out the good apples from the bad*. **sort sth out**, (informal) (a) put in good order: *~ out a drawer*. (b) solve: *I'll leave you to ~ that out, find a solution*. (c) clear up problems, misunderstandings: *Let's leave John and Ann to ~ themselves out*.

sort-er, (esp) post office worker who sorts letters.

so-so /'səʊ səʊ/ *adj, adv* ⇨ so².

souf-flé /'suːfleɪ/ *US: suː'fleɪ* *n* [C] (Fr) baked dish of beaten eggs, milk, cheese, etc.

sought /sɔːt/ *pp* of seek.

soul /səʊl/ *n* [C] **1** non-material part of a hu-

man, believed to exist for ever: *believe in the immortality of the ~*. *He eats hardly enough to keep body and ~ together*, to keep himself alive. *That man has no ~*, is unfeeling, selfish. **2** emotional and intellectual energy: *He put his heart and ~ into the work*. **3** person regarded as the ideal or personification of some virtue or quality: *He is the ~ of honour/discretion*. ⇨ life(9). **4** departed spirit: *'All 'S~s' Day*, 2 Nov. **5** person: *There wasn't a ~ to be seen*. No one was in sight. **6** (informal) all those qualities that enable a person to be in harmony with himself and others, used esp by Afro-Americans and expressed through their music and dancing.

'soul brother/sister, fellow Afro-American.

'soul-destroying *adj* killing the will-power or spirit: *~destroying work*.

'soul music, modern popular blues with strong rhythm for dancing.

soul-ful /-fl/ *adj* having, affecting, showing, deep feeling: *~ful eyes/music*.

soul-less *adj* without pity or deeper feelings.

sound¹ /saʊnd/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** healthy; in good condition; not hurt, injured or decayed: *~ fruit/teeth*. **2** dependable; based on logic, facts: *a ~ argument/policy; ~ advice*. **3** capable, careful: *a ~ tennis player*. **4** thorough; deep: *be a ~ sleeper; give him a ~ beating*. □ *adv* deeply: *be ~ asleep*.

sound-ly *adv* deeply; thoroughly: *sleep ~ly; be ~ly beaten at tennis*.

sound-ness *n* [U]

sound² /saʊnd/ *n* [C,U] **1** that which is or can be heard: *We heard the ~ of voices/footsteps*. **2** (sing only) mental impression produced by something stated (or read): *I don't like the ~ of his excuses*.

'sound barrier, point at which an aircraft's speed equals that of sound-waves, causing sonic booms.

'sound effects, sound (recorded on tape, film, etc) for use in broadcasts, in studio.

'sound-proof *adj* that sound cannot pass through or into.

'sound-track, music, etc used in a film.

'sound-wave, vibrations made in the air or other medium by which sound is carried.

sound³ /saʊnd/ *vt, vi* **1** produce sound from; make (something) produce sound: *~ a trumpet*. **2** produce: *~ a note of alarm/danger*. **3** pronounce: *Don't ~ the 'h' in 'hour' or the 'b' in 'dumb'*. **4** give notice of: *~ the alarm*, eg by ringing a bell. **5** give forth sound: *The trumpet ~ed*. **6** test, examine (eg a person's lungs by tapping the chest). **7** give an impression when heard: *How sweet the music ~s!* **8** (fig) give an impression: *His explanation ~s all right*, seems reasonable enough.

sound⁴ /saʊnd/ *vt, vi* **1** test the depth of (the sea, etc) by letting down a weighted line

(called a *~ing-line* or *~ing apparatus*); find the depth of water in a ship's hold (with a *~ing-rod*). **2** get records of temperature, pressure, etc in (the upper atmosphere) (by sending up instruments in a *~ing-balloon*). **3** try (esp cautiously or in a reserved manner) to learn a person's views, sentiments, etc: *I will ~ out the manager about holidays/on the question of holidays*.

sound-ing, (a) (pl) place or area near enough to the shore to make it possible to sound(1). (b) measurement obtained by sounding(1).

sound⁵ /saʊnd/ *n* [C] narrow passage of water joining two larger areas of water.

soup¹ /su:p/ *n* [U] liquid food made by cooking meat, vegetables, etc in water: *chicken/pea/tomato ~*. **in the soup**, (informal) in trouble.

soup² /su:p/ *vt* **soup sth up**, (sl) fit (a motor-vehicle, its engine) with a supercharger (to increase its power and so its speed): *a ~ed-up car*.

sour /'saʊə(r)/ *adj* **1** having a sharp taste (like that of vinegar, a lemon or an unripe plum, apple, etc). **2** having a taste of having gone bad: *~ milk*. **3** (fig) bad-tempered: *made ~ by disappointments*. □ *vt, vi* turn or become sour (all uses): *The hot weather has ~ed the milk. Her temper has ~ed*.

sour-ly *adv*

sour-ness *n* [U]

source /sɔ:s/ *n* [C] **1** starting-point of a river: *the ~s of the Nile. Where does the Rhine have its ~?* **2** place from which something comes or is got: *The news comes from a reliable ~. Is that well the ~ of infection?* **3** (pl) original documents, etc for a study, eg of a period of history: (as an adjective) *~ materials*.

souse /saʊs/ *vt* **1** throw into water; throw water on. **2** put (fish, etc) into salted water, vinegar, etc to preserve it: *~ed herrings*.

south /saʊθ/ *n* **1** the ~, one of the four cardinal points of the compass, on the right of a person facing the sunrise; part of any place, country, etc lying farther in this direction than other parts: *the ~ of London/England. Mexico is to the ~ of the US*. **2** (used as an adjective) situated in, living in, of, coming from, the south: *S~ America; the S~ Pacific*. □ *adv* to or towards the south: *sailing ~*.

south-east, **south-west** (abbr **SE**, **SW**), *n, adj, adv* (sometimes, esp *naut*, **sou'-east** /səu'ɪst/, **sou'-west** /səu'west/) (regions) midway between south and east or south and west.

south-south-east, **south-south-west** (abbr **SSE**, **SSW**) *n, adj, adv* (sometimes, esp *naut*, **sou'-sou'-east**, **sou'-sou'-west**) (regions) midway between south and south-east or southwest.

south-easter-ly *adj* (a) (of wind) from the

southeast. (b) (of direction) towards the southeast.

south-eastern /-li:stn/ *adj* of, from, situated in, the southeast.

south-wester-ly *adj* (a) (of wind) from the southwest. (b) (of direction) towards the southwest.

south-western /-westn/ *adj* of, from, situated in, the southwest.

south-er-ly /'sʌðəli/ *adj, adv* from the south, towards the south, in or to the south.

south-ern /'sʌðən/ *adj* of, from, in the south part of the world, a country, etc: *~ Europe; the S~ States of the USA*.

the Southern Hemisphere, □ hemisphere.

south-erner, person born or living in the south regions of the country.

'south-ern-most /-məʊst/ *adj* farthest south.

south-ward /'sa:θwəd/ *adj* towards the south: *in a ~ direction*.

south-wards *adv*: *to travel ~s*.

sou-venir /su:və'niə(r) *US*: /su:vənɪə(r)/ *n* [C] something taken, bought or received as a gift, and kept as a reminder of a person, place or event.

sou'-wester /,saʊwestə(r)/ *n* [C] (esp) waterproof hat with a flap at the back to protect the neck.

sov-er-eign /'sɒvrɪn/ *adj* (of power) highest; without limit; (of a nation, state, ruler) having sovereign power: *become a ~ state*, fully self-governing and independent in foreign affairs. □ *n* [C] **1** sovereign ruler, eg a king, queen or emperor. **2** former GB gold coin (face value one pound).

sov-er-eignty /'sɒvrənɪti/, sovereign power.

so-viet /'səʊviət/ *n* [C] organ of political power in the USSR; one of the forms of political organization of a socialist state, now widely used in the USSR: *the Union of S~ Socialist Republics; the S~ Union; the Supreme S~ of the USSR; the local S~s; Rural/Urban S~s of People's Deputies*.

sow¹ /sau/ *n* [C] fully grown female pig.

sow² /səʊ/ *vt, vi* (pt *sowed*, pp *~n* /saʊn/ or *~ed*) **1** put (seed) on or in the ground or in soil (in pots, seed-boxes, etc); plant (land with seed): *~ seeds; ~ a plot of land with grass*. **2** (fig) start, introduce: *~ the seeds of hatred*.

sower, person who sows.

soya /'sɔɪə/ *n* [U] (also **soya-bean**) plant grown as food and for the oil obtained from its seeds: *~ sauce*, from soya beans in brine.

sozzled /'sɒzld/ *adj* (GB sl) very drunk.

spa /spa:/ *n* [C] (pl *~s*) (place with a) spring of mineral water having medicinal properties.

space /speɪs/ *n* **1** [U] that in which all objects exist and move: *The universe exists in ~. Travel through ~ to other planets interests many people today*. **2** [C, U] interval or dis-

tance between two or more objects: *the ~s between printed words*; *separated by a ~ of ten metres*. **3** [C,U] area or volume: *open ~s*, (esp) land, in or near a town, not built on. **4** [U] limited or unoccupied place or area; room: *There isn't enough ~ in this office for two desks*. **5** (sing only) period of time: *a ~ of three years*. □ *vt* **space sth out**, set out with regular spaces between: *~ out the posts three metres apart*.

'space-capsule /-craft /-helmet /-rocket/-ship/-suit/-vehicle, used for travel beyond the earth's atmosphere.

spa-cious /'speɪʃəs/ *adj* having much space.

spa-cious-ly *adv*

spade /speɪd/ *n* [C] **1** tool with a flat blade having a sharp edge for digging. **2** (one of a) suit of playing-cards with black shapes like hearts upside down: *the five of ~s*. □ *vt* dig with a spade.

'spade-work, (fig) hard, basic, work: *He got all the credit for the research but I did all the ~work*.

'spade-ful /-ful/, as much as a spade can hold.

spa-ghetti /spə'geti/ *n* [U] (It) flour paste (pasta) in narrow rods, cooked by boiling.

span /spæn/ *n* [C] **1** distance between the tips of a person's thumb and little finger when stretched out. **2** distance or part between the supports of an arch: *The arch has a ~ of 60 metres*. **3** length in time, from beginning to end: *for a short ~ of time*. ◇ *life-span*. □ *vi* (-nn-) **1** extend across (from side to side): *The Thames is ~ned by many bridges*. **2** (of time) from one period or point to another: *His life ~ned almost all of the 19th century*. **3** measure by spans (1).

spangle /'spæŋgl/ *n* [C] tiny disc of shining metal, esp one of many, as used for ornament on a dress, etc. □ *vt* (esp as a *pp*) cover with, or as with, spangles.

span-iel /'spæniəl/ *n* [C] sorts of dog with short legs and large, drooping ears.

spank /spæŋk/ *vi, vi* punish (a child) by slapping him on the buttocks with the open hand or a slipper, etc.

spank-ing, slapping on the buttocks.

span-ner /'spænə(r)/ *n* [C] (US = *wrench*) tool for gripping and turning nuts on screws, bolts, etc.

spar¹ /spa:(r)/ *n* [C] strong wooden or metal, pole used as a mast, boom, etc.

spar² /spa:(r)/ *vi* (-rr-) **1** make the motions of attack and defence with the fists (as in boxing). **2** (fig) quarrel or argue.

'spar-ring-partner, man with whom a boxer spars as part of his training.

spare¹ /speə(r)/ *adj* **1** additional to what is usually needed or used; in reserve for use when needed; (of time) free; unoccupied: *I have no/very little ~ time/money*. *Is there a ~ wheel in*

your car? **2** (of persons) thin; lean: *a tall, ~ man*. □ *n* [C] spare part (for a machine, etc).

'spare¹ **'part**, part to replace a broken or worn-out part of a machine, an engine, etc.

'spare¹ **'rib**, rib of pork with most of the meat cut off.

spare² /speə(r)/ *vi, vt* **1** (decide to) not hurt, damage or destroy; show mercy to: *~ a prisoner's life*. *He doesn't ~ himself*, makes great demands on himself (his energies, time, etc).

spare sb's feelings, avoid hurting his feelings. **2** afford to, be able to, give (time, money, etc) to a person, or for a purpose: *Can you ~ an extra ticket for me?* *Can you ~ me a few minutes (of your time)?* *We haven't enough to ~, need all of them/it*. **spare a thought for sb**, consider him when making a decision. **3 no expense spared**, with no economy in money or effort.

sparing *adj* **sparing of**, economical, careful (of): *You should be more sparing of your energy*.

sparing-ly *adv*

spark /spa:k/ *n* [C] **1** tiny glow from a burning substance or still present in ashes, etc or produced by hard metal and stone banging together, or by the breaking of an electric current: *The firework burst into a shower of ~s*. **2** (fig) sign of life, energy, etc: *He hasn't a ~ of generosity in him*. □ *vi, vi* **1** give out sparks. **2 spark sth off**, (fig) be the immediate cause of: *His statement ~ed off a quarrel between them*.

'spark-ing-plug, device for firing the mixture of air and petrol in an engine by means of an electric spark.

sparkle /'spa:kl/ *vi* **1** send out flashes of light: *Her diamonds ~d in the bright light*. **2** (fig) express brightly: *Her eyes ~d with excitement*. □ *n* [C] spark; glitter; gleam.

spark-ler, something that sparkles, eg a kind of firework

spark-ling /'spa:klɪŋ/ *adj*

spar-row /'spærəʊ/ *n* [C] very common, small brownish-grey bird.

spare /spa:s/ *adj* **1** not crowded: *a ~ population*. **2** not dense, thick: *a ~ beard*.

sparsely *adv*: *a ~ly furnished room*, one with little furniture.

spasm /'spæzəm/ *n* [C] **1** sudden and involuntary tightening of a muscle or muscles: *asthma ~s*. **2** sudden, convulsive movement: *in a ~ of pain/excitement*; *a coughing ~*. **3** sudden burst (of energy).

spas-mo-dic /'spæz'mɒdɪk/ *adj* **1** taking place, done, at irregular intervals. **2** caused by, affected by, spasms: *~ asthma*.

spas-mo-di-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

spas-tic /'spæstɪk/ *n* [C], *adj* (person) physically disabled because of difficulty in controlling voluntary muscles.

spat /spæt/ *pt, pp* of spit.

spate /speɪt/ *n* [C,U] **1** strong current of water at abnormally high level (in a river). **2** sudden rush of business, etc: *a ~ of orders*.

spatial /'speɪʃl/ *adj* of, in relation to, existing in, space.

spatially /-ʃəli/ *adv*

spat-ter /'spætə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** splash, scatter, in drips: *~ grease on one's clothes/ ~ one's clothes with grease*. **2** fall or spread out in drops: *rain ~ing down on the tent*. □ *n* [C] shower: *a ~ of rain/bullets*.

spat-ula /'spætʃʊlə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) tool with a wide, flat, flexible blade used for mixing or spreading various substances.

spawn /spɔ:n/ *n* [U] eggs of fish and certain water animals, eg frogs. □ *vt, vi* **1** produce spawn. **2** (*fig*) produce in great numbers: *committees which ~ sub-committees*.

speak /spi:k/ *vi, vt* (*pt* spoke /spəʊk/, *pp* spoken /spəʊkən/) **1** use language in an ordinary, not a singing, voice: *Please ~ more slowly. I was ~ing to him about plans for the holidays*. **speak for sb**, (*a*) state the views, wishes, etc of. (*b*) give evidence on behalf of.

nothing to speak of, nothing worth mentioning. **speak out/up**, (*a*) speak loud(er). (*b*) give one's opinions, etc without hesitation or fear. **be on 'speaking terms with sb**, (*a*) know him well enough to speak to him. (*b*) continue to speak to him (because there has not been a quarrel). **so to speak**, if I may use this expression, etc. **2** give evidence (of), express ideas (not necessarily in words): *Actions ~ louder than words*. **3** know and be able to use (a language): *He ~s several languages*. **4** address an audience; make a speech: *He spoke for forty minutes*. **5** make known: *~ the truth*.

speak one's mind, say plainly what one thinks. **6** *strictly/roughly/generally speaking*, using the word(s) in a strict/rough/general sense.

speaker, (*a*) person who makes speeches (in the manner shown): *He's a good/poor public ~er*. (*b*) (short for) loudspeaker. (*c*) **the Speaker**, presiding officer (chairman) of the House of Commons and other legislative assemblies.

speaking clock, (GB) telephone service with a voice telling the exact time.

spear /spɪə(r)/ *n* [C] weapon with a metal point on a long shaft, used in hunting, or (formerly) by men fighting on foot. □ *vt* pierce, wound, make (a hole) in, with a spear.

'spear-head *n* [C] (*fig*) individual or group chosen to lead an attack. □ *vt* act as spearhead for: *~head the campaign for human rights*.

spear-mint /'spiəmint/ *n* [U] aromatic variety of mint used for flavouring; chewing-gum flavoured with this.

spe-cial /'speʃl/ *adj* **1** of a particular or certain sort; not common, usual or general; of or for a certain person, thing or purpose: *Her*

painting is something ~, particularly good. He did it for her as a ~ favour. What are your ~ interests? **2** exceptional in amount, degree, etc: *Why should we give you ~ treatment?* □ *n* [C] special train, edition of a newspaper, etc.

special delivery, delivery of mail (a letter, package, etc) by a special messenger instead of by the usual postal services.

spe-cially /-ʃəli/ *adv* particularly: *I came here ~ly to see you*.

spe-cial-ist /-ʃəlist/, expert in a profession, esp medicine: *an 'eye ~ist*.

spe-cial-ity /'speʃiələti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** special quality or characteristic. **2** particular activity, product, operation, etc; thing to which a person (firm, etc) gives particular attention or for which a place is well known: *Embroidery is her ~*.

spe-cial-ize (also -ise) /'speʃəlaɪz/ *vi, vt* **1** be or become a specialist; give special or particular attention to: *After his first degree he hopes to ~*. **2** (usually as a *pp*) for a particular purpose: *~d knowledge*.

spe-cial-iz-ation (also -isation) /'speʃəlaɪzəʃn/ *US*: -lɪz-/ *n* [C,U]

spe-cial-ty /'speʃəlti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) = speciality (**2**).

spe-cies /'spi:ʃi:z/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) **1** group of animals having similar characteristics, able to breed with each other but not with other groups: *the human ~, mankind*. **2** sort: *He's a rare ~, rare type of person*.

spe-ci-fic /spə'sɪfɪk/ *adj* **1** detailed and precise: *~ orders*. **2** relating to one particular thing, etc, not general: *The money is to be used for a ~ purpose*.

spe-cifi-cally /-kəli/ *adv* in a specific manner: *You were ~ly warned by your doctor not to smoke*.

spec-ifi-ca-tion /'spesɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] specifying. **2** [C] (often *pl*) details, instructions, etc for the design, materials, of something to be made or done: *~s for (building) a garage*.

spec-ify /'spesɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) name a particular one, type, etc: *~ which colours to use*.

speci-men /'spesɪmən/ *n* [C] **1** one as an example of a class: *~s of rocks and ores*. **2** part taken to represent the whole: *~ pages of books*. **3** something to be tested, etc for a special purpose: *supply the doctor with a ~ of urine*.

spe-cious /'spi:ʃəs/ *adj* (*formal*) appearing right or true, but not really so: *a ~ argument/person*.

speck /spek/ *n* [C] **1** small spot or particle (of dirt, etc): *~s of dust*. **2** (*fig*) small spot: *The ship was a ~ on the horizon*.

specked *adj* marked with specks.

speckle /'spekl/ *n* [C] small mark or spot, esp one of many on feathers, etc.

speckled *adj*: *a ~d bird*.

specs /speks/ *n pl* (*informal*) spectacles (**3**):

Where are my ~?

spec-tacle /'spektəkl/ *n* [C] **1** public display, procession, etc: *The Jubilee parade was a fine ~.* **2** something seen, esp something grand, remarkable: *The sunrise as seen from the top of the mountain was a tremendous ~.* **3** (pl) (also a pair of ~s) pair of lenses in a frame, resting on the nose and ears, to help the eyesight. (Note: glasses is more usual.) ⇨ *rose*²(2).

spec-tacu-lar /spek'tækjələ(r)/ *adj* making a fine spectacle(1,2).

spec-tacu-lar-ly *adv*

spec-ta-tor /spek'teɪtə(r) *US*: 'spekteɪtə(r) *n* [C] person looking at (a show, sport or game).

spectre (*US* = **specter**) /'spektə(r)/ *n* [C] ghost (the usual word); fear of future trouble.

spec-tral /'spektrəl/ *adj* (a) of the spectrum: *spectral colours.* (b) of, like, a ghost.

spec-trum /'spektrəm/ *n* [C] (pl -tra /-trə/) **1** image of a band of colours (as seen in a rainbow and usually described as red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet). **2** (fig) wide range or sequence: *the whole ~ of political opinion.*

specu-late /'spekjuleɪt/ *vi* **1** consider, form opinions (without having complete knowledge): *~ about/on/upon the future of the human race.* **2** buy and sell goods, stocks and shares, etc with risk of loss and hope of profit through changes in their market value: *~ in oil shares.*

specu-la-tor /-tə(r)/, person who speculates(2).

specu-la-tion /'spekju'leɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] speculating(1); [C] opinion reached by this means. **2** [U] speculating(2): *~ in rice;* [C] business deal of this kind.

specu-lat-ive /'spekjulətɪv *US* -leɪtɪv/ *adj* **1** concerned with speculation(1): *~ philosophy.* **2** concerned with speculation(2): *~ purchase of grain.*

specu-la-tive-ly *adv*

sped /sped/ *pt,pp* of speed.

speech /spi:tʃ/ *n* **1** [U] power, act, manner, of speaking: *Man is the only animal that has the power of ~.* **2** [C] talk or address given in public: *make a ~ on/about human rights.*

'speech marks, (informal) quotation marks.

'speech therapy, remedial treatment for defective speech, eg for stuttering.

speech-less *adj* (a) unable to speak, esp because of deep feeling: *Anger left him ~less.* (b) that causes a person to be unable to speak: *~less rage.*

speed /spi:d/ *n* **1** [U] quickness of movement. *More haste, less 'speed,* (proverb) Too much haste can result in delay. **2** [C,U] rate of motion or moving: *travelling at full/top ~; at a ~ of thirty miles an hour.* □ *vt,vi* (*pt,pp* **sped** but see **3 below**) **1** move along, go quickly: *cars ~ing past the school.* **2** cause to move or

go quickly: *~ an arrow from the bow.* **3** (*pt,pp* ~ed) increase the speed (of): *They have ~ed up production/the train service.*

'speed-boat, motor-boat designed for high speeds.

speed-ing *n* [U] (of motorists) travelling at an illegal speed: *fined £10 for ~ing.*

'speed-limit, fastest speed allowed.

speedom-eter /spi:'dɒmɪtə(r)/, instrument showing the speed of a motor-vehicle, etc.

'speed-way, (a) track, for fast driving and racing, esp by motorbikes. (b) (*US*) road for fast traffic.

speedy *adj* (-ier, -iest) quick; coming, done, without delay: *I wish you a ~y recovery (from illness).*

spell¹ /spel/ *n* [C] **1** words used as a charm, supposed to have magic power: *cast a ~ over him; put a ~ on him; be under a ~.* **2** attraction, fascination, exercised by a person, occupation, etc: *the ~ of Mozart's music.*

'spell-bound /-baʊnd/ *adj* with the attention held as if by a spell: *The speaker held his audience ~bound.*

spell² /spel/ *n* [C] **1** period of time: *a long ~ of warm weather;* **2** period of activity or duty, esp one at which two or more persons take turns: *take ~s at the wheel,* eg of two persons making a long journey by car.

spell³ /spel/ *vt,vi* (*pt,pp* ~ed /speld/ or spelt /spelt/) **1** name or write the letters of (a word): *How do you ~ your name? These children can't ~.* **2** (of letters) form when put together in a particular order: *C-A-T ~s cat.* **3** **spell sth out,** make clear and easy to understand; explain in detail: *My request seems simple enough—do you want me to ~ it out for you?* **4** have as a consequence: *Does laziness always ~ failure?*

speller, person who spells: *a good/poor ~er.*

spell-ing, way a word is spelt: *Do you use English or American ~ing(s)?*

spelt ⇨ **spell**³.

spend /spend/ *vt,vi* (*pt,pp* spent /spent/) **1** pay out (money) for goods, services, etc: *~ all one's money.* ⇨ **penny**(1). **2** use up: *~ a lot of time cleaning the car. They went on firing until all their ammunition was spent.* **3** pass time: *~ a weekend in London.* ⇨ **night.**

spender, person who spends money (usually in the way shown by the adjective): *an extravagant/big ~er.*

'spend-thrift, person who spends money extravagantly.

sperm /spɜ:m/ *n* [U] fertilizing fluid of a male animal.

spew /spju:/ *vt,vi* = vomit.

sphere /sfɪə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** form of a globe; star; planet. **music of the spheres,** (myth) music produced by the movement of heavenly bodies which men cannot hear. **2** globe representing the earth or the night sky. **3** person's

range of interests, activities, surroundings, etc: *gardening is outside the ~ of my activities.*
4 range, extent: *a ~ of influence.*

spheri-cal /'sferikl/ *adj* shaped like a sphere.

sphe-roid /'sfəroɪd/, solid that is almost spherical.

spice /spaɪs/ *n* **1** [C,U] sorts of substance, eg ginger, nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves, used to flavour food. **2** [U] (and with *a*, *an*) (*fig*) interesting flavour, suggestion, or trace (of): *a story without ~.* *She has a ~ of malice in her character.* □ *vt* add flavour to (something) with: *~d with humour.*

spicy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) of, flavoured with, spice. (b) (*fig*) exciting or interesting because a little immoral: *spicy gossip about a pop star's love life.*

spick /spɪk/ *adj* (only in) **,spick and 'span**, bright, clean and tidy.

spider /'spaɪdər/ *n* [C] sorts of creature with eight legs, many species of which spin webs for the capture of insects as food.

spid-ery *adj* (of handwriting) with long, thin strokes.

spied /spaɪd/ *pt, pp* of spy.

spigot /'spɪɡət/ *n* [C] **1** plug or peg for the hole of a cask or barrel. **2** valve for controlling the flow of water, etc from a tank, etc.

spike /spaɪk/ *n* [C] **1** sharp point; pointed piece of metal, eg on iron railings or on running-shoes. **2** long, pointed cluster of flowers or grain on a single stem: *~s of lavender.* □ *vt* **1** put spikes (on shoes, etc): *~d running-shoes.* **2** pierce or injure with a spike.

spiky *adj* (-ier, -iest) having sharp points.

spill /spɪl/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* spilt /spɪlt/ or ~ed) **1** (of liquid or powder) (allow to) run over the side of the container: *Who has spilt ~ed the milk?* ⇨ milk¹ (1). **2** (of a horse, etc) cause (the rider, passenger, etc) to fall: *His horse spilt him.* □ *n* [C] fall from a horse, motorbike: *have a nasty ~.*

spill-over, (often as an adjective) (of population) extra: *new towns for London's ~over (population).*

spin /spɪn/ *vt, vi* (*pt* spun /spʌn/ or *span* /spæn/, *pp* spun): (-nn-) **1** form (thread) by twisting wool, cotton, silk, etc; draw out and twist (wool, cotton, etc) into threads. **2** form by means of threads: *spiders ~ning their webs; silkworms ~ning cocoons.* **3** (*fig*) produce, compose (a story). **spin sth out**, make it last as long as possible: *~ out the time by talking.* **4** cause (something) to go round and round: *~ a coin*, send it up in the air, revolving as it goes up, to decide something (by 'heads or tails'). **5** move round quickly: *The top was ~ning merri-ly. The collision sent the car ~ning across the road.* □ *n* **1** [U] turning or spinning motion, esp as given to the ball in some games, eg cricket, baseball: *The pitcher gave (a) ~ to the ball.* **2** [C] short ride in a motor-car, on a bicycle, etc;

have/go for a ~. **3** [C] fast spinning movement of an aircraft during a diving descent: *get into/out of a ~.* **in a flat spin**, in a panic.

,spin-'drier, **-'dryer**, device that spins (clothes) to dry them.

,spin-'dry *vt* (*pt, pp* dried) dry in a spin-drier.

'spinning jenny, early kind of machine for spinning more than one thread at a time.

'spinning-wheel, machine for making thread on a spindle turned by a large wheel.

'spin-off, advantage, benefit or product (often unexpected) (from a larger activity or process, or from research for it).

spin-ach /'spɪndɪʒ US: -ɪtʃ/ *n* [U] plant with small green leaves, cooked and eaten as a vegetable.

spi-nal /'spɑːml/ *adj* (*anat*) of or to the spine: *the ~ column*, the backbone.

spindle /'spɪndl/ *n* [C] **1** (in spinning) thin rod for twisting and winding thread by hand. **2** bar or pin which turns round, or on which something turns (eg an axle or a shaft).

spin-dly /'spɪndli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) long and thin; (too) tall and thin: *spindly legs.*

spine /spaɪn/ *n* [C] **1** = backbone. **2** sharp, pointed part on some plants, eg a cactus, and animals, eg a porcupine. **3** part of a book's cover that can be seen when it is on a shelf, usually with the book's title on it.

spine-less *adj* (a) having no spine(1). (b) (*fig*) without courage to make decisions.

spiny *adj* (-ier, -iest) having spines(2).

spinet /spɪ'net US: 'spɪnɪt/ *n* [C] old type of keyboard instrument like a harpsichord.

spin-naker /'spɪnəkə(r)/ *n* [C] large triangular sail on a racing yacht.

spin-ney /'spɪni/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) small wood with thick bushes, etc.

spin-ster /'spɪnstə(r)/ *n* [C] (usually official or legal use) unmarried woman, esp after the conventional age for marrying.

'spin-ster-hood /-hʊd/, being a spinster.

spi-ral /'spaɪərl/ *adj, n* [C] (in the form of an) advancing or ascending continuous curve winding round a central point: *A snail's shell is ~.* □ *vi* (-ll-, US also -l-) move in a spiral: *The smoke ~led up.*

spire /'spaɪə(r)/ *n* [C] pointed structure rising above a tower (esp of a church).

spirit /'spɪrɪt/ *n* **1** [C,U] soul; immaterial, intellectual or moral part of man: *The ~ is wil-ling but the flesh is weak.* One is willing (in theory) to do it, but physically (in practice) unable to do it. **2** [C] the soul thought of as separate from the body: *believe in ~s.* **3** [C] elf; goblin. **4** [U] life and consciousness not associated with a body: *God is pure ~.* **5** [C] (al-ways with an adjective) person considered from the intellectual, moral or emotional point of view: *What a generous ~ he is!* **6** [U] quality of courage, strength, liveliness: *Put a little more ~ into your work.* **7** (sing only) men-

tal or moral attitude: *Whether it was unwise or not depends on the ~ in which it was done.* **8** [U] real meaning or purpose underlying a law, etc (contrasted with the apparent meaning of the words, etc): *obey the ~, not the letter, of the law.* **9** (pl) state of mind: *in high ~s, cheerful; in poor/low ~s, out of ~s, depressed, unhappy.* **10** [U] industrial alcohol. **11** (usually pl) strong alcoholic drink (eg whisky, brandy, gin, rum). □ *vt* take a person or thing quickly, secretly or mysteriously: *She has been ~ed away to another department.*

'spirit-level, (piece of wood with a glass tube partly filled with water or alcohol, with a bubble of air which, when centred, shows that a surface is horizontal.

spirit-ed /'spɪrɪtəd/ *adj* (a) full of spirit(6): *a ~ed attack/defence/reply.* (b) having the kind of spirits(9) shown: *high-/low-/~ed, happy/depressed.*

spirit-ual /'spɪrɪtʃuəl/ *adj* **1** of the spirit(1) or soul; of religion, not of material things; of, from, God; *concerned about one's ~ welfare.* **2** of spirits(2); supernatural. **3** caring much for things of the spirit(1). **4** of the church. □ *n* [C] religious song as sung by Negroes in the US.

spiritu-ally /-tʃuəli/ *adv*

spiritu-al-ism /'spɪrɪtʃuəlizəm/ *n* [U] belief in the possibility of receiving messages from the spirits of the dead; practice of attempting to do this.

spiritu-al-ist /-ɪst/, believer in, person who practises, spiritualism.

spiritu-al-is-tic /'spɪrɪtʃuəlɪstɪk/ *adj*

spirit /spɪt/ *vi* *n* [C] = spurt.

spit /spɪt/ *n* [C] **1** long thin metal spike on which to fix meat, etc for roasting. **2** small, narrow point of land. □ *vt* (-pp-) put a spit through (a chicken, piece of meat, etc).

spit² /spɪt/ *vi, vi* (pt, pp spit /spet/) (-tt-) **1** send liquid (saliva) out from the mouth; do this as a sign of contempt or hatred: *He spat in the man's face/spat at him. The cat spat (= made an angry spitting noise) at the dog.* **2** send (out) from the mouth: *~ out a pip.* **3** (fig) say angrily or sharply: *She spat (out) curses at me.* **4** make the noise of spitting (while sending out something): *The frying-pan was ~ting.* **5** (of rain or snow) fall lightly: *It's not raining heavily, only ~ting.* □ *n* **1** [U] = spittle (the usual word). **2** act of spitting. **3 the spit and/the spitting image of**, exact replica or likeness of: *He's the ~ting image of his father.*

spit³ /spɪt/ *n* [C] depth of a spade.

spite /spat/ *n* [U] desire to annoy, to cause pain or damage: *do something out/off from ~.* *in spite of*, not to be prevented by; although: *They went out in ~ of the rain. In ~ of all his efforts (= Although he tried) he failed.* □ *vt* injure or annoy because of spite: *They play their radio loudly in the garden just to ~ us.*

spite-ful /-fl/ *adj* having, showing, spite.

spite-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

spite-ful-ness *n* [U]

spittle /'spɪtl/ *n* [U] liquid of the mouth.

splash /splæʃ/ *vi, vi* **1** cause (a liquid) to be flung about in drops; make (a person or thing) wet: *Children love to ~ water over one another.* **2** (of a liquid) be flung about and fall in drops: *fountains ~ing in the park.* **3** move, fall, so that there is splashing: *The spacecraft ~ed down in the Pacific.* Hence, **'splash-down**, landing of a spacecraft in the sea. **4 splash out (on)**, (informal) spend extravagantly. □ *n* [C] **1** (sound, spot, mark, made by) splashing: *He jumped into the swimming pool with a ~.* **2** patch of colour: *Her dog is brown with white ~es.*

splay /spleɪ/ *vt, vi* make the distance between opposite sides (of an opening) wider; cause to slant or slope. □ *n* [C] sloping side (of a window opening, etc).

spleen /splɪn/ *n* [C] (anat) organ in the abdomen which causes changes in the blood.

splen-did /'splendɪd/ *adj* **1** magnificent: *a ~ sunset/house/victory; ~ jewellery.* **2** (informal) excellent: *a ~ dinner/idea.*

splen-did-ly *adv*

splen-dor (US = -dor) /'splendə(r)/ *n* [U] (sometimes pl) magnificence; brightness: *the ~ of the moonlight over the sea.*

splice /splaɪs/ *vt* **1** join (two ends of rope) by twisting the threads of one into those of the other. **2** join (two pieces of wood, magnetic tape, film) by fastening them at the ends. **3 get spliced**, (informal) get married. □ *n* [C] joint made by splicing.

splint /splɪnt/ *n* [C] strip of wood, etc strapped to an arm, leg, etc to keep a broken bone in the right position.

splinter /'splɪntə(r)/ *n* [C] sharp piece of hard material (wood, metal, glass, etc) split, torn or broken off a larger piece: *have a ~ in one's finger.* □ *vt, vi* break into splinters.

'splinter group/party, (in politics) group of persons who have broken away from their Party.

split /splɪt/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp split) (-tt-) **1** break, cause to break, be broken, into two or more parts, esp from end to end along the length or the line of natural division: *Some kinds of wood ~ easily. He can ~ a match in two.* **2** break open by bursting: *His coat has ~ at the seams.* **a splitting headache**, so severe that it feels that one's head may break. **3** (cause to) break into parts; divide: *The party ~ up into small groups.* **split the difference**, (when making a bargain) compromise (on the price, cost, etc). **split hairs**, ⇨ hair(2). **split one's sides (with laughter)**, laugh with movements of the sides. **4** (sl) give away a secret or information about a person (to his disadvantage). □ *n* [C] **1** crack or tear made by

splitting: *Will you sew up this ~ in my trousers?*

2 separation or division resulting from splitting: *a ~ in the Labour Party.* **3 the ~s**, sitting on the floor with legs stretched out in a line with the trunk upright: *do the ~s.*

split mind/personality, = schizophrenia.

split second, a brief moment.

splut-ter /'splʌtə(r)/ *vi*, *vt* speak quickly, confusedly (from excitement, etc): *~ out a few words/a threat.* □ *n* [U] spluttering sound.

spoil /spoɪl/ *vt*, *vi* (*pt*, *pp* ~t or ~ed) **1** make useless or unsatisfactory: *fruit ~t by insects; holidays ~t by bad weather.* **2** harm the character or temperament of by too much kindness or absence of discipline: *parents who ~ their children.* **3** pay great attention to the comfort and wishes of: *He likes having a wife who ~s him.* **4** (of food, etc) become bad, unfit for use: *Some kinds of food soon ~.* □ *n* **1** (either [U] or *pl*, not with numerals) stolen goods: *The thieves divided up the ~s.* **2** (*pl*) profits, profitable positions, gained from political power: *the ~s of office.* **3** [U] earth, unwanted material, etc thrown or brought up in excavating, draining, etc.

'spoil-sport, person who does things that interfere with the enjoyment of other people.

spoke¹ /spəʊk/ *n* [C] any one of the bars or wire rods connecting the hub (centre) of a wheel with the rim (outer edge).

spoke², **spoken** /spəʊk, spəʊkən/ ⇨ speak.

spokes-man /'spəʊksmən/ *n* [C] (*pl* -men) person speaking, chosen to speak, as the representative of a group. ⇨ shadow.

sponge /spʌndʒ/ *n* **1** [C] kinds of simple sea-animal; its body made of elastic material full of holes and able to absorb water easily. **2** one of these (*loofah*), or something similar, used for washing, cleaning, etc. **3** = sponge-cake. □ *vi*, *vt* **1** wash, wipe or clean with a sponge: *~ a wound/a child's face.* **2** take up (liquid) with a sponge: *~ up the mess.* **3** (*informal*) obtain money from a person, without giving, or intending to give, anything in return: *sponging on one's friends.*

'sponge-cake, soft cake like a sponge.

sponger, person who sponges (3).

spongy *adj* (-ier, -iest)

spon-sor /'spɒnsə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person (eg a godfather) making himself responsible for another. **2** person who puts forward or guarantees a proposal. □ *vt* act as a sponsor for.

spon-ta-neous /spɒn'teɪniəs/ *adj* done, happening, from natural impulse, not suggested: *He made a ~ offer of help.*

spon-ta-neous-ly *adv*

spon-ta-neity /spɒn'teɪni/ *n* [U]

spoof /spu:f/ *vt*, *n* [C] (*informal*) (produce a piece of) satire, deception, (for amusement).

spook /spu:k/ *n* [C] ghost.

spooky *adj* (-ier, -iest) of, suggesting, ghosts: *a ~y (= haunted) house.*

spool /spu:l/ *n* [C] reel (for thread, wire, photographic film, magnetic tape, etc).

spoon /spu:n/ *n* [C] utensil with a shallow bowl on a handle, used for stirring, serving and taking up food (named according to use): *a des'sert-/soup-/table/tea~.* □ *vt* take with a spoon: *~ up one's soup; ~ out the peas,* serve them.

'spoon-feed *vt* (a) feed (a baby, etc) from a spoon. (b) (fig) give (a person) too much help or teaching: *Some teachers ~ feed their pupils.*

'spoon-ful /-fʊl/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~fuls) as much as a spoon can hold.

spor-adic /spə'rædɪk/ *adj* occurring, seen, only here and there or occasionally: *~ raids/firing.*

spor-adi-cally /-kəl/ *adv*

spore /spɔ:(r)/ *n* [C] germ, single cell, by which a flowerless plant (eg moss, a fern) reproduces itself.

spor-ran /'spɒrən/ *n* [C] pouch worn in front of a kilt.

sport /spɔ:t/ *n* **1** [U] activity engaged in, esp outdoors, for amusement and exercise; [C] particular form of such activity: *fond of ~; athletic ~s*, eg running, jumping; *~s coverage/reporting on TV.* **2** (*pl*) meeting for athletic contests: *the school ~s.* **3** (*informal*) unselfish, kind person: *Be a ~ and help me with this suitcase.* □ *vi*, *vt* **1** play about, amuse oneself: *seals ~ing about in the water.* **2** (*informal*) have or wear proudly: *~ a moustache/a diamond ring.*

'sports-car, small motor-car designed for high speeds.

'sports-man, (a) person who takes part in, is fond of, sport. (b) = sport (3). Hence, **'sports-man-ship** /-ʃɪp/ *n* [U]

sport-ing *adj* (a) connected with, interested in, sport: *a ~ing man.* (b) willing to take a risk of losing; involving a risk of losing: *give her a ~ing chance.*

sport-ing-ly *adv*

spot /spɒt/ *n* [C] **1** small (esp round) mark different in colour from what it is on: *Which has ~s, the leopard or the tiger?* **knock spots off sb**, do much better than him. **2** dirty mark or stain: *~s of mud on your boots.* **3** small, red place on the skin: *This ointment won't clear your face of ~s.* **4** (fig) moral stain: *There isn't one ~ on her reputation.* **5** drop: *Did you feel a few ~s of rain?* **6** particular place or area: *the (very) ~ where he was murdered.* **on the spot**, (a) at the place where one is needed: *The police were on the ~ within a few minutes.* (b) immediately: *The bullet struck his head and he was killed on the ~.* **find/put one's finger on sb's 'weak spot**, find the point (of character, etc) where he is most open to attack. **7** (*GB informal*)

small quantity of anything: *I need a ~ of brandy. He's having a ~ of bother with his brother, a quarrel.* □ *vt, vi (-tt-)* **1** mark, become marked, with spots: *a table ~ted with ink.* **2** pick out, recognize, see (one person or thing out of many): *~ a friend in a crowd.*

spot check, check without warning: *~ checks by police on motorists.*

spot-ted *adj* marked with spots, eg of animals or material.

spot-less *adj* free from spots; clean: *a ~less kitchen/reputation.*

spot-less-ly *adv*: *~lessly clean.*

spotty *adj* (-ier, -iest) **(a)** marked with spots (on the skin): *a ~ty complexion.* **(b)** of varying quality: *a ~ty piece of work.*

spot-light /'spɒtlaɪt/ *n* [C] (projector or lamp used for sending a) strong light directed on to a particular place or person, eg on the stage of a theatre. **be in/hold the spot-light**, (fig) be the centre of attention. □ *vt* direct a spotlight on to.

spouse /spaʊz/ *US*: spauz/ *n* [C] (legal) husband or wife.

spout /spaʊt/ *n* [C] **1** pipe through or from which liquid pours, eg for tea from a teapot. **2** stream of liquid coming out with great force. ⇨ **waterspout.** **3 up the spout**, (sl) in difficulties, broken, etc according to context. □ *vt, vi* **1** (of liquid) come or send out with great force: *blood ~ing from a cut artery.* **2** (informal) speak, recite (verses, etc), pompously: *~ing political slogans.*

sprain /spreɪn/ *vt* injure (a joint, eg in the wrist or ankle) by twisting violently so that there is pain and swelling: *~ one's wrist.* □ *n* [C] injury so caused.

sprang /spræŋ/ *pt* of spring³.

sprat /spræt/ *n* [C] small European sea-fish used as food.

sprawl /sprɔːl/ *vi* **1** sit or lie with the arms and legs loosely spread out; fall so that one lies in this way: *~ing on the sofa; be sent ~ing in the mud.* **2** (of plants, handwriting) spread out loosely and irregularly. **3** (fig) (of towns) spread over much space: *suburbs that ~ out into the countryside.* □ *n* [C] sprawling position, movement or area.

spray¹ /spreɪ/ *n* [C] **1** small branch of a tree or plant, esp as an ornament. **2** ornament in a similar form: *a ~ of diamonds.*

spray² /spreɪ/ *n* **1** [U] liquid sent through the air in tiny drops (by the wind, or through an apparatus): *'sea-~.* **2** [C, U] kinds of liquid preparation, eg a perfume, disinfectant or insecticide, to be applied in the form of spray. **3** [C] device that sprays (perfume, etc). □ *vt* put spray on: *~ fruit-trees.*

'spray-gun, apparatus using pressure to spread cellulose, paint, varnish, etc over surfaces.

sprayer, **(a)** person who sprays. **(b)** appa-

atus for spraying.

spread /spreɪd/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp ~*) **1** extend the surface or width of something by unfolding or unrolling it: *~ out a map; ~ (out) one's arms. The bird ~ its wings.* **2** cover by spreading: *~ a table with a cloth.* **3** put (a substance) on a surface and extend its area by flattening, etc; cover (a surface) by doing this: *~ butter on bread/a slice of bread with butter.* **4** (cause to) become more widely extended or distributed: *~ knowledge. Coughs and sneezes ~ diseases. The water ~ over the floor. The rumour quickly ~ through the village. The fire ~ from the factory to the houses next door.* **5** extend in space: *a desert ~ing for hundreds of miles.* **6 spread over**, extend in time: *a course of studies ~ over three years; payments ~ over twelve months.* □ *n* [C] (rarely *pl*) **1** extent; breadth: *the ~ of a bird's wings.* **2** extension; spreading(4): *the ~ of disease/knowledge/education.* **3** (informal) table with good things to eat and drink on it: *What a superb ~!* **4** something that is spread(1) (usually in compounds): *a 'bed~, a cover spread over the bed-clothes.* **5** name used for various kinds of paste (to be) spread on bread, etc.

'spread-eagle *vi* (*reflexive*) take up a lying position with arms and legs extended to form a cross: *sunbathers ~eagled on the grass.*

spreader, person who, that which, spreads, eg an implement used for spreading paste, etc on bread.

spree /sprɪ:/ *n* [C]: *have a ~, have a lively, merry time; a 'spending/buying ~, an occasion of (extravagant or unusual) spending of money. be on the spree/go out on a spree*, be having/go out to enjoy, a spree.

spring /sprɪŋ/ *n* [C] small twig (of a plant or bush) with leaves, etc: *a ~ of holly.*

spright-ly /'sprɪtli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) lively; brisk.

spring¹ /sprɪŋ/ *n* [C] **1** act of springing or jumping up. **2** (place where there is) water coming up from the ground: *a 'hot-~; 'mineral-~.* **3** device of twisted, bent or coiled metal or wire which returns to its shape or position after being pulled, pushed or pressed: *the ~ of a watch.* **4** [U] elastic quality: *rubber bands that have lost their ~.*

'spring-balance, device that measures weight by how much the object pulls a spring down.

'spring-board, board to give a springing motion to a person jumping from it.

springy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (of movement or substances) elastic; that springs: *walk with a youthful ~y step.*

spring² /sprɪŋ/ *n* [C] season of the year in which vegetation begins; season between winter and summer: *in (the) ~; (as an adjective) ~ flowers/weather.*

'spring-clean *vt* clean (a house, a room)

thoroughly. Hence, **'spring-'cleaning** *n*.

'spring-time, (also **'spring-tide**), season of spring.

'spring-like *adj*: *~like weather*.

spring³ /sprɪŋ/ *vi, vt* (*pt* sprang /spræŋ/, *pp* sprung /sprʌŋ/) **1** jump suddenly from the ground; move suddenly (*up, down, out*, etc) from being still, hidden, etc: *He sprang to his feet/sprang out of bed/sprang out from behind the bush/sprang up from his seat. The branch sprang back and hit me in the face.* **2** grow up quickly from the ground or from a stem: *Weeds were ~ing up everywhere.* **3** appear suddenly: *Where have you sprung from?* **4** (*fig*) occur suddenly: *A suspicion/doubt sprang up in her mind.* **5** cause suddenly: *He sprang a surprise on me.* **6** cause to operate by means of a mechanism: *~ a trap*, cause it to go off. **7** **spring a leak**, (*of a ship*, etc) crack or burst so that water enters.

spring-bok /'sprɪŋbɒk/ *n* [C] small, Southern African gazelle.

sprinkle /'sprɪŋkl/ *vt* direct, throw, a shower of (something) on to (a surface): *sprinkling water on a dusty path; ~ the floor with sand.*

sprink-ler /'sprɪŋklə(r)/, (*esp*) apparatus or device for sprinkling water (eg on to a lawn) or (permanently installed in buildings) for fighting fire.

sprink-ling, small quantity or number: *There was a sprinkling of young people in the audience.*

sprint /sprɪnt/ *vi* run a short distance at full speed: *He ~ed past his competitors just before reaching the tape.* *□ n* [C] **1** such a run. **2** short race, eg 100 metres.

sprin-ter, person who sprints.

sprite /sprɪt/ *n* [C] fairy; elf.

sprout /spraʊt/ *vi, vt* **1** put out leaves; begin to grow: *Peter has really ~ed up in the past year.* **2** cause to grow: *The continuous wet weather has ~ed the wheat.* **3** develop, produce: *Tom has ~ed a moustache.* *□ n* [C] **1** new part of a plant. **2** = Brussels sprout.

spruce¹ /spruːs/ *adj* neat and smart in dress and appearance: *□ vt, vi* make oneself smart: *Go and ~ yourself up.*

spruce-ly *adv*

spruce² /spruːs/ *n* [C, U] (also *~fir*) kinds of fir-tree grown in plantations for its wood, used for making paper.

sprung /sprʌŋ/ *pp* of spring³.

spry /sprɪ/ *adj* (-er, -est) lively: *still ~ at eighty. look spry.*

spud /spʌd/ *n* [C] (*sl*) potato.

spue /spjuː/ *vt, vi* = spew.

spume /spjuːm/ *n* [U] foam; froth.

spun /spʌn/ *pp* of spin.

spunk /spʌŋk/ *n* [U] (*informal*) courage: *a boy with plenty of ~.*

spur /spɜː(r)/ *n* [C] **1** one of a pair of sharp-toothed wheels on the heels of a rider's boots

and used to make the horse go faster. **2** (*fig*) something that urges a person on to greater activity: *the ~ of poverty. act on the spur of the moment*, act on a sudden impulse. **3** ridge extending from a mountain or hill. *□ vt, vi* (-rr-) urge on with, or as with, spurs: *He was ~red on by ambition.*

spu-ri-ous /'spjuəriəs/ *adj* (*formal*) false; not genuine: *a ~ argument.*

spu-ri-ous-ly *adv*

spurn /spɜːn/ *vt* reject or refuse; have nothing to do with (an offer, a person or his advances).

spurt /spɜːt/ *vi* **1** (of liquids, flame, etc) come out in a sudden burst: *Blood ~ed (out) from the wound.* **2** make a sudden, short and violent effort, esp in a race or other contest: *The runner ~ed as he approached the winning-post.* *□ n* [C] sudden bursting forth; sudden burst of energy: *~s of water/flame/energy; put on a ~* (= increase speed) towards the end of a race.

sput-ter /'spʌtə(r)/ *vi, vt* **1** make a series of spitting sounds: *The sausages were ~ing in the frying-pan.* **2** = splutter (1, 2).

spu-tum /'spju:təm/ *n* [U] matter coughed up from the throat.

spy /spaɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* spies) **1** person who tries to get secret information, esp about the military affairs of other countries. **2** person who keeps a secret watch on the movements of others: *industrial spies*, employed to learn trade secrets, etc. *□ vi, vt* **1** act as a spy on, watch secretly: *~ing on the enemy's movements; ~ out the land.* **2** observe; see; discover: *I ~ someone coming up the garden path.*

'spy-glass, small telescope.

squabble /'skwɒbl/ *vi* take part in a small or noisy quarrel: *Tom was squabbling with his sister about who should use the bicycle.* *□ n* [C] noisy small quarrel.

squad /skwɒd/ *n* [C] small group of persons, eg of soldiers, working or being trained together.

'squad car, (US) police patrol car.

squad-ron /'skwɒdrən/ *n* [C] **1** sub-unit of a cavalry, armoured or engineer regiment (120–200 men). **2** number of warships or military aircraft forming a unit.

squalid /'skwɒlɪd/ *adj* dirty, poor, uncared for: *living in ~ conditions/houses.*

squalid-ly *adv*

squall /skwɒl/ *n* [C] **1** loud cry of pain or fear (esp from a baby or child). **2** sudden violent wind, often with rain or snow. *□ vi* utter squalls (1): *~ing babies.*

squalor /'skwɒlə(r)/ *n* [U] squalid state: *born in ~; the ~ of the slums.*

squan-der /'skwɒndə(r)/ *vt* waste (time, money).

square¹ /skweə(r)/ *adj* **1** having the shape of a square (1): *a ~ table.* **2** having or forming (exactly or approximately) a right angle: *~ corners; a ~ jaw/chin*, with angular, not curv-

ed, outlines. **3** level or parallel (with); balanced; settled: *get one's accounts ~*, settled. **be (fall) square**, neither owing anything to the other; equal: *Let's call it all ~, shall we?* **4** connected with a number multiplied by itself: *a ~ metre*, an area equal to that of a square surface which has sides of one metre: *nine ~ cm*. *The ~ root of 9 is 3*. **5** thorough; uncompromising: *meet with a ~ refusal*. **a square meal**, one that is big enough. **6** fair, honest: *~ dealings*, in business. **7** (dated fig) (of a person) formal, conventional, old-fashioned. □ *adv* **1** in a square(2) manner: *stand/sit ~*; *hit a man ~ on the jaw*. **2** *fair and 'square*, in an honest, fair manner.

square bracket, either of the two symbols [or] used as parentheses.

square-built *adj* (of a person) of comparatively broad shape.

square dance, one in which the dancers face inwards from four sides.

square-shouldered *adj* with the shoulders at right angles to the neck, not sloping.

square-toed *adj* (of shoes) having a square toe-cap.

square-ly *adv* (a) so as to form a right angle. (b) fairly; honestly: *act ~ly*. (c) directly opposite: *He faced me ~ly across the table*.

square-ness *n* [U]

square² /skweə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** shape, area, with four equal sides and four right angles (□). **back to square one**, back to the starting-point and forced to start again. **2** anything having the shape of a square. **3** four-sided open area, eg in a town, used as a garden or for recreation, or one enclosed by streets and buildings: *listening to the band playing in the ~*. **4** buildings and streets surrounding a square(3): *He lived at No 95 Russell S~*. **5** block of buildings bounded by four streets; distance along one side. **6** result when a number or quantity is multiplied by itself: *The ~ of 7 is 49*. **7** L-shaped or ('T-square') T-shaped instrument for drawing or testing right angles. **8** (dated informal) person (considered to be) square(7).

'square-bashing, (sl) military drill.

square³ /skweə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** make square; give a square shape to. **2** cause one line or side to make a right angle with another: *~ timber*. **3** make straight or level: *~ one's shoulders*. **4** multiply a number by itself: *Three ~d is nine*. **5** mark (off) in squares. **6** settle, balance (accounts): *~ up on Friday*. **7** (fig) have one's revenge: *~ accounts with an enemy*. **8** make or be consistent: *It would help if the facts ~d with the theory, but they do not*.

squash¹ /skwɒʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** press flat or into a small space: *~ too many people into a bus*. **2** become squashed or pressed out of shape: *Soft fruits ~ easily*. **3** squeeze or crowd: *Don't all try to ~ into the lift together*. **4** (informal)

silence (a person) with a clever, sarcastic, etc reply, statement: *He was/felt completely ~ed*. **5** (informal) defeat (a rebellion). □ *n* [C] (rarely pl) **1** crowd of persons squashed together: *There was a frightful ~ at the gate*. **2** (sound of) something squashing or being squashed: *The ripe tomato hit the speaker in the face with a ~*. **3** [C,U] drink made from fruit juice: 'orange'/'lemon'.

squash² /skwɒʃ/ *n* [U] (also ~rackets) game played with rackets and a rubber ball in a walled court.

squash³ /skwɒʃ/ *n* [U] (pl unchanged) kinds of gourd, like a pumpkin, eaten as a vegetable.

squat /skwɒt/ *vi* (-tt-) **1** sit on one's heels, or on the ground with the legs drawn up under or close to the body: *The old man ~ed in front of the fire*. **2** (of animals) crouch with the body close to the ground. **3** (informal) sit: *Find somewhere to ~*. **4** settle on land without permission, esp publicly owned and unoccupied land (in order to get ownership); occupy empty (usually deserted, derelict) buildings without authority. □ *adj* short and thick: *a ~ man*.

squat-ter, (a) person who squats(1). (b) person who squats(4).

squaw /skwɔː/ *n* [C] North American Indian woman or wife.

squawk /skwɔːk/ *vi, n* [C] **1** (chiefly of birds) (make a) loud, harsh cry, as when hurt or frightened. **2** (informal) (make a) loud complaint. **3** (sl) be an informer: *The old man ~ed (to the police)*.

squawkier, person, bird, that squawks.

squeak /skwi:k/ *n* [C] **1** short, shrill cry, eg made by a mouse, or similar sound, eg from an unoiled hinge. **2** a narrow squeak, a narrow escape from danger or failure. □ *vi, vt* **1** make a squeak: *These new shoes ~*. **2** (informal) become an informer.

squeaky *adj* (-ier, -iest) squeaking: *~y shoes*.

squeal /skwi:l/ *n* [C] shrill cry or sound, longer and louder than a squeak, often showing terror or pain: *the ~ of brakes*, eg on lorries. □ *vi, vt* **1** make a squeal: *The pigs were ~ing*. *He ~ed like a pig*. **2** say in a squealing voice. **3** (informal) become an informer.

squealer, (a) animal that squeals. (b) (sl) informer.

squeam-ish /'skwi:mɪʃ/ *adj* **1** having a delicate stomach and easily made sick; feeling sick. **2** too easily disgusted or offended.

squeam-ish-ly *adv*

squeeze /skwi:z/ *vt, vi* **1** press on from the opposite side or from all sides; change the shape, size, etc of something by doing this: *~ her hand*; *~ a sponge*; *~ one's fingers*, eg in a doorway. **2** get (water, juice, etc) out of something by pressing hard: *(the juice out of) a lemon*; *~ the water out*. **3** force (a person,

oneself) into or through a narrow passage or small space: ~ (one's way) into a crowded bus; ~ (oneself) through a gap in a hedge. **4** get by force, demand, etc: ~ more money out of the public, eg by increasing taxes. **5** give in to pressure: *Sponges ~ easily.* □ **n** [C] **1** act of squeezing; condition of being squeezed; something obtained by squeezing: *give her a hug and a ~.* **a tight squeeze**, **(a)** closely packed crowd. **(b)** a narrow victory, escape, etc. **2** [U] (informal) policy of high taxation, high interest rates, etc aimed at deflation; [U] money obtained by squeezing (4).

queezer, person, thing, that squeezes: *a lemon-~.*

squelch /skwɛltʃ/ *vi, vt* make a sucking sound as when feet are lifted from stiff, sticky mud: *cows ~ing through the mud.* □ **n** [C] squelching sound or act.

squid /skwɪd/ *n* [C] kind of sea-animal with ten long arms round the mouth.

squiggle /'skwɪgl/ *n* [C] small twisting line or scrawl: *Is this ~ his signature?*

squint /skwɪnt/ *vi* **1** have eyes that do not turn together but look in different directions at once. **2** look at with half-shut eyes or through a narrow opening. □ **n** [C] squinting position of the eyeballs: *a man with a ~.*

squire /'skwaɪə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (dated) (in England) chief landowner in a country parish. **2** (in olden times) young man who was a knight's attendant until he himself became a knight.

squirm /skwɜ:m/ *vi* twist the body, wriggle (from discomfort, shame or embarrassment). □ **n** [C] squirming movement.

squir-rel /'skwɪrl/ *US: 'skwɔ:rl/ n* [C] (kinds of) small, tree-climbing, bushy-tailed animal with red or grey fur.

squirt /skwɜ:t/ *vi, vt* (of liquid, powder) force out, be forced out, in a thin stream or jet: *The water ~ed all over me.* □ **n** [C] **1** thin stream or jet (of liquid, powder, etc). **2** (informal) insignificant, nasty person: *You little ~!*

stab /stæb/ *vt, vi* (-bb-) **1** pierce or wound with a sharp-pointed weapon or instrument: eg a knife: ~ a man in the back. **2** produce a sensation of being stabbed: ~bing pains in the back. □ **n** [C] **1** stabbing blow; pain caused by this. **2** (informal) try, attempt: *Let me have a ~ at it, try to do it.*

stabber, person who stabs.

stable ¹ /'steɪbl/ *adj* (-er, -est) firm; fixed; not likely to move or change: *What we need is a ~ Government. He needs a ~ job.*

stabil-ity /stə'bɪləti/ *n* [U] quality of being stable.

stabil-ize (also **-ise**) /'steɪbəlaɪz/ *vt* make stable: ~ prices and wages.

stabil-izer (also **-iser**), person or thing that stabilizes.

stable ² /'steɪbl/ *n* [C] **1** building in which

horses are kept and fed. **2** number of horses (esp race-horses) belonging to one particular owner and kept in one set of stables. □ *vt* put, keep, in a stable: *Where do you ~ your horse?*

stack /stæk/ *n* [C] **1** pile of hay, straw, grain, etc usually with a sloping top, for storage in the open. **2** group of rifles arranged in the form of a pyramid. **3** pile or heap (of books, papers, wood, etc). **4** (informal) large amount: *I have ~s of work waiting to be done.* **5** (brick-work or stonework enclosing a) number of chimneys. **6** rack with shelves for books (in a library or bookshop). **7** number of aircraft waiting for instructions to land. □ *vt* make into a stack; pile up.

stadium /'steɪdiəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) enclosed area of land for games, athletic competitions, etc, with seats, etc for spectators: *design a new Olympic ~.*

staff /stɑ:f *US: stæf/ n* [C] **1** strong stick used as a support when walking or climbing, or as a weapon. **2** such a stick as a sign of office or authority: *a pastoral ~*, eg an ornamental one carried by or in front of a bishop, etc. **3** pole serving as a support: *a 'flag ~.* **4** group of assistants working together under a manager or head: *the headmaster and his ~*, ie the teachers; *'office ~.* **5** group of senior army officers engaged in planning and organization: *the General S~*; (as an adjective) ~ officers. **6** (music) (*pl* staves /'steɪvz/) set of five parallel lines on or between which symbols for notes are placed. □ *vt* provide with, act as, a staff (4): *a well-~ed hotel/hospital.*

stag /stæg/ *n* [C] male deer.

'stag-party, (informal) party for men only, usually for a man about to get married.

stage /steɪdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** (in a theatre) raised platform or structure of boards on which the actors appear. **2** the ~, theatrical work; the profession of acting in theatres. **be/go on the stage**, be/become an actor or actress. **3** (fig) scene of action; place where events occur. **4** point, period or step in development: *at an early ~ in our history. The baby has reached the 'talking ~, is learning to talk.* **5** any of two or more successive periods on the journey of a spacecraft: *a multi-~ 'rocket.* **6** journey, distance, between two stopping-places along a road or route; such a stopping-place: *travel by easy ~s*, for only a short distance at a time. **7** = stage-coach. ⇨ also landing-stage. □ *vt, vi* put on the stage (1); put before the public: ~ 'Hamlet'. **stage a come-back**, return (to a sport, eg boxing) from retirement or after having failed.

'stage-coach, horse-drawn vehicle formerly carrying passengers (and often mail) along a regular route.

'stage-craft, skill or experience in writing or directing plays.

'stage direction, direction in a play

actors about their positions, movements, etc.

'stage 'door, entrance at the back of a theatre, used by actors, etc.

'stage fright, nervousness felt when facing an audience.

'stage 'manager, person who organizes scenery and props, etc, supervises the rehearsals, etc.

'stage-struck *adj* having a strong desire to become an actor or actress.

'stage-'whisper, whisper that is meant to be overheard.

stag-fla-tion /stæq'fleɪn/ *n* [U] inflation with a decline in productivity.

stag-ger /'stægə(r)/ *vi, vt* **1** walk or move unsteadily (from weakness, a heavy burden, drunkenness, etc): *The man ~ed along/to his feet/across the room/from side to side of the pavement.* **2** (of a blow or shock) cause to walk or move unsteadily. **3** (of news, etc) shock deeply; cause worry or confusion to: *I was ~ed to hear/on hearing/when I heard that she had been arrested.* **4** arrange (times of events) so that they do not all occur together: ~ *office hours*, so that employees are not all using buses, trains, etc at the same time. *n* (sing) staggering movement.

stag-ing /'steɪdʒɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C,U] (platform or working area on) scaffolding for men on constructional work, eg building. **2** [U] (method of) presenting a play on the stage of a theatre.

stag-nant /'stægnənt/ *adj* **1** (of water) without current or tide: *water lying ~ in ponds and ditches.* **2** (fig) unchanging; inactive: *Business was ~ last week.*

stag-nate /stæg'neɪt/ *US: 'stægneɪt/ vi* **1** be stagnant. **2** (fig) be or become dull through disuse, inactivity, etc.

stag-na-tion /stæg'neɪʃn/ *n* [U]

staid /steɪd/ *adj* (of persons, their appearance, behaviour, etc) conservative, quiet and serious.

staid-ly *adv*

stain /steɪn/ *vt, vi* **1** (of liquids, other substances) change the colour of; make coloured patches or dirty marks on: *blood ~ed hands.* **2** colour (wood, fabrics, etc) with a substance that soaks into the material: *He ~ed the wood brown.* **3** (of material) become discoloured or soiled: *Does this material ~ easily?* *n* **1** [U] liquid used for staining wood, etc. **2** [C] stained place; dirty mark or patch of colour: *'ink-'blood-~s.* **3** [C] (fig) moral defect: *a ~ on your character.*

stain-less *adj* (a) without a fault: *a ~less reputation.* (b) (esp of a kind of steel alloy) that resists rust and corrosion: *~less steel cutlery.*

stained glass, glass made by mixing into it transparent colours during the process of manufacture.

stair /steə(r)/ *n* [C] (any one of a) series of fixed steps leading from one floor of a build-

ing to another; *The child was sitting on the bottom ~.* *She always runs up/down the ~s.* **a flight of stairs**, ⇨ flight¹ (8). ⇨ also downstairs, upstairs.

'stair-case, series of stairs (often with banisters) inside a building.

'stair-rod, rod for keeping a carpet in position in the angle between two steps of a stair.

'stair-way, = staircase.

'stair-well, space in a building surrounded by a staircase.

stake /steɪk/ *n* [C] **1** strong, pointed length of wood or metal (to be) driven into the ground as a post (eg for a fence) or as a support for something, eg plants, young trees. **2** post, as used in olden times, to which a person was tied before being burnt to death as a punishment: *condemned to the ~; suffer at the ~.* **3** sum of money risked when gambling. **at stake**, to be won or lost; risked, depending, on the result of something: *His reputation/His life itself was at ~.* **4** interest or concern (in something); sum of money invested in an enterprise. **5** (pl) money to be contended for, esp in a horse-race; such a race: *the trial ~s at Newmarket.* *vt* **1** support with a stake: ~ *newly planted trees.* **2** mark (an area) with stakes: ~ *out a claim* (to land, etc). **3** risk (money, one's hopes, etc): *I'd ~ my life on it*, am very confident about it.

'stake-holder, person who keeps the stakes (3) until the result (of a race, etc) is known.

stal-ac-tite /'stælæktait/ *US: stælæk-/ n* [C] length of lime hanging from the roof of a cave as water drips from it.

stal-ag-mite /'stælgəmaɪt/ *US: stælæg-/ n* [C] length of lime mounting upwards from the floor of a cave as water containing lime drips from the roof.

stale /steɪl/ *adj* **1** (of food) dry and unappetizing because not fresh: ~ *bread.* **2** uninteresting because heard before: ~ *news/jokes.* **3** (of athletes, musicians, etc) no longer able to perform really well because of too much playing, training, practice, etc: *become ~.* *vi* become stale: *Are there any pleasures that never ~?*

stale-ness *n* [U]

stale-mate /'steɪlmeɪt/ *n* [C,U] **1** (chess) position of the pieces from which no further move is possible. **2** (fig) any stage of a dispute at which further action by either side seems to be impossible. *n* **vi** **1** (chess) reduce a player to a stalemate. **2** (fig) bring to a standstill.

stalk¹ /stɔːk/ *n* [C] part of a plant that supports a flower or flowers, a leaf or leaves, or a fruit or fruits.

stalk² /stɔːk/ *vi, vt* **1** walk with slow, stiff strides, esp in a proud, self-important or serious way: ~ *out of the room.* **2** move quietly and cautiously towards (wild animals, etc) in order to get near: ~ *deer.*

stalker, person who stalks animals.

stall /stɔ:l/ *n* [C] **1** compartment for one animal in a stable or cattle shed. **2** table or small, open shop, etc used by a trader in a market, on a street, in a railway-station, etc: a 'book-/flower-/coffee-~'. **3** (pl) seats in the part of a theatre nearest to the stage. **4** fixed seat for the special use of a clergyman (usually in the choir or chancel): canon's/dean's ~. **5** condition of an aircraft when its speed has decreased to the point at which it no longer responds to the controls. □ *vi*, *vt* **1** place or keep (an animal) in a stall (1). **2** (eg of a car engine) fail to keep going through insufficient power or speed; (of a driver) cause an engine to stop from such a cause. **3** (of an aircraft) cause to be, become, out of control through loss of speed. **4** avoid giving a clear answer to a question, making a decision, (in order to get more time): ~ for time.

stallion /'stæljən/ *n* [C] uncastrated fully grown male horse, esp used for breeding.

stalwart /'stɔ:lwɜ:t/ *adj* (formal) **1** tall and muscular; solidly built. **2** firm and determined: ~ supporters. □ *n* [C] loyal supporter (of a political party, etc).

stamen /'steimən/ *n* [C] male part of a flower, bearing pollen.

stamina /'stæmɪnə/ *n* [U] energy and physical, mental and moral strength, enabling a person or animal to work hard for a long time, to survive a serious illness, to deal with serious problems, etc.

stammer /'stæmə(r)/ *vi*, *vt* **1** speak with a tendency to repeat rapidly the same sound or syllable, as in 'G-g-give me that b-b-book'. **2** say something in this confused or halting way: ~ out a request. □ *n* [C] (tendency to) stammering talk.

stammerer, person who stammers.

stamp¹ /stæmp/ *n* [C] **1** act of stamping with the foot: a ~ of impatience. **2** something used to make a mark or design on a surface: a rubber ~, one on which a design, words, etc are cut (used for printing dates, signatures, addresses, etc). **3** design, word(s), etc made by stamping on a surface. **4** piece of printed paper stuck on envelopes (also 'postage-stamp'), documents, etc to show the postage paid, the insurance contribution, duty paid, etc. **5** (usually sing) characteristic mark or quality: He bears the ~ of genius. **6** (usually sing) kind; class: men of that ~.

stamp-album, one in which a collector of postage-stamps keeps his specimens.

stamp-collector, person who collects postage-stamps.

stamp-duty, tax imposed on certain kinds of legal documents.

stamp² /stæmp/ *vi*, *vt* **1** put (one's foot) down with force (on something): ~ one's foot; ~ on a spider. **2** move (about, etc) doing this: ~

about/out of the room. **stamp sth out**, crush, destroy, end: ~ out a fire in the grass/a rebellion/an epidemic disease. **3** print (a design, lettering, the date, etc) on paper, cloth or other surface: The girl forgot to ~ my library books, mark the date by which they should be returned. **4** put a stamp (4) on (a letter, etc): I enclose a ~ed, addressed envelope for your reply. **5** give shape to something (eg pieces of metal) with a die or cutter. **6** (fig) impress: He ~ed his authority/personality on the game, eg of a great footballer.

stamp-ing-ground, (a) place where specified animals, eg elephants, may usually be found. (b) place where specified people often gather: Soho, the ~ing-ground in London of those who enjoy exotic food.

stampede /stæmpɪd/ *n* [C] sudden rush of frightened people or animals. □ *vi*, *vt* **1** take part in a stampede; cause to do this. **2** force or frighten a person into action: Don't be ~ed into buying the house.

stance /stæns/ *n* [C] **1** (in golf, cricket) position taken for a stroke. **2** person's intellectual attitude.

stand¹ /stænd/ *n* [C] **1** make a stand, be ready to resist or fight: make a ~ against the enemy. **2** position taken up: He took his ~ near the window. **3** small article of furniture, support, etc on or in which things may be placed: a 'music-/hat-~'. **4** structure from which things are sold or exhibited: a 'news-~; the British ~s at the Hanover Fair. **5** place where vehicles may stand in line in a street, etc while waiting for passengers: a 'taxi-~. **6** structure, usually sloping, where people may stand or sit to watch races, sports-meetings, etc: a seat in the ~s. ⇨ grandstand. **7** engagement by a theatrical company when touring the country. **a one-night stand**, (fig) a social meeting between two people that will not be repeated. **8** (US) witness-box (in a law court): take the ~.

stand-point, point of view: from the ~point of the consumer.

stand-still, be at/come to/bring sth to a standstill, (of progress, motion) stop, be stopped.

stand² /stænd/ *vi*, *vt* (pt, pp stood /stud/) (For special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 10 below.) **1** have, take, keep, an upright position; balance, support, the body on the feet: He was too weak to ~. **2** ~ing room only, all seats are occupied, eg in a bus or cinema. His hair stood on end, ic with terror. He ~s six foot two, is of this height when standing. ⇨ also handstand. **2** rise to the feet: ~ up, please. Everyone stood (up) as the President entered. **3** remain without change: Let the words ~, don't alter them or take them out. **stand firm/fast**, not give way, retreat, change one's views, etc. **4** be in a certain con-

dition or situation: *As affairs now ~...*, As they are at present. ... *I ~ corrected*, accept that I was wrong, etc. *He ~s alone among his colleagues*, None of them equals him in ability, etc. *S ~ clear of the gates*, eg as a warning when they are about to be closed. **5** have a certain place; be situated: *These dishes ~ on the top shelf*. *The house ~s on the hill*. *Where does Tom ~ in class*, What is his position (in order of ability, etc)? **6** cause to be placed in an upright position: *S ~ the ladder against the wall*. *S ~ the empty barrels on the floor*. **7** put up with; bear: *He can't ~ hot weather*. *I can't ~ that woman*, strongly dislike her. **stand one's ground**, (fig) not give way in an argument. **stand (one's) trial**, be tried (in a court of law). **8** provide at one's expense: *~ a friend a good dinner*. **9 stand on ceremony**, **ceremony**(2). **stand a (good) poor, etc chance (of...)**, \hookrightarrow chance¹(3). **It stands to reason (that)**, \hookrightarrow reason¹(3). **stand to win/gain/lose sth**, be in a position where one is likely to win, etc: *What do we ~ to gain by the treaty?*

10 (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

stand aside, (a) be inactive, do nothing: *He never ~s aside when something needs doing*. (b) move to one side: *S ~ aside and let me pass*.

stand at, be at a certain level (on a scale, etc): *The temperature stood at 30°C*.

stand back, (a) move back: *The policeman ordered us to ~ back*. (b) be situated away from: *The house ~s back from the road*.

stand by, (a) look on without doing anything: *How can you ~ by and see such cruelty?* \hookrightarrow bystander. (b) be ready for action: *The troops are ~ing by*. **stand by sb**, support; show oneself to be a good friend: *I'll ~ by you whatever happens*. **stand by sth**, be faithful to (a promise, one's word, etc). Hence, **'stand-by'**, (a) state of readiness: *The troops are on 24-hour ~by*, ready to move at 24 hours' notice. (b) person or thing that one may depend on: *Aspirin is a good ~by for headaches*.

stand down, (a) leave a witness-box or similar position. (b) (of a candidate) withdraw.

stand for sth, (a) represent: *'Cm' ~ for 'centimetre'*. (b) (GB) be a candidate for: *~ for Parliament*. (c) (informal) tolerate: *She says she's not going to ~ for any disobedience*. \hookrightarrow 7 above.

stand in (for sb), take the place of, eg a person who is ill. Hence, **'stand-in'**, person who does this.

stand off, remain at a distance; move away. **'stand-off-ish'** *adj* unfriendly and distant in behaviour.

stand out, (a) be easily seen above or

among others: *Does your work ~ out from that of others?* Is it obviously better? \hookrightarrow outstanding. **stand out a mile**, be obvious: *Her ability ~s out a mile*. (b) continue to resist: *The troops stood out against the enemy until help arrived*.

stand over sb, supervise, watch closely: *Unless I ~ over him he makes all sorts of mistakes*. **stand up**, \hookrightarrow 2 above. **'stand-up'** *adj* (a) (of a meal) eaten while standing: *a ~up 'buffet'*. (b) (of a fight) violent and hard-hitting. **stand sb up**, (informal) not keep an appointment: *First she agreed to come out with me, then she stood me up*. **stand up for sb**, support; take the part of; defend. **stand up to sth**, (of materials) remain in good condition after long or hard use, etc: *metals that ~ up well to high temperatures*.

stand-ard /'stændəd/ *n* [C] **1** distinctive flag, esp one to which loyalty is given or asked: *the royal ~*, eg as flown to show that the Queen is in residence. **2** (often as an adjective) something used as a test or measure for weights, lengths, qualities or for the required degree of excellence: *~ weights and measures*; *set a high ~ for candidates in an examination*; *a high ~ of living*, one with plenty of material comforts, etc; *~ authors*, accepted as good. **be up to / below standard**, be equal to, not so good as, normal, etc: *Their work is not up to ~*. \hookrightarrow gold standard. **3** (often used as an adjective) upright support; pole or column.

'standard bearer', (a) person carrying a standard(1). (b) (fig) prominent leader.

'standard lamp', tall one with its base on the floor.

standard time, time officially adopted for (part of) a country.

stan-dard-ize (also **-ise**) /'stændədaɪz/ *vt* make of one size, shape, quality, etc according to fixed standards: *The parts of motor-vehicles are usually ~d*.

stan-dard-iz-ation (also **-isation**) /'stændədaɪzəʃn *US*: -dɪz-/ *n* [U]

stand-ing /'stændɪŋ/ *n* 1 [U] duration: *a debt of long ~*. **2** [C, U] position or reputation; (if there is no adjective) established position: *men of high ~*; *a member in full ~*. \square *adj* established and permanent; ready for use: *a ~ committee*, a permanent one that meets regularly; *a ~ order for newspapers and periodicals*, to be delivered regularly.

stank /stæŋk/ *pr* of stink.

stan-za /'stænzə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) group of rhymed lines forming a division in some forms of poem.

staple /'steɪpl/ *n* [C] **1** U-shaped metal pin hammered into a surface, to hold something in position. **2** U-shaped part of a padlock. **3** piece of wire pushed through sheets of paper and bent to hold them together. \square *vt* fasten or fit with a staple.

stapler /'steɪplə(r)/, small device for fixing papers together with staples (3).

staple² /'steɪpl/ *n* [C] chief sort of article or goods produced or traded in: *Cotton is one of the ~s of Egypt.* **2** [U] fibre of cotton, wool, etc (as determining its quality): *cotton of short/fine ~.* **3** (used as an adjective) forming the chief part: *Is coffee still the ~ product of Brazil? Rice is the ~ diet (= the principal food) of many people in Asia.*

star /stɑ:(r)/ *n* [C] **1** any one of the bodies seen in the sky at night as distant points of light. **see stars**, seem to see flashes of light, eg as the result of a hit on the head. **2** figure or design with points round it, suggesting a star by its shape; an asterisk (*): *a five-~ hotel*, of the highest grade. **3** badge of rank (worn by officers on the shoulder-strap). **4** planet or heavenly body regarded as influencing a person's fortune, etc: *born under a lucky ~.* **5** person famous as a singer, actor, actress, etc: *the ~s of stage and screen*; *'pop ~s*. □ *vi, vt* (-rr-) **1** mark or decorate with, or as with, stars. **2** mark with an asterisk, etc to direct attention to something: *I've ~red the important articles to read.* **3** be a star (5) (in a play, film, etc); present (a person) as a star (5).

'star-dom /-dəm/, status of being a star (5).

'star-fish, sea-animal shaped like a star.

'star-let /-lɪt/, young successful actress.

'star-light, light from the stars. Hence, **'star-lit** *adj*.

star-less *adj* with no stars to be seen: *a ~less sky/night.*

starry /'stɑ:(r)/ *adj* lighted by, shining like, stars: *a ~ry night.*

'starry-eyed *adj* (informal) full of ideas but impractical: *~ry-eyed reformers.*

star-board /'stɑ:bɔ:d/ *n* [U] right side of a ship or aircraft from the point of view of a person looking forward. ⇨ **port**³.

starch /stɑ:tʃ/ *n* [U] **1** white, tasteless food substance, as in potatoes, grain, etc. **2** this substance prepared in powdered form and used for stiffening cotton clothes, etc. **3** (fig) stiffness of manner; formality. □ *vt* make, eg shirt collars, stiff with starch.

starchy *adj* (-ier, -iest) of, like, containing, starch: *~y foods.*

stare /steə(r)/ *vi, vt* **1** look fixedly; (of eyes) be wide open: *Do you like being ~ed at? She was staring into the distance. They all ~ed with astonishment.* **2** **stare one in the face**, (fig) be obvious, be right in front of one: *The book I was looking for was staring me in the face.* □ *n* [C] staring look: *a rude ~.*

stark /stɑ:k/ *adj* **1** stiff, esp in death. **2** complete: *~ madness.* □ *adv* completely: *~ naked.*

star-ling /'stɑ:lɪŋ/ *n* [C] common small bird (black with brown-spotted plumage).

starry /'stɑ:(r)/ ⇨ **star**.

start¹ /stɑ:t/ *n* [C] **1** beginning of a journey,

activity, etc: *make an early ~; the ~ of a race; from ~ to finish.* **2** (sing only) amount of time or distance by which one person starts in front of competitors: *They didn't give me much/any ~. He got a good ~ (= a position of advantage) in life/business.* **3** sudden movement of surprise, fear, etc: *He sat up with a ~.* **by fits and starts**, in sudden short periods, not regularly. **make a fresh start**, ⇨ **fresh** (3).

start² /stɑ:t/ *vi, vt* (Note: begin may replace start in 1, 2, 6 below.) **1** leave; set out: *We must ~ (out) early. We ~ed at six.* **2** take the first action; show the first sign of: *~ work. It ~ed raining. It's ~ing to rain.* **3** make a beginning: *~ (on) one's journey home.* **4** make a sudden movement (from pain, surprise, fear, etc) or change of position: *He ~ed at the sound of my voice.* **5** set going; originate, bring into existence; cause: *This news ~ed me thinking. The smoke ~ed her coughing. A rich uncle ~ed him in business, helped him, eg by supplying capital.* **6 to start with**, (a) in the first place: *To ~ with, we haven't enough money, and secondly we haven't enough time.* (b) at the beginning: *We had only six members to ~ with.*

7 (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

start back, begin to return: *It's time we ~ed back* (eg said while out walking).

start off, begin to move: *The horse ~ed off at a steady trot.*

start out (to do sth), (informal) take the first steps: *~ out to write a novel.*

start sth up, put (an engine, etc) in motion: *We couldn't ~ up the car.*

'starting-block, shaped block for the feet at the start of a race.

'start-ing-gate, barrier where horses start a race.

'start-ing-point, place at which a start is made.

'start-ing-post, place from which competitors start in a race.

'start-ing-price, (horse-racing) the odds just before the start of a race.

star-ter, (a) person, horse, etc that takes part in a race: *There were only five ~ers in the last race.* (b) person who gives the signal for a race to start. (c) device for causing an engine to start working. (d) (informal) first course of a meal.

startle /'stɑ:t(ɪ)/ *vt* give a shock of surprise to; cause to move or jump: *be ~ed out of one's sleep; be ~ed out of one's wits*, suffer a sudden great shock. *What startling news!*

starve /stɑ:v/ *vi, vt* **1** (cause to) suffer or die from hunger: *~ to death. They tried to ~ the soldiers out*, force them to surrender by preventing them from getting supplies of food. **be starved of**, (fig) be in great need of: *The children were ~ed of affection.* **2** (informal) feel hungry: *What time's dinner? I'm*

starving!

star-va-tion /stɑ:'veɪʃn/ *n* [U] suffering or death caused by having no food: *die of starvation.*

state¹ /steɪt/ *n* [C] **1** (*sing only*) condition in which a person or thing is (in circumstances, appearance, mind, health, etc): *The house was in a dirty ~. She's in a poor ~ of health.* **state of play**, **(a)** (sport) score. **(b)** (fig) how parties in dispute stand in relation to one another (as likely to win or lose). **2** (often **S~**) organized political community with a government; territory in which this exists; such a community forming part of a federal republic: *Railways in Great Britain belong to the S~. How many S~s are there in the United States of America?* **3** (used as an adjective) of, for, concerned with, the State(2): *~ documents/records/archives.* **4** [U] civil government: *Church and S~; S~ schools*, contrasted with Church or private schools. **5** [U] rank; dignity: *persons in every ~ of life.* **6** [U] ceremonial formality: *The President was received in ~.* **7** (used as an adjective) of or for ceremony and formality: *the ~ apartments at the palace.* **8 lie in state**, be placed on view in a public place before burial.

state coach, one used by a monarch on ceremonial occasions.

the 'State Department, (US) of foreign Affairs.

'State-house, building in which a government of a State holds meetings.

'state-room, private cabin (or sleeping-compartment) on a steamer (and, in US, in a railway-carriage).

state school, one paid for by the government, with free education.

state-less *adj* (of a person) not recognized as a citizen or national of any country: *~less persons*, eg some political refugees.

state-ly *adj* (-ier, -iest) impressive; dignified: *the ~ly homes of England*, those of the nobility, etc.

state² /steɪt/ *vt* express in words, esp carefully, fully and clearly: *~ one's views.*

stated *adj* made known; announced: *at ~d times/intervals.*

state-ment, **(a)** [U] expression in words. **(b)** [C] stating of facts, views, a problem, etc (spoken or written); report: *a 'bank ~ment*, *make a ~ment (in court)*, give a formal account in a law court of the cause of a legal action or its defence.

states-man /'steɪtsmən/ *n* [C] (*pl -men*) **1** person taking an important part in the management of State affairs. **2** person with skill and ability in State affairs.

'states-man-like *adj* gifted with, showing, wisdom in public affairs.

'states-man-ship /-ʃɪp/ *n* [U] skill and wisdom in managing public affairs.

static /'stætɪk/ *adj* at rest; in a state of balance: *Sales are ~, not increasing or decreasing.*

sta-tion /'steɪʃn/ *n* [C] **1** place, building, etc where a service is organized and provided: *a 'bus/po'lice-~.* **2** position, or relative position, to be taken up or maintained by a person or thing: *battle ~s*, positions for fighting. **3** stopping-place for railway trains. **4** social position, rank: *people in all ~s of life.* **5** military or naval base; those living there. □ *vt* put (a person, oneself, etc) at or in a certain place: *The detective ~ed himself among the bushes*, hid there.

'station-master, person in charge of a railway station.

'station-wagon, (*dated*) estate car.

sta-tion-ary /'steɪʃnəri/ *US: -neri/ adj* **1** not intended to be moved from place to place: *a ~ crane/engine*. ⇨ *mobile*(1). **2** not moving or changing: *remain ~.*

sta-tion-er /'steɪʃənə(r)/ *n* [C] dealer in stationery.

sta-tion-ery /'steɪʃnəri/ *US: -neri/ n* [U] paper, envelopes, etc for writing.

stat-is-tics /stə'tɪstɪks/ *n* [U] **1** (used with a *pl verb*) collection of information shown in numbers: *S~ suggest that the population will double in ten years' time.* **2** (used with a *sing verb*) the science of statistics.

stat-is-ti-cal /stə'tɪstɪkəl/ *adj* of statistics: *statistical evidence.*

stat-is-ti-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

stat-is-ti-cian /'stætɪ'stɪʃn/ *n* [C] expert in statistics.

statue /'stætʃu:/ *n* [C] figure of a person, animal, etc in wood, stone, bronze, etc, usually of life size or more than life size.

statu-ette /stætʃu'et/, small statue.

stat-ure /'stætʃə(r)/ *n* [U] **1** (person's) natural bodily height. **2** (fig) mental or moral quality.

status /'steɪtəs/ *n* [U] person's legal, social or professional position in relation to others: *have no official ~*, no official position.

'status symbol, something which is thought to be evidence of social rank, wealth, etc, eg a large, expensive car.

stat-ute /'stætʃu:t/ *n* [C] (written) law passed by Parliament or other law-making body.

'statute-book, book(s) containing statutes.

statu-tory /'stætʃətəri/ *US: -tɔ:ri/ adj* fixed, done, required, by statute: *statutory control of incomes.*

staunch /stɔ:ntʃ/ (*US also stanch* /stɑ:ntʃ/ *US: stæntʃ/)* *vt* stop the flow of (esp blood).

staunch /stɔ:ntʃ/ *adj* (of a friend, supporter, etc) loyal; firm.

staunch-ly *adv*

stave¹ /stev/ *n* [C] **1** one of the curved pieces of wood used for the side of a barrel or tub. **2** (*music*) = staff(6). **3** stanza; verse.

stave² /stæv/ vt, vi (pt, pp ~d or stove /stəʊv/)

1 break, smash, make a hole in: *The side of the yacht was ~d in by the collision.* **2 stave sth off**, keep off, delay (danger, disaster, bankruptcy, etc).

stay¹ /steɪ/ vi, vt **1** be, remain, in a place or condition: ~ in the house/at home/in bed; ~ (= be a guest) at a hotel/with friends. *I'm too busy to/I can't ~, must leave now.* **stay in**, not go outdoors. **stay out**, (a) remain outdoors: *Tell the children they mustn't ~ out after dark.* (b) remain on strike: *The miners ~ed out for several weeks.* **stay up**, not go to bed: *I ~ed up reading until midnight.* **come to stay**, (informal) become, or seem likely to be, permanent: *Has shoulder-length hair for men come to ~?* **2** continue in a certain state: ~ single, not marry. *He never ~s sober for long,* frequently gets drunk. **stay put**, (informal) remain where placed. **3** stop, delay, postpone: ~ the progress of a disease. **4** be able to continue (work, etc); show endurance: *The horse has no ~ing power.* **stay the course**, (a) be able to continue to the end of the race. (b) (fig) continue the struggle, etc. □ n [C] **1** period of staying(1): *make a short ~ in Karachi.* **2** (legal) delay; postponement. **a stay of execution**, that an order of the court need not be carried out immediately.

stay² /steɪ/ n [C] **1** rope or wire supporting a mast, pole, etc. **2** (pl) (dated name for) kind of reinforced corset. □ vt support by means of a wire, rope or prop.

stead-fast /ˈstɛd.fəst/ US: -fæst/ adj unchanging; keeping firm (to): *a ~ gaze.*

stead-fast-ly adv

steady /ˈstɛd.i/ adj (-ier, -iest) **1** firmly fixed or supported; balanced; not likely to fall over: *make a table ~, eg by repairing a leg; not very ~ on one's legs, eg of a person after a long illness.* **2** regular in movement, speed, direction, etc: *a ~ speed/rate of progress.* **3** regular in behaviour, habits, etc: *a ~ worker.* **4** constant, unchanging: *a ~ purpose.* □ adv = steadily. **go steady**, (informal) go about regularly with a person of the opposite sex, though not yet engaged to marry: *Are Tony and Jane going ~?* □ n [C] (pl -ies) (sf) regular boyfriend or girlfriend. □ vt, vi make, become, keep, steady: ~ a boat; ~ oneself by holding on to the rail, eg on the deck of a ship that is rolling.

stead-ily /ˈstɛd.ɪ.li/ adv in a regular manner. *His health is getting steadily worse.*

steak /steɪk/ n [C, U] (thick slice of) meat or fish for frying, grilling, stewing, etc.

steal /sti:l/ vt, vi (pt stole /stəʊl/, pp stolen /ˈstəʊlən/) **1** take (a person's property) secretly, without right: *Someone has stolen my watch.* **2** obtain by surprise or a trick: ~ a glance at her in the mirror. **3** ⚡ thunder(2). move, come, go (in, out, away, etc) secretly and quietly: *He stole out of the room.*

steam /sti:m/ n [U] **1** gas or vapour which rises from boiling water: ~-covered windows.

2 power obtained from steam: *The ship was able to proceed under her own ~, using her own engines and not needing to be towed.* **Full steam a-head!** order to go forward at full speed. **3** (fig) (informal) energy. **let off steam**, release surplus energy or emotion; become less excited. **run out of steam**, become exhausted. **under one's own steam**, without help from others. □ vi, vt **1** give out steam or vapour: ~ing hot coffee. **2** move, work, etc under (or as if under) the power of steam: *a ship ~ing up the Red Sea.* **3** cook, soften, clean, by the use of steam: ~ fish. **4 steam up**, become misty with condensed steam: *The windows ~ed up.*

'steam-boat, vessel moved by steam.

'steam-engine, one worked or driven by pressure of steam.

'steam-roller n [C] heavy engine with wide wheels, used to make roads flat. □ vt (fig) use force to destroy opposition (to a plan, etc).

'steam-ship, ship driven by steam.

steamer, (a) = steamship. (b) vessel in which food is steamed.

steamy adj (-ier, -iest) of, like, full of, steam: *the ~y heat of the tropics.*

steel /sti:l/ n [U] hard alloy of iron and carbon or other elements, used for knives, tools, machinery, etc. □ vt harden: ~ oneself/one's heart (against pity).

steel band, band of musicians who use old oil drums, etc as percussion instruments.

'steel-plated adj covered with steel plates.

steel wool, fine steel shavings (used for scouring and polishing).

'steel-works, (often used with a sing verb) factory where steel is made.

steep¹ /sti:p/ adj (-er, -est) **1** (of a slope) rising or falling sharply: *a ~ gradient/path/descent.* **2** (informal) (of a demand) unreasonable; excessive: *It's a bit ~ that I should pay for all of your clothes!*

steep-ly adv

steep-ness n [U]

steep² /sti:p/ vt, vi **1** soak or bathe in liquid: ~ sheets in bleach. **2** (fig) become full of; get a thorough knowledge of: ~ed in ignorance; *a scholar ~ed in Greek history.*

steeple /ˈsti:pəl/ n [C] high tower with a spire, rising above the roof of a church.

'steeple-chase, race with obstacles such as fences, hedges and ditches.

'steeple-jack, man who climbs steeples, tall chimney-stacks, etc to do repairs.

steer¹ /stiə(r)/ n [C] young male of the ox family, esp castrated and raised for beef.

steer² /stiə(r)/ vt, vi direct the course of (a boat, ship, car, etc): ~ north; ~ by the stars.

'steer clear of, (fig) avoid.

'steering-wheel, wheel used to control the

direction of a car, boat, etc.

stel-lar /'stɛlə(r)/ *adj* (formal) of stars: ~ light.

stem¹ /stem/ *n* [C] 1 part of a plant coming up from the roots; part of a leaf, flower or fruit that joins it to the main stalk or twig. 2 part like a stem, eg the narrow part of a wineglass or a tobacco pipe. 3 (gram) root or main part of a noun or verb from which other words are made by additions. □ *vi* (-mm-) **stem from**, have as origin: *His illness ~s from the period he lived in the tropics.*

stem² /stem/ *vt* (-mm-) 1 check, stop, dam up (a stream, a flow of liquid, etc). 2 make progress against the resistance of: ~ *the tide*.

stench /stɛntʃ/ *n* [C] horrid smell.

sten-cil /'stɛnsəl/ *n* [C] thin sheet of metal, cardboard, waxed paper, etc with letters or designs cut through it; lettering, design, etc printed through a stencil. □ *vi* (-ll-, US also -l-) produce (a pattern, wording, etc) by using a stencil.

step¹ /step/ *n* 1 act of stepping once; distance covered by doing this: *He was walking with slow ~s.* **step by step**, gradually. **watch one's step**, ⚡ watch². 2 sound made by somebody walking; way of walking (as seen or heard): *That's Lucy—I recognize her ~.* 3 **be/get in/out of step (with)**, (a) put/not put the right foot to the ground at the same time as others (in marching, dancing). (b) conform/not conform with other members of a group: *He's out of ~ with the official view.*

keep step with, march in step with. 4 one action in a series of actions in order to do something: *take ~s to prevent the spread of influenza*; a false ~, a mistaken action. *What's the next ~?* What must I/we do next? **be one step ahead (of sb)**, have an advantage (over him). 5 place for the foot when going from one level to another: *The child was sitting on the bottom ~.* 6 grade, rank; promotion: *When do you get your next ~ up?* When will you be promoted? 7 (pl) (also a pair of ~s) = step-ladder.

step-ladder, portable folding ladder with steps, not rungs.

step² /step/ *vi, vt* (-pp-) 1 move the foot, or one foot after the other (forward, or in the direction shown): ~ *across a stream*; ~ *over a puddle*; ~ *into a boat*. 2 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

step aside, (a) move to one side. (b) (fig) let another person take one's place.

step down, (fig) resign (to make way for another person).

step in, (fig) intervene (either to help or to obstruct).

step sth up, increase: ~ *up production*; ~ *up the campaign*, put more effort into it.

step-ping-stone, (a) stones in a shallow stream, so that it can be crossed without get-

ting wet. (b) (fig) means of getting something: *a first ~ping-stone to success.*

step- /step/ *prefix* (used to show a relationship not by blood but by a later marriage):

step-child/-son/-daughter, child of an earlier marriage of one's wife or husband.

step-brother/-sister, child of an earlier marriage of one's stepfather or stepmother.

step-father/-mother, one's parent's later husband, wife.

stereo /'stɛrɪəʊ/ *n* (pl ~s) 1 [U] (abbr of stereophonic: *in ~*, with stereophonic sound.

2 [C] stereophonic record-player.

stereo-phon-ic /'stɛrɪəfənmɪk/ *adj* 1 (of broadcast and recorded sound, using two separately placed loudspeakers) giving the effect of naturally distributed sound: *a ~ recording*. 2 (of apparatus) designed for recording or reproducing sound in this way.

stereo-type /'stɛrɪətaɪp/ *n* [C] (esp) fixed phrase, idea, belief. □ *vi* (of phrases, ideas, etc) used and repeated without change: ~ *d greetings*, eg 'Good morning', 'How d'you do?'

ster-ile /'stɛrɪəl/ *US: 'sterɪl/adj* 1 not producing, not able to produce, seeds or offspring. 2 (of land) barren. 3 (fig) having no result; producing nothing: *a ~ discussion*. 4 free from living germs.

ster-il-ity /'stɛrɪləti/ *n* [U] being sterile.

ster-il-ization (also **-isation**) /'stɛrəlaɪzɪʃn/ *US: -lɪz-/n* [U]

ster-il-ize (also **-ise**) /'stɛrəlaɪz/ *vt* make sterile.

ster-ling /'stɛrlɪŋ/ *adj* 1 (of gold and silver) of standard value and purity. 2 (fig) of solid worth; genuine: ~ *qualities*. □ *n* [U] British money: *payable in ~.*

stern¹ /stɜ:n/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 demanding and enforcing obedience: *a ~ teacher*. 2 severe; strict: *a ~ face/look*.

stern-ly *adv*

stern-ness *n* [U]

stern² /stɜ:n/ *n* [C] rear end of a ship or boat.

ster-num /'stɜ:nəm/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) (*anat*) narrow bone in the front of the chest (also called *'breast-bone*) connecting the collar-bone and the top seven pairs of ribs.

stetho-scope /'stɛθəskəʊp/ *n* [C] instrument for listening to the beating of the heart, sounds of breathing, etc.

stet-son /'stɛtsn/ *n* [C] man's hat with a high crown and a wide brim.

steve-dore /'stɪ:vədɔ:(r)/ *n* [C] man whose work is loading and unloading ships.

stew /stju:/ *US: stu:/ vt, vi* cook, be cooked, in water or juice, slowly in a closed dish, pan, etc: ~ *ed chicken/fruit*. **let a person stew in his own juice**, do nothing to help him (when he is in trouble for which he is himself responsible). □ *n* 1 [C, U] (dish of) stewed meat, etc: *lamb ~.* 2 **be in/get into/a stew (about sth)**, (informal) a nervous, excited

condition.

steward /'stju:əd US: 'stɜ:-/ *n* [C] **1** man who attends to the needs of passengers in a ship or airliner. **2** man responsible for organizing details of a race-meeting, public meeting, show, etc: *The hecklers were thrown out by the ~s.* **3** = shop steward.

steward-ess /'stju:ədis/ *n* [C] woman steward (1).

stick¹ /stɪk/ *n* [C] **1** thin branch broken, cut or fallen, from a bush, tree, etc. **2** such a branch cut to a convenient length, piece of cane cut, shaped, etc for a special purpose: *The old man cannot walk without a ('walking-')~.* *We have only a few ~s of furniture, furniture of the simplest kind.* ⇨ hockey stick. **have/get hold of the wrong end of the stick**, be confused; misunderstand things completely. ⇨ also cleave (2). **3** slender piece (of chalk, sealing-wax, celery, etc).

stick² /stɪk/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* stuck /stʌk/) (For special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*, ⇨ 7 below.) **1** push (something pointed) *into, through, etc*: *~ a fork into a potato.* **2** (of something pointed) be, remain, in a position by the point: *The needle stuck in my finger.* **3** (cause to) be or become joined or fastened with, or as with, paste, glue or other substance: *~ a stamp on a letter.* **be/get stuck with (sb/sth)**, (sl) permanently involved with; unable to escape from: *It looks as if I'm stuck with the job of clearing up this mess.* ⇨ throat (2). **4** (*informal*) put (in some position or place), esp quickly or carelessly: *He stuck his pen behind his ear/his hands in his pockets/the papers in a drawer.* **5** be or become fixed; fail to work properly: *The key stuck in the lock, could not be turned or taken out.* **6** (*informal*) put up with; bear: *I can't ~ it any longer.* ⇨ stick it out.

7 (special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*):

stick around, (*informal*) stay in or near a place: *S~ around; we may need you.*

stick at sth, (a) stop short of, hesitate at: *He ~s at nothing, allows no feelings of doubt, etc to stop him.* (b) keep on with: *He ~s at his work ten hours a day.*

stick sth down, (a) (*informal*) put down: *S~ it down anywhere you like.* (b) (*informal*) write down. (c) fasten with paste, etc: *~ down (the flap of) an envelope.*

stick sth on, fasten it with paste, etc: *~ on a label.*

stick sth out, (cause to) project, stand out: *with his chest stuck out; a rude boy ~ing his tongue out at his sister. Don't ~ your head out of the window.* **stick it out**, (*informal*) put up with hardship, etc until the end. ⇨ 6 above. **stick one's neck out**, ⇨ neck¹ (1). **stick out for sth**, refuse to give way until one gets (something demanded): *They're ~ing out for*

higher wages. **stick out a mile**, be extremely obvious.

stick to sb/sth, (a) be faithful to (one's ideals, a friend, etc). (b) remain determined: *~ to a resolution.* (c) continue at: *~ to a timetable, do something in the time agreed.*

stick together, (*informal*) (of persons) remain loyal or friendly to one another.

stick up, project upwards (and out of): *The branch was ~ing up out of the water.* **stick sb/sth up**, (sl) threaten to shoot in order to rob: *~ up a bank.* Hence, **'stick-up** *n* [C]. **stick up for sb/oneself/sth**, defend, support: *~ up for one's friends.*

stick with sb/sth, remain loyal to, continue to support: *~ with a friend/an ideal.*

sticker /'stɪkə(r)/ *n* [C] adhesive label.

stick-ing plas-ter /'stɪkɪŋ plɑ:stə(r) US: plæstə(r)/ *n* [C,U] ⇨ plaster (2).

stick-in-the-mud /'stɪk ɪn ðə mʌd/ *n* [C] conservative, stubborn person.

stick-ler /'stɪklə(r)/ *n* [C] **stickler for**, person who insists on the importance of something: *He's a ~ for being on time.*

sticky /'stɪki/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** that sticks or tends to stick to anything that touches it: *~ fingers.* **2 come to a sticky end**, (sl) die in an unpleasant and painful way. **3** (*informal*) making, likely to make, objections, be unhelpful, etc: *be ~ about an overdraft.*

stiff /stɪf/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** not easily bent or changed in shape: *a sheet of ~ cardboard; have a ~ leg/back*, not easily bent. **keep a stiff upper lip**, not complain (when in pain, or trouble, etc). **2** hard to stir, work, move, etc: *a ~ paste.* **3** hard to do; difficult: *a ~ climb/examination.* **4** (of manners, behaviour) formal, unfriendly: *be ~ with the new neighbours.* **5** great in degree: *a ~ (= strong) breeze; a ~ (= high) price.* □ *adv* thoroughly: *It bored me ~, bored me very much.* ⇨ scare. □ *n* [C] (sl) corpse.

stiff-ly *adv*

stiff-ness *n* [U]

stiff-en /'stɪfn/ *vt, vi* make or become stiff (1,2)

stiff-en-ing /'stɪfnɪŋ/ *n* [U] material used to stiffen a substance or an object.

stiff-ener /'stɪfnə(r)/, something used to stiffen, eg starch.

stifle /'stɪfl/ *vt, vi* **1** give or have the feeling that breathing is difficult: *They were ~d by the heat. The heat was stifling.* **2** suppress; put down; keep back: *~ a yawn.*

stigma /'stɪgmə/ *n* [C] **1** (*pl* ~s) (fig) mark of shame or disgrace: *the ~ of imprisonment.* **2** (*pl* -mata /stɪg'mɑ:tə/) marks resembling those made by the nails on the body of Jesus at His crucifixion. **3** (*pl* ~s) that part of the pistil of a flower which receives the pollen.

stile /stɑɪl/ *n* [C] kind of step used to climb over a fence, gate, etc.

still¹ /stɪl/ *adj.* **1** without movement or sound: *Please keep ~ while I take your photograph.* **2** (of wines) not sparkling. **□ n 1** (*poetic*) deep silence: *in the ~ of the night.* **2** [C] one photograph from a motion picture film. **□ vt** cause to be still or at rest; make calm.

still-ness *n* [U]

still-birth, child or foetus dead at birth.

still-born *adj* (a) (of a child) dead at birth.

(b) (*fig*) (of an idea, etc) never acted on.

still-life *n* [U] representation of non-living things (eg fruit, flowers, etc) in painting; [C] (*pl* ~s) painting of this kind.

still² /stɪl/ *adv* **1** even to this or that time: *He is ~ busy. Will he ~ be here when I get back? In spite of his faults she ~ loved him/loved him ~. Is your brother ~ here, Hasn't he left? (Note: compare Is your brother here yet, Has he arrived?)* **2** (used with a *comparative*) even; yet; in a greater degree: *Tom is tall but Mary is ~ taller/taller ~.* **3** nevertheless: *He has treated you badly; ~, he's your brother and you ought to help him.*

still³ /stɪl/ *n* [C] apparatus for making liquors (brandy, whisky, etc) by distilling.

stilted /stɪltɪd/ *adj* (of written style, talk, behaviour, etc) stiff and unnatural; too formal.

stilts /stɪltz/ *n pl* (also a *pair of* ~s) poles with a support for the foot at some distance from the bottom, used to raise the user (eg a clown) from the ground: *walk on ~.*

stimulant /stɪmjələnt/ *n* [C] **1** drink (eg coffee, brandy), drug, etc that increases bodily or mental activity. **2** something that encourages a person (eg praise, hope of gain).

stimulate /stɪmjələnt/ *vt* excite; increase; quicken thought or feeling: *stimulating him to make greater efforts.*

stimulating *adj*

stimulus /stɪmjʊləs/ *n* [C] (*pl* -li /-laɪ/) something that stimulates: *a ~ to make extra efforts.*

sting¹ /stɪŋ/ *n 1* [C] sharp, often poisonous, pointed organ of some insects (eg bees). **2** hairs projecting from the surface of the leaves of plants (esp ~ing-nettles), which cause pain to the fingers, etc when touched. **3** [C] sharp pain caused by the sting of an insect or plant; wound made by a sting. **4** [C,U] any sharp pain of body or mind: *feel the ~ of a whip/of hunger.*

sting² /stɪŋ/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* stung /stʌŋ/) **1** (have the power to) injure with a sting or as with a sting: *A bee stung me on the cheek.* **2** cause sudden, strong physical or mental pain (to): *He was stung by his enemy's insults.* **3** (of parts of the body) feel strong pain: *His fingers were still ~ing from the caning he had had.* **4** (*informal*) charge (a person) an excessive price: *He was stung for £5, had to pay this sum.*

stingy /stɪndʒi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) spending, using or giving unwillingly: *Don't be so ~ with*

the sugar!

stingily /-əli/ *adv*

stinginess *n* [U]

stink /stʌŋk/ *vi, vt* (*pt* stank /stæŋk/ or stunk /stʌŋk/, *pp* stunk) **1** have a horrid and offensive smell: *Her breath stank of garlic.* **2** fill a place with a stink: *You'll ~ the place out with your cheap cigars!* **□ n** [C] horrid smell. **raise/kick up a stink (about sth)**, (*informal*) complain angrily and noisily.

stinker, (*sl*) (a) letter intended to convey strong disapproval. (b) (*informal*) something difficult: *The biology paper (ie in an examination) was a ~er.*

stint /stɪnt/ *vt, vi* restrict (a person) to a small allowance: *Don't ~ yourself the food.* **□ n 1** (usually) **without stint**, without limit, without sparing any effort. **2** [C] fixed amount (of work): *do one's daily ~.*

stipple /stɪpl/ *vt* draw, paint, with dots.

stipulate /stɪpjuleɪt/ *vt, vi* state as a necessary condition: *It was ~d that the goods should be delivered within three days.*

stipulation /stɪpjʊleɪʃn/ *n* [C] condition: *on the stipulation that....*

stir¹ /stɜ:(r)/ *vi, vt* (-rr-) **1** be moving; cause to move: *A breeze ~ed the leaves. Nobody was ~ing in the house. Everyone was resting, in bed. not stir a finger*, make no effort to help. **2** move a spoon, etc round and round in liquid, etc in order to mix it thoroughly: *~ one's tea.* **3** excite: *The story ~ed the boy's imagination.* **□ n** (usually *sing* with a, an) commotion; excitement: *The news caused quite a ~ in the village.*

stirring *adj* exciting: *~ing tales of adventure.*

stir² /stɜ:(r)/ *n* [C] (*sl*) prison: *in ~ for six months.*

stirrup¹ /stɪrəp/ *US: 'stərəp/ n* [C] foot-rest, hanging down from a saddle, for the rider of a horse.

stirrup² /stɪrəp/ *US: 'stərəp/ n* [C] (*anat*) bone in the ear.

stitch /stɪtʃ/ *n 1* [C] (*sewing*) the passing of a needle and thread in and out of cloth, etc to join or decorate; (*knitting*) one complete turn of the wool, etc over the needle. **2** the thread, etc seen between two consecutive holes made by a needle; result of a single movement with a knitting-needle, etc: *drop a ~, allow a loop to slip off the end of a knitting-needle; put ~es into/take ~es out of a wound.* **A stitch in time saves nine**, (*proverb*) A small piece of work done now may save a lot of work later. **3** particular kind of stitch: *a 'chain-~.* **4** (*sing only*) sharp pain in the side (as caused sometimes when running). **be in stitches**, (*informal*) be laughing. **□ vt, vi** put stitches in or on.

stoat /stəʊt/ *n* [C] small, furry animal larger than a rat.

stock¹ /stɒk/ *n* 1 [C,U] store of goods available for sale, distribution or use, esp goods kept by a trader or shopkeeper. **(be) in/out of stock**, be available/not available. **take stock of**, (fig) review (a situation); estimate (a person's abilities, etc). **2** (as an adjective) usually in stock (and therefore usually obtainable): ~ sizes. *She's tired of her husband's ~ jokes.* **3** [C,U] supply of anything: *a good ~ of information; get in ~s of coal and coke for the winter.* **4** [U] = livestock. **5** [C,U] money lent to a government in return for interest; shares in the capital of a business company. **6** [U] line of ancestry: *a woman of Irish/farming ~.* **7** [U] raw material ready for manufacture: *'paper ~.* **8** [U] liquid in which bones, etc have been stewed, used for making soup, gravy, etc. **9** [C] base, support, or handle of an instrument, tool, etc: *the ~ of a rifle.* **lock, stock and barrel**, (fig) completely. **10 on the stocks**, under construction; in preparation. **11** (pl) wooden framework with holes for the feet in which a person who had done something wrong was formerly locked. **12** [C] sort of garden plant with single or double brightly coloured sweet-smelling flowers.

'stock-breeder/-farmer, one who breeds, raises, cattle.

'stock-broker, man who buys and sells stock(5).

'stock-car, railway truck for cattle.

'stockcar racing, racing of ordinary (not racing-) cars.

'stock-cube, cube of dehydrated stock(8).

'stock exchange, place where stocks(5) and shares are bought and sold.

'stock-in-trade, everything needed for a trade or occupation.

'stock market, (business at the) stock exchange.

'stock-pile *vi* reserve large quantities of materials, weapons, etc.

'stock-pot, pot for stock(8).

'stock-room, for storing stock(1).

'stock-still *adv* motionless: *stand ~ still.*

'stock-taking, examining and recording stock(1).

'stock-yard, enclosure for cattle (eg at a market).

stock² /stɒk/ *vi* supply or equip with stock; have, keep, a stock of: ~ a shop with goods. *He is well ~ed with ideas.*

stock-ist /-ɪst/, person who stocks (goods) for sale.

stock-ade /stɒk'keɪd/ *n* [C] wall of upright stakes, built as a defence.

stock-ings /stɒkɪŋz/ *n pl* (dated) = tights.

stocky /stɒki/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (of persons, animals, plants) short, strong and fat.

stock-ily /-əli/ *adv*: *stockily built.*

stodge /stɒdʒ/ *n* [U] (sl) heavy and solid food.

stodgy /stɒdʒi/ *adj* (a) (of food) heavy and solid. (b) (of style) heavy, uninteresting. (c) (of persons) dull.

stoic /stəʊɪk/ *n* [C] person who has great self-control.

sto-ical /-kl/ *adj* of, like, a stoic.

sto-ically /-kli/ *adv*

stoicism /stəʊɪzɪzəm/ *n* [U] patient and uncomplaining endurance of suffering, etc.

stoke /stəʊk/ *vi, vt* put (coal, etc) on the fire of (an engine, furnace, etc); attend to a furnace: *stoking (up) the furnace.*

stoker, workman who stokes a furnace, etc.

stole¹ /stəʊl/ *n* [C] **1** strip of material worn (round the neck with the ends in the front) by priests of some Christian Churches during services. **2** woman's wrap worn over the shoulders.

stole², **stolen** *pt, pp* of steal.

stolid /stəʊlɪd/ *adj* not easily excited.

stom-ach /stəmæk/ *n* **1** [C] part of the alimentary canal into which food passes to be digested: *work on an empty ~.* **2** (formal) = abdomen. **3** [U] appetite. **have no stomach for sth**, dislike or disapprove of it: *have no ~ for bull-fighting.* *□ vi* put up with; accept: *How can you ~ the violence in so many films today?*

'stomach-ache, pain in the belly.

stomp /stɒmp/ *vi* stamp, tread, heavily: ~ about the room in anger.

stone /stəʊn/ *n* **1** [U] (often as an adjective) solid mineral matter which is not metallic; rock (often with a defining word as prefix, as 'sand-~, 'lime-~): *a wall made of ~; ~ walls/ buildings.* **have a heart of stone**, be unsympathetic, severe. **2** [C] piece of stone: *a fall of ~s down a hillside.* **leave no stone unturned**, try every possible means. **throw stones at**, (fig) attack the character of. **within a 'stone's throw (of)**, very close (to). *□ moss.* **3** [C] (also 'precious ~) = jewel. **4** [C] piece of stone of a definite shape, for a special purpose: *a 'grave-~; a 'stepping-~; a 'tomb-~.* **5** [C] something round and hard like a stone, esp (a) the hard shell and nut or seed of such fruits as the cherry. (b) hail-stone. (c) = gallstone. **6** (not US) (pl unchanged) unit of weight, 14 lb: *I weigh 10 stone.* *□ vi* **1** throw stones at: *be ~d to death.* **2** take the stone(5(a)) out of (fruit): *~d dates.*

the 'Stone Age, period when man used weapons and tools made of stone (before the use of metals was known).

'stone-blind /-ˈcold / -ˈdead / -ˈdeaf *adj* completely blind, etc.

'stone-fruit, kind with stones(5).

'stone-mason, man who cuts, prepares and builds with stone.

'stone-wall *vi* (fig) (in Parliament) obstruct progress by making long speeches, etc.

'stone-ware, pottery made from clay and

flint.

'stone-work, masonry; part(s) of a building made of stone.

stoned /stəʊnd/ *adj* (informal) **1** under the influence of drugs. **2** drunk.

stony /'stəʊni/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** having many stones: ~ soil/ground; covered with stones: a ~ path/road. **2** hard, cold and unsympathetic: a ~ stare.

'stony-broke, (sl) completely without money.

ston-ily /-əli/ *adv* in a stony(2) manner.

stood /stʊd/ *pt, pp* of stand².

stool /stʊl/ *n* [C] **1** seat without a back or arms, usually for one person: a piano-~. **fall between two stools**, lose an opportunity through hesitating between two courses of action. **2** = footstool. **3** (pl) (medical) solid excrement.

'stool-pigeon, (fig) person acting as a decoy, eg a person used by the police to trap a criminal.

stoop /stʊp/ *vi, vt* **1** bend the body forwards and downwards: ~ing with old age. **2** (fig) lower oneself morally: He's a man who would ~ to anything, who would not hesitate to act immorally. □ *n* [C] (usually sing) stooping position of the body.

stop¹ /stɒp/ *n* [C] **1** stopping or being stopped: The train came to a sudden ~. **put a stop to sth**, cause it to stop or end: I'll put a ~ to this nonsense. Traffic was brought to a complete ~. **2** place at which buses, trams, etc stop regularly or (re)quest ~ when requested to do so: Where's the nearest 'bus-~? **3** (music) key or lever (eg in a flute) for regulating pitch; in an organ, knob or lever regulating the flow of air to a row of pipes. **pull out all the stops**, (fig) make a great effort. **4** = full stop.

'stop-cock, valve inserted in a pipe by which the flow of liquid or gas through the pipe can be regulated.

'stop-gap, temporary substitute.

'stop-press, (not US) latest news put in a newspaper that is already on the printing machines.

'stop-watch, watch with a hand that can be started and stopped when desired, used to time events such as races.

stop² /stɒp/ *vi, vi* (-pp-) **1** put an end to (the movement or progress of a person, thing, activity, etc): ~ a car/a train. **2** prevent: What can ~ our going/~ us from going if we want to go? **3** discontinue (doing something): ~ work. We ~ped talking. **stop at nothing**, show no mercy or pity. **4** break off; discontinue: The rain has ~ped. It has ~ped raining. **5** halt: Does this train ~ at Rome? **stop dead**, stop suddenly. **6** fill or close (a hole, opening, etc): ~ a leak in a pipe. **7** cut off; keep back or refuse to give (something normally supplied): ~

(payment of) a cheque, order the bank not to cash it. **stop sth out of sth**, deduct (a part) from (wages, salary, etc). **8** (informal) stay: ~ at home. Are you ~ping at this hotel? **stop off** (at/in); **stop over**, break a journey and stay for a short period: ~ off/over in Paris. Hence, **'stop-over** *n* [C]. **stop up** (late), stay up, not go to bed, until late.

stop-page /'stɒpɪdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** obstruction. **2** stopping(7): ~ of leave/pay. (esp in the armed forces, eg as a form of punishment). **3** interruption of work (in a factory, etc as the result of strike action).

stop-per /'stɒpə(r)/ *n* [C] object which fits into and closes an opening, esp a bottle or pipe.

stor-age /'stɔːrɪdʒ/ *n* [U] (space used for, money paid for) the storing of goods: put one's furniture in ~; (as an adjective) ~ tanks.

'storage heater, electric radiator which stores heat.

store /stɔː(r)/ *n* **1** [C] quantity or supply of something kept for use as needed: have a good ~ of tinned food in the house. **2** [U] **in store**, (a) kept ready for use; for future use: That's a treat in ~, a pleasure still to come. (b) destined (for); coming to: Who knows what the future has in ~ (for us)? **3** (pl) goods, etc of a particular kind, or for a special purpose: naval and military ~s. **4** [C] = store-house. **5** [C] (chiefly US but ⇨ 6) shop: a 'clothing ~. **6** [C] shop selling many different goods: the big department ~s of London. ⇨ also chain-store. **7** [U] **set great/little/no/not much store by**, consider of great/little, etc value or importance. □ *vt* **1** collect and keep for future use: Do squirrels ~ up food for the winter? **2** put (furniture, etc) in a warehouse, etc, for safe keeping. **3** equip, supply: a mind well ~d with facts.

'store-house, place where goods are kept.

'store-room, one in which household supplies are kept.

storey (US = story) /'stɔːri/ *n* (pl ~s, US = -ies) floor or level in a building.

-storeyed (US = -storied) /-stɔːrɪd/ *suffix* having the number of storeys shown: a six-~ed building.

stork /stɔːk/ *n* [C] large, long-legged, usually white, wading-bird.

storm /stɔːm/ *n* **1** [C] occasion of violent weather conditions: a 'thunder-/rain/dust/sand-~. **a storm in a teacup**, a lot of excitement about something unimportant. **2** violent outburst of feeling: a ~ of protests/cheering/applause/abuse. **3** **ride out a storm**, (fig) survive problems, trouble, attack, etc. **take by storm**, capture by a violent and sudden attack. □ *vi, vt* **1** use violence and anger; shout angrily. **2** force (a way) into a building, etc; capture (a place) by sudden and violent attack: The men ~ed (their

way) into the fort/ ~ed the fort.

'storm-bound *adj* unable to continue a journey, unable to go out, because of storms.

'storm-cloud, heavy grey cloud with, or showing the likelihood of, a storm.

'storm-lantern, one made so that the light is well protected from wind.

'storm-proof *adj* able to resist storms.

'storm-tossed *adj* damaged or blown about by storms.

'storm-troops, soldiers trained for violent attacks.

stormy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) marked by strong wind, heavy rain, snow or hail: ~y weather; a ~y night. (b) marked by strong feelings of anger, etc: a ~y discussion/meeting.

story¹ /'stɔ:ri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** account of past events: *stories of ancient Greece*. **2** account of imaginary events. **3** (esp by and to children) untrue statement: *Don't tell stories, Tom*.

'story-book, child's book of stories. **a**

story-book ending, a happy one.

'story-teller, person who tells stories.

story² /'stɔ:ri/ *n* (US) ⇨ storey.

stout /staut/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** strong, thick, not easily broken or worn out: ~ boots for mountain-climbing. **2** determined and brave: a ~ heart. Hence, **'stout-hearted** *adj* courageous. **3** (of a person) fat: *She's growing too ~ to walk far*. □ *n* [U] strongest kind of dark beer.

stout-ly *adv*

stove¹ /stəʊv/ *n* [C] closed apparatus burning wood, coal, gas, oil or other fuel, used for cooking, etc.

'stove-pipe, pipe for taking away smoke from a stove.

stove² /stəʊv/ ⇨ stove².

stow /stəʊ/ *vt* pack, esp carefully and closely: ~ cargo in a ship's holds; ~ things away in the attic.

'stow-away, person who hides himself in a ship or aircraft (until after it starts) in order to make a journey without paying.

straddle /'strædl/ *vt, vi* sit or stand across (something) with the legs on either side: ~ a horse.

strafe /stra:f/ *vt* (informal) = bombard.

straggle /'strægl/ *vi* **1** grow, spread, in an irregular or untidy manner: *vines straggling over the fences*. **2** be (far) behind (a group) while moving forward.

strag-gler, person who straggles (2).

'straight¹ /streɪt/ *adj* **1** without a bend or curve; extending in one direction only: a ~ line/road; ~ hair, with no curls in it. **2** level (esp horizontal): *Put the picture ~*. **3** in good order; tidy: *put a room ~*. **put the record straight**, give a more accurate account of events, etc. **4** (of a person, his behaviour, etc) honest, frank, upright: *give a ~ answer to a question*. ⇨ **straight**² (4). **5 keep a straight**

face, refrain from smiling or laughing. **6** (of alcoholic drinks) neat, ie without added (soda-)water: *Two ~ whiskies, please*.

straight fight, (politics) election in which there are only two candidates.

straight play, an ordinary drama (contrasted with a musical, a show, etc.)

straight-ness *n* [U]

'straight² /streɪt/ *adv* **1** directly; not in a curve or at an angle: *Keep ~ on. Look ~ ahead. Can you shoot ~, aim accurately?* **2** by a direct route; without going elsewhere; without delay: *Come ~ home. He went ~ to Rome without staying in Paris*. **'straight out**, without hesitating: *He came ~ out with his criticism of me*. **come straight to the point**, make a clear statement, without hesitating, of what is meant, wanted, etc. **3 'straight a'way**, immediately. **4 go straight**, (fig) live an honest life (esp after imprisonment). **the straight and narrow**, honest or moral way of behaving.

'straight³ /streɪt/ *n* (usually *sing* with the) condition of being straight; straight part of something, esp the final part of a track or race-course: *The two horses were together as they entered the final ~*.

'straighten /'streɪtn/ *vt, vi* make or become straight (1,2,3).

'straight-for-ward /streɪt'fɔ:wəd/ *adj* **1** honest; without avoiding anything: a ~ explanation. **2** easy to understand or do: *written in ~ language*.

straight-forward-ly *adv*

'straight-way /streɪt'weɪ/ *adv* = straight away.

strain¹ /streɪn/ *n* **1** [C,U] condition of being stretched; the force used: *The rope broke under the ~*. **2** [C,U] something that tests one's powers; severe demand on one's strength, etc: *Do you suffer from the ~ of modern life?* *He has been under (a) severe ~*. **3** [U] exhaustion; fatigue: *suffering from mental/nervous ~*. **4** [C] = sprain. **5** (pl) (poetic) music, song, verse (of the kind shown): *the ~s of a violin*. **6** [C] manner of speaking or writing: *in a cheerful ~*. **7** tendency in a person's character: *There is a ~ of insanity in the family*. **8** breed (of animals, insects, etc); line of descent: ~s of mosquitoes that are resistant to insecticides.

strain² /streɪn/ *vt, vi* **1** stretch tightly by pulling (at): *a dog ~ing at its lead*. **2** make the greatest possible use of; use one's strength, etc: ~ every nerve (to do it), do all one can; *I had to ~ my eyes to see it*, look with great effort. **3** injure or weaken by straining (2): ~ a muscle; ~ one's eyes, by using them too much, or in poor light, etc. Hence, **'eye-strain** *n* [U]. **4** make an intense effort: *The wrestlers ~ed and struggled*. **5** (fig) force beyond a limit or what is right: ~ the belief of one's listeners, ask too much of it. **6** pass (liquid) through a

cloth, or a network of fine wire, etc; separate solid matter in this way: *~ the soup*; *~ off the water from the vegetables*. **8** (pp) (esp of feelings and behaviour) unnatural; (as if) forced: *a ~ed laugh*; *~ed relations*, showing loss of patience, risk of quarrelling.

strainer, sieve or other device for straining (6) liquid: *a ~ tea-er*.

strait /streɪt/ *n* [C] **1** narrow passage of water connecting two seas or two large bodies of water: *the S~s of Gibraltar*; *the Magellan S~*. **2** (usually pl) trouble; difficulty: *We seem to be in financial ~s*.

strait-jacket /'streɪt dʒækɪt/ *n* [C] jacket with long sleeves tied round a mentally ill or violent person to prevent movement. □ *vt* **1** use a straight-jacket on. **2** (fig) prevent growth or development.

strait-laced /'streɪt 'leɪsd/ *adj* strict, conservative, serious.

strand /'strænd/ *n* [C] (poetic) sandy shore. □ *vi*, *vt* **1** (of a ship) (cause to) run aground. **2** *be* (left) *stranded*, (fig) (of a person) be left without means of transport, without money or friends, etc: *be ~ed in a foreign country*.

strand /'strænd/ *n* [C] **1** any of the threads, hairs, wires, etc twisted together into a rope, cable or cloth. **2** hair. **3** (fig) line of development (in a story, etc).

strange /streɪndʒ/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** not previously known, seen, felt or heard of; (for this reason) surprising: *hear a ~ noise*. *Truth is ~r than fiction*. **2** *strange to sth*, fresh or new to: *The village boy was ~ to city life*.

strange-ly *adv*: *behave/act ~ly*. *S~ly* (enough)..., *It's hard to believe but...*

strange-ness *n* [U]

stranger /'streɪndʒə(r)/ *n* [C] person one does not know; person in a place where he is not known: *My dog always barks at ~s*.

strangle /'stræŋgl/ *vt* kill by squeezing the throat of.

'strangle-hold, (usually fig) tight grip: *The new laws have put a ~hold on our imports*.

strap /stræp/ *n* [C] strip of leather, cloth, etc (usually with a buckle) to fasten things together or to keep something (eg a wrist-watch) in place. □ *vt* (-pp-) **1** fasten or hold in place with a strap: *~ on a wrist-watch*. *Is the baby ~ped in?* **2** hit with a belt.

strata /'strætə/ ⇨ stratum.

stratagem /'strætədʒəm/ *n* [C,U] (pl ~s) (use of a) trick or device to deceive a person.

strategic /'strætɪdʒɪk/, **strategi-cal** /-kl/ *adj* of, by, serving the purpose of, strategy: *a ~ retreat*.

strategically /-klɪ/ *adv*

strategics *n* [U] science, art, of strategy.

strategy /'strætɪdʒi/ *n* **1** [U] the art of planning operations or actions, esp of the movements of armies and navies. **2** [U] skill in organizing and doing something. **3** [C] general

plan of action.

strategist, person skilled in strategy.

stratify /'strætɪfaɪ/ *vt*, *vi* (pt, pp -ied) **1** arrange in strata: *stratified rock*. **2** form into strata.

stratification /'strætɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U]

stratosphere /'strætəsfiə(r)/ *n* [C] layer of atmospheric air between about 10 and 60 km above the earth's surface.

stratum /'strætəm/ *n* [C] (pl -ta /-tə/) **1** horizontal layer of rock, etc in the earth's crust. **2** social class or division.

straw /strɔː/ *n* **1** [U] dry cut stalks of wheat, barley, rice and other grains, as material for making mats, etc or bedding for cattle, etc. **2** [C] single stalk or piece of straw. **not worth a straw**, worth nothing. **the last straw**, addition to a bad action, task, burden, etc that makes it intolerable. **3** [C] thin tube of paper or plastic for sucking up liquid: *suck lemonade through a ~*.

'straw-coloured *adj* pale yellow.

strawberry /'strɔːbri/ *US*: -beri/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (plant) having juicy red fruit with tiny yellow seeds on its surface.

stray /streɪ/ *vi* (pt, pp ~ed) **1** move away (without realizing) (from the right path, from one's friends, etc). **2** (fig) lose one's line of argument, story, etc: *Don't ~ from the point*. □ *n* **1** strayed animal or person (esp a child). **2** (used as an adjective) without a home: *~ cats*. **3** occasional: *a few ~ taxis*.

streak /striːk/ *n* [C] **1** long, thin, usually irregular line or band: *like a ~ of lightning*, very fast. **2** trace or touch (of): *There's a ~ of cruelty in his character*. **3** brief period: *The gambler had a ~ of good luck*. □ *vt*, *vi* **1** mark with streaks: *white fur ~ed with brown*. **2** (informal) move very fast.

streaky *adj* (-ier, -iest) marked with, having, streaks: *~y bacon*.

stream /striːm/ *n* [C] **1** small river or brook. **2** current: *go up/down ~*, move up/down the river. **2** steady flow (of liquid, persons, things, etc): *a ~ of blood/abuse*. *S~s of people were coming out of the railway station*. **3** (division of a) class of children in groups according to ability and intelligence: *bright boys and girls in the 'A' ~*. □ *vi* **1** flow freely; move continuously and smoothly in one direction: *Sweat was ~ing down his face*. **2** float or wave (in the wind): *Her long hair was ~ing in the wind*. **3** place (children) in streams (3).

'stream-line *vt* make more efficient (by simplifying, getting rid of, wasteful methods, etc): *~line production*, eg in a factory.

'stream-lined *adj* (a) having a shape that offers least resistance to the flow of air, water, etc: *~lined cars*. (b) having nothing likely to obstruct progress: *~lined controls*.

streamer, long narrow flag; long narrow ribbon of paper.

street /stri:t/ *n* [C] town or village road with houses on one side or both: *meet a friend in the ~*; *cross the ~*; *a ~map-plan of York.* (Note: compare a road-map of Yorkshire.) **the man in the street**, ⇨ *man*'(1). **'streets ahead of**, (informal) far ahead of. **streets apart**, very different. (not) **up my street**, (informal) (not) within my area of knowledge, interests, etc.

'street-car, (US) = tram.

strength /strenθ/ *n* [U] 1 quality of being strong: *a man/horse of great ~*. *She hasn't the ~/hasn't enough to walk upstairs.* *How is the ~ of alcoholic liquors measured?* **on the strength of**, encouraged by, relying on: *I employed the boy on the ~ of your recommendation.* 2 that which helps to make a person or thing strong: *Mind is our ~*. 3 power measured by numbers of persons present or persons who can be used: *The police force is 500 below ~*, needs 500 more men. **be/bring sth up to strength**, the required number: *We must bring the police force up to ~*.

strengthen /'strenθn/ *vt, vi* make or become strong(er).

strenu-ous /'strenjuəs/ *adj* using or needing great effort: *~ work*; *make ~ efforts*; *lead a ~ life*.

strenu-ous-ly *adv*

stress /stres/ *n* 1 [U] condition causing depression, mental illness, trouble etc: *times of ~*, of trouble and danger; *under the ~ of poverty/fear*. 2 [U] (and with *a, an*) emphasis: *a school that lays ~ on foreign languages*. 3 [C,U] (result of) extra force, used in speaking, on a particular word or syllable: *S~ and rhythm are important in speaking English*. 4 [C,U] (mechanics) force exerted between two bodies that touch, or between two parts of one body. □ *vt* put stress or emphasis on: *He ~ed the point that...*

'stress-mark, mark (eg ¹ (primary or main stress) and ₁ (secondary stress) as used in this dictionary) that shows the stress(3) on a syllable.

stretch /stretʃ/ *vt, vi* 1 make wider, longer or tighter, by pulling; be or become wider, etc when pulled: *~ a rope tight*; *~ a rope across a path*; *~ out one's arm for a book*. **stretch one's legs**, exercise by walking, eg after sitting. 2 lie on at full length: *They were ~ed out on the lawn*. 3 make (a word, law, etc) include or cover more than is strictly right: *~ the law/one's principles*. ⇨ *point*'(8). 4 use, strain, fully: *~ one's powers*, work very hard or too hard. 5 extend: *forests ~ing for hundreds of miles*. □ *n* [C] 1 act of stretching or being stretched: *by a ~ of authority*. *The cat woke and gave a ~*. **by 'any/'no stretch of the imagination**, however much one may try to imagine something. **at full stretch**, using maximum effort, speed, etc: *The factory work-*

ers were at full ~. ⇨ 4 above. 2 unbroken or continuous period of time or extent of country, etc: *a beautiful ~ of land*. **at a stretch**, without stopping: *work 12 hours at a ~*.

stretcher, (a) framework of poles, canvas, etc for carrying a sick, injured or wounded person. (b) device for stretching things (eg gloves, shoes).

strew /stru:/ *vt* (pt *~ed*, pp *~ed* or *~n* /stru:n/) scatter (things) over a surface; (partly) cover (a surface) (with things): *~ flowers over a path*; *~ a path with flowers*.

stricken /'strikn/ *adj* affected or overcome: *~ with malaria*; *'terror-~, very frightened*.

strict /strikt/ *adj* (-er, -est) 1 demanding obedience or exact observance: *a ~ father*; *be ~ with children*. 2 clearly and exactly defined; precisely limited: *I told her in ~est confidence*; *in the ~ sense of the word*.

strict-ly *adv* in a strict manner.

stride /straɪd/ *vi, vt* (pt *strode* /straʊd/, pp (rare) *stridden* /'strɪdn/) 1 walk with long steps: *~ along the road*; *~ off/away*. 2 pass over in one step: *~ over a ditch*. □ *n* [C] (distance covered in) one long step. **get in to one's stride**, settle down to the task. **make great strides**, make good and quick progress. **take sth in one's stride**, do it without effort.

strife /straɪf/ *n* [U] state of conflict: *industrial ~* (between workers and employers).

strike ¹ /straɪk/ *n* [C] 1 act of striking(5): *a ~ of bus-drivers*; (as an adjective) *take ~ action*. **be (out) on strike**; **come/go out on strike**, be engaged in, start, a strike. ⇨ general strike. 2 act of finding (oil, etc) in the earth: *a lucky ~*, a fortunate discovery.

'strike-bound *adj* unable to function because of a strike: *The port is ~bound*.

'strike fund, special fund to supplement strike-pay.

'strike-pay, money paid to strikers from trade-union funds.

strike ² /straɪk/ *vi, vi* (pt, pp *struck* /strʌk/) (For special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 16 below.) 1 hit; aim a blow at: *He struck me on the chin*. *He struck the table with a heavy blow*. *The ship struck a rock*. *That tree was struck by lightning*. **strike at the root of sth**, attack trouble, evil, etc at its source. **Strike while the iron is 'hot**, (proverb) Act promptly while action is likely to get results. **within 'striking distance**, near enough to reach or attack easily. 2 produce (a light) by striking or scraping: *~ a match*. 3 discover (by mining, drilling, etc). **strike it rich**, win wealth suddenly. ⇨ oil(1). 4 (cause to) sound: *The clock has struck (four)*. **strike a note of**, give an impression (of the kind shown): *The Prime Minister struck a note of warning against over-*

optimism. **strike the right note**, (fig) speak in a way that gets approval or sympathy. **5** (of workers, etc) stop working for an employer (in order to get more pay, shorter hours, better conditions, etc or as a protest against something): ~ for higher pay/against bad working conditions. ⇨ **strike**¹ (1). **6** impress; have an effect on the mind: *How does the idea/suggestion ~ you?* **7** have an effect on the body or mind: *The room ~s you as warm when you enter.* **8** produce by stamping or punching: ~ a coin/medal. **9** achieve, arrive at, by reckoning or weighing: ~ a balance between freedom and repression. **strike a bargain (with sb)**, reach an agreement. **10** set out, go (in a certain direction): *The boys struck out across the fields.* **11** cause (a person) to be, suddenly and as if by a single stroke: *be struck blind.* **12** fill, afflict, with fear, etc: *The bombing attack struck fear into their hearts.* **13** lower, take down, (sails, tents). **strike camp**, pack up tents, etc. **14 strike root**, put out roots. **15** hold or put the body in a certain way to show something: ~ an attitude of defiance. **16** (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

strike sb down, (a) hit so that he falls to the ground. (b) (fig) kill: *He was struck down in the prime of life.*

strike sth off, cut off with a blow, eg of an axe. **strike sth off (sth)**, remove: *His name was struck off the list.*

strike out, (a) use the arms and legs vigorously in swimming: ~ out for the shore. (b) aim wild blows: *He lost his temper and struck out.* (c) follow a new or independent path, a new form of activity: ~ out on one's own.

strike sth out, = cross sth out.

strike (sth) up, begin to play: *The band struck up (a tune).* **strike up sth (with sb)**, begin (perhaps casually) a friendship or acquaintance: *She struck up an acquaintance with him during the flight.*

striker /'straɪkə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** worker who strikes(5). **2** (football) player in an attacking position.

striking /'straɪkɪŋ/ *adj* **1** attracting attention or great interest. **2** that strikes(4): *a ~ clock.*

striking-ly *adv*

string¹ /strɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C,U] (piece or length of) fine cord for tying things, keeping things in place, etc: *a ball of ~; a piece of ~.* **the first/second string**, the first/the alternative person or thing relied on for achieving one's purpose. **2** [C] tightly stretched length of cord, gut or wire, eg in a violin or guitar, for producing musical sounds. **3** [C] (usually *pl*) string used for causing puppets to move. **have/keep sb on a string**, have/keep him under control. **pull (the) strings**, control the actions of other people (as if they were puppets). **no**

strings (attached), (informal) (of help, esp of money) without conditions about how the help is to be used. ⇨ **heartstrings**. **4** [C] series of things threaded on a string: *a ~ of beads.* **5** repetition of types of things: *a ~ of abuses/curses/lies.*

the strings, (music) string instruments (in an orchestra).

string bean, kind of bean of which the long pod is used as a vegetable.

string instrument, musical instrument with strings(2), eg the violin, guitar, harp.

string orchestra, having only string instruments.

string quartet, for, with, two violins, a viola and a cello.

stringy *adj* (-ier, -iest) like string; 'having tough fibres: ~y meat.

string² /strɪŋ/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp *strung* /strʌŋ/) **1** put a string or strings on (a bow, violin, tennis racket, etc). **2** (pp) **strung (up)**, (of a person, his senses, nerves) made tense, ready, excited, etc: *He is a very highly strung person, is very sensitive, tense.* **3** put (pearls, etc) on a string. **4** tie or hang on a string, etc: ~ (up) *lamps across a street.*

5 (special uses with adverbial particles or prepositions):

string sb along, deliberately mislead a person into the belief that he/she will benefit, etc: *He doesn't intend to marry the girl — he's just ~ing her along.* **string along with sb**, maintain a relationship with a person without genuine commitment.

string out, be, become, spread out at intervals in a line. **string sth out**, cause this to happen: *horses strung out towards the end of a long race.*

string sb up, (sl) put him to death by hanging. **string sth up**, ⇨ 4 above.

stringent /'strɪndʒənt/ *adj* (formal) (of rules) strict, severe; that must be obeyed: *take ~ measures against smoking.*

stringent-ly *adv*

strip /stri:p/ *vt, vi* (-pp-) **1** take off (coverings, clothes, parts, etc): *They ~ped the house of all its furnishings. They ~ped off their clothes and jumped into the lake.* **strip sth down**, (eg of an engine) remove detachable parts (for servicing, etc). **2** deprive of property, etc: ~ a man of his possessions/titles. *n* **1** [C] **1** long narrow piece (of material, land, etc): *a ~ of garden behind the house; a ~ of paper.* ⇨ **airstrip**, **comic-strip**. **2** (modern informal) clothes worn by players in a team: *the colourful ~ of football teams.*

strip cartoon, cartoon (often one of a series) made up of a number of drawings.

strip lighting, electric lighting using a tubular lamp.

strip-tease, 'strip-show, cabaret or night club entertainment in which a woman

takes off her clothes one by one.

stripe /straɪp/ *n* [C] **1** long, narrow band on a surface different in colour, material, texture, etc: a tiger's ~s. **2** (often a V-shaped) badge worn on a uniform, showing rank, eg of a soldier: *How many ~s are there on the sleeve of a sergeant?*

striped /straɪpt/ *adj* having stripes (1).

stripy *adj* having stripes: a stripy tie.

strip-per /'stri:p(r)/ *n* [C] woman who performs a strip-tease.

strive /straɪv/ *vi* (pt strove /strəʊv/, pp striven /'strɪvən/) **1** struggle: *striving with/against poverty/opposition/the enemy*. **2** make great efforts: ~ for power/to win.

strode /strəʊd/ *pt* of stride.

stroke ¹ /strəʊk/ *n* [C] **1** (act of striking or dealing a) blow: *the ~ of a sword*; 20 ~s of the whip. **2** one of a series of regularly repeated movements, esp as a way of swimming or rowing: *swimming with a slow ~*; *the 'breast-/ 'side-/ 'back-~*. **3** (in a rowing crew) oarsman nearest the boat's stern (back) who sets the rate of striking the oars. **4** single movement of the upper part of the body and arm(s), esp in games, eg cricket, golf. **5** single effort; result of this: *I haven't done a ~ of work today*. **a stroke of luck**, a piece of good fortune. **at a/one stroke**, with one effort and immediately. **6** (mark made by a) single movement of a pen or brush: *cross a name out with one ~ of the pen*; *thin/thick ~s*. **7** sound made by a bell striking the hours: *on the ~ of three*, at three o'clock. **8** sudden attack of illness in the brain, with loss of feeling, power to move, etc: *a paralytic ~*. ⇨ also sunstroke.

stroke ² /strəʊk/ *vt* pass the hand along a surface, usually again and again: ~ a cat/one's beard. □ *n* [C] act of stroking; stroking movement.

stroll /strəʊl/ *n* [C] quiet, unhurried walk: *have/go for a ~*. □ *vi* go for a stroll.

stroller, person who strolls.

strong /strɒŋ *US*: strɔ:ŋ/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (opposite of *weak*) having power to resist; not easily hurt, injured, broken, captured, etc; having great power of body or mind: *a ~ stick*, not easily broken; *a ~ wind*; *a ~ will*; *imagination: feel quite ~ again*, in good health after an illness; *an army 500000 ~*, numbering 500000; *a ~ candidate*, one likely to be well supported, etc; ~ (= deeply held or rooted) beliefs/convictions. **as strong as a horse**, physically powerful. **one's 'strong point**, that which one does well. **2** having a large proportion of the flavouring element: ~ tea/coffee. **3** having a considerable effect on the mind or the senses: *a ~ smell of gas*. **4** (adverbial uses) **going strong**, (informal) continuing (the race, activity, etc) with energy; continuing in good health: *aged 90 and still going ~*. **5** (commerce) (of prices) rising steadily:

Prices/Markets are ~.

'strong-arm *adj* (of methods, tactics, etc) using physical force.

'strong-box, one strongly built for keeping valuables.

strong drink, one containing alcohol, eg rum.

'strong-hold, (a) fort. (b) (fig) place where a cause or idea has a strong support: *a ~ hold of Protestantism*.

strong language, with swear-words, abuses, etc.

'strong-'minded *adj* having a mind that is capable, determined and energetic.

'strong point, (person's) best skill, aspect of personality, etc.

'strong-room, one built with thick walls (eg in a bank) for storing valuables.

strong verb, (gram) which forms the past tense with a vowel change, eg *sing, sang, sung*.

'strong-'willed *adj* very determined.

strong-ly *adv* in a strong manner: *I ~ly advise you to go*.

strove /strəʊv/ *pt* of strive.

struck /strʌk/ *pt, pp* of strike².

struc-tural /'strʌktʃərəl/ *adj* of a structure, esp the framework: ~ alterations to a building, eg combining two rooms into one.

struc-tur-ally /-rəli/ *adv*: *The building is ~ sound*.

struc-ture /'strʌktʃə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] way in which something is put together, organized, etc: *the ~ of the human body*; *sentence ~*. **2** [C] framework or essential parts of a building, etc: *The Parthenon was a magnificent marble ~*.

struggle /'strʌgl/ *vi* fight, make great efforts: ~ against difficulties/with the accounts; ~ for power. *The thief ~d to get free*. □ *n* [C] struggling; contest: *the ~ for freedom*.

strum /strʌm/ *vi, vt* (-mm-) **strum (on)**, play music, (usually on a string instrument) (and esp without great skill): ~ (on) the guitar. □ *n* [C] sound of strumming.

strung /strʌŋ/ *pt, pp* of string².

strut ¹ /strʌt/ *n* [C] piece of wood or metal in a framework to strengthen it.

strut ² /strʌt/ *vi* (-tt-) walk (about, along, in, out, into a room, etc) in a thoughtful, anxious, angry, etc way. □ *n* [C] such a way of walking.

strych-nine /'stri:kni:n/ *n* [U] strong poison.

stub /stab/ *n* [C] **1** short remaining end of a pencil, cigarette or similar object: *a ~ of a tail*, a very short one. **2** counterfoil: *the ~s of a cheque-book*. □ *vi* (-bb-) **1** ~ one's toe, hit the top of it against something. **2** extinguish (esp a cigarette) by pressing it against something hard: ~ out a cigar.

stubble /'stʌbl/ *n* [U] **1** stalks of grain plants left in the ground after harvest. **2** something suggesting this, eg a short growth of beard.

stub-bly /'stʌbli/ *adj*: a stubbly beard.

stub-born /'stʌbn/ *adj* obstinate; deter-

mined: ~ soil, difficult to plough, etc. **as stubborn as a mule**, ⇨ mule.

stub-born-ly adv

stub-born-ness n [U]

stubby /'stʌbɪ/ adj (-ier, -iest) short and thick: ~ fingers.

stuck /stʌk/ pt, pp of stick².

stuck-up /stʌk 'ʌp/ adj (informal) conceited; snobbish.

stud¹ /stʌd/ n [C] **1** small device put through button-holes to fasten a collar, cuff, etc. **2** reflector ~s, used on roads to mark out lanes (and reflecting light from headlamps at night). □ vt (-dd-) (usually pp) having (something) set in or scattered on the surface: a crown ~ded with jewels; a sea ~ded with islands.

stud² /stʌd/ n [C] number of horses kept by one owner for a special purpose (esp breeding or racing).

'stud-farm, place where horses are bred.

stu-dent /'stju:dənt US: 'stu:-/ n [C] **1** (GB) person who is studying at a college, institute, polytechnic or university: 'medical ~s; foreign ~s studying English in London. **2** (esp US) boy or girl attending school. **3** anyone who studies or who is devoted to learning: a ~ of nature.

stu-dio /'stju:diəʊ US: 'stu:-/ n [C] (pl ~s) **1** workroom of a painter, sculptor, photographer, etc. **2** room(s) where films or plays are acted and photographed. **3** room from which radio or TV programmes are broadcast or in which recordings are made.

'studio couch, couch that can be used as a bed.

stu-di-ous /'stju:diəs US: 'stu:-/ adj (formal) **1** having or showing the habit of learning. **2** very careful: with ~ politeness.

stu-di-ous-ly adv

study¹ /'stʌdi/ n (pl -ies) **1** [U and in pl] devotion of time and thought to getting knowledge of, close examination of, a subject, esp from books: fond of ~. My studies show that... **2** [C] something that attracts investigation; that which is (to be) investigated: social studies. **3** room used for reading, writing, etc: You will find Mr Green in the/his ~. **4** sketch, etc made for practice or experiment. **5** piece of music played as a technical exercise.

study² /'stʌdi/ vt, vi (pt, pp -ied) **1** give time and attention to learning or discovering something: ~ medicine. He was ~ing to be a doctor. **2** examine carefully: ~ the map.

stuff¹ /stʌf/ n **1** [C, U] material or substance of which something is made or which may be used for some purpose: What ~ will you use to fill the cushions? **2** [U] (fig) quality, type: He is not the ~ heroes are made of. **3** [U] material of which the name is uncertain, unknown or unimportant; material of poor quality: Do you call this ~ beer? **4** (sl) **Do your stuff**. Show what you can do, etc. **know one's stuff**, be expert in what one claims to be able to do, etc.

stuff² /stʌf/ vt **1** fill tightly with; press tightly into: ~ feathers into a bag; ~ oneself with food, eat too much; a head ~ed with silly ideas. **2** put chopped up and specially flavoured food into (a bird, etc) before cooking it: a ~ed chicken. **3** fill the carcass of (an animal, etc) with material to give it the original shape, eg for exhibition in a museum: a ~ed tiger.

stuffing n [U] material for stuffing cushions, birds, etc.

stuffy /'stʌfi/ adj (-ier, -iest) **1** (of a room) badly ventilated. **2** (informal) (of a person) easily shocked or offended; too formal. **3** (of language, etc) dull; formal: a ~ book.

stuff-ily /-əli/ adv

stuffi-ness n [U]

stul-tify /'stʌltɪfaɪ/ vt (pt, pp -ied) (formal) cause to seem foolish or to be useless: ~ efforts to reach agreement.

stumble /'stʌmbəl/ vi **1** hit the foot against something and (almost) fall: ~ over the root of a tree. The child ~d and fell. **stumble across/on/upon sth.** (fig) find it unexpectedly or by accident. **2** move or walk in an unsteady way: ~ing along. **3** speak in a hesitating way, with pauses and mistakes: ~ over one's words. □ n [C] act of stumbling.

'stum-bling block, something that causes difficulties or prevents progress.

stump /stʌmp/ n [C] **1** part of a tree remaining in the ground when the trunk has fallen or has been cut down. **2** anything remaining after the main part has been cut or broken off or has worn off, eg an amputated limb, the end of a pencil, etc. **3** (cricket) one of the three upright pieces of wood at which the ball is bowled. □ vi, vt **1** walk (along, about, etc) with stiff, heavy movements. **2** (informal) be too difficult for: All the candidates were ~ed by the second question. **3** (cricket) end the innings of (a batsman) by touching the stumps with the ball. **4** (sl) pay or give money required: Mr Green has had to ~ up £50 for his son's debts.

stumpy /'stʌmpi/ adj (-ier, -iest) short and thick: a ~ little man; a ~ umbrella.

stun /stʌn/ vt (-nn-) **1** make unconscious by a blow, esp one on the head. **2** shock; confuse the mind of: He was ~ed by the news of his father's death.

stun-ning adj (informal) splendid: a ~ning performance.

stung /stʌŋ/ pt, pp of sting².

stunk /stʌŋk/ pp of stink.

stunt¹ /stʌnt/ n [C] (informal) something done to attract attention: ~ flying, aerobatics. **'stunt man**, person employed to perform stunts (involving risk, etc) for an actor in films, etc.

stunt² /stʌnt/ vt halt or slow down the growth or development of: a ~ed mind.

stu-pefy /'stju:pɪfaɪ US: 'stu:-/ vt (pt, pp -ied) (formal) make clear thought impossible:

stupefied with drink/amazement.

stu-pen-dous /stju:'pendəs/ *US*: stur-/ *adj* amazing (in size, degree): *a ~ achievement.*

stu-pen-dous-ly *adv*

stu-pid /stju:pid/ *US*: 'stur-/ *adj* **1** unintelligent; foolish: *Don't be ~ enough to believe that.* **2** in a state of stupor: *~ through whisky.* □ *n* [C] (*informal*) foolish person: *I was only teasing, ~!*

stu-pid-ly *adv*

stu-pid-ity /stju:'pidəti/ *US*: stur-/ *n* [C,U]

stu-por /stju:pa(r)/ *US*: 'stur-/ *n* [C,U] almost unconscious condition caused by shock, drugs, drink, etc: *in a drunken ~.*

sturdy /stɑ:di/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) strong and solid: *~ children; offer a ~ resistance.*

stur-dily /-əli/ *adv*: *a sturdily built bicycle.*

stut-ter /stʌtə(r)/ *vi, vt n* = stammer.

stut-terer, person who stutters.

sty¹ /stai/ *n* [C] (*pl* sties) = pigsty.

sty² (also **stye**) /stai/ *n* [C] (*pl* sties, styes) inflamed swelling on the edge of the eyelid.

style /stail/ *n* **1** [C,U] manner of writing or speaking (contrasted with the subject matter); manner of doing anything, esp when it is characteristic of an artist or of a period of art: *written in a delightful ~. What do you know about the ~s of architecture?* **2** [U] quality that marks something done or made as superior, fashionable or distinctive: *live in (grand) ~, in a fashionable house, with luxuries, etc. Did they live in European ~ when they were in Japan?* **3** [C,U] (*esp*) fashion in dress, etc: *the latest ~s in shoes/in hair-dressing.* **4** [C] general appearance, form or design; kind or sort: *made in all sizes and ~s.* **5** [C] right title (to be) used when addressing a person: *Has he any right to assume the ~ of Colonel?* **6** [C] (*botany*) part of the seed-producing part of a flower. □ *vt* **1** describe by a specified title: *Should he be ~d 'Right Honourable'?* **2** design: *new handbags ~d by Italians.*

styl-ish /-ɪʃ/ *adj* (a) having style (2,3): *stylish living.* (b) fashionable: *stylish clothes.*

styl-ish-ly *adv*: *stylishly dressed.*

styl-list /stailɪst/ *n* [C] **1** person, esp a writer, with a good literary style. **2** person who is concerned with creating styles (3): *a 'hair-~.*

styl-is-tic /stai'lɪstɪk/ *adj* of style (1).

styl-is-tically /-kəli/ *adv*

styl-ize (also **-ise**) /stailaɪz/ *vt* represent or treat (art forms, etc) in the particular, conventional style.

styl-lus /stailəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) part like a needle used to cut grooves in records or to reproduce sound from records.

suave /swa:v/ *adj* smooth and gracious (often insincerely) in manner.

suave-ly *adv*

sub /sʌb/ *n* [C] (*informal*) (abbr. of) **1** subordinate. **2** substitute. **3** subscription.

sub- /sʌb-/ *prefix* **1** under: *subway.* **2** second-

dary, lower in rank: *sub-committee.* **3** not quite: *sub-tropical; sub-conscious.*

sub-com-mit-tee /sʌb kəmɪti/ *n* [C] committee formed from members of a main committee.

sub-con-scious /sʌb'kɒnʃəs/ *adj* of those mental activities of which we are not (completely) aware: *the ~ self.* □ *n* the ~, subconscious thoughts, desires, etc.

sub-con-scious-ly *adv*

sub-con-ti-nent /sʌb'kɒntinənt/ *n* [C] mass of land large enough to be regarded as a separate continent but forming part of a larger mass.

sub-con-tract /sʌb'kɒntrækt/ *n* [C] contract which is for carrying out a previous contract or a part of it. □ *vt, vi* /sʌb'kɒntrækt/ *US*: -kɒntrækt/ give or accept a subcontract.

sub-con-tractor /sʌb'kɒntræktə(r)/ *US*: -kɒntrækt-/ *n* person who accepts a subcontract.

sub-cu-taneous /sʌb'kjʊ:təniəs/ *adj* under the skin: *~ tissue.*

sub-di-vide /sʌb'dɪvaɪd/ *vt, vi* divide into further divisions.

sub-di-vi-sion /sʌb'dɪvɪʒn/ *n* [U] subdividing: [C] something produced by subdividing.

sub-due /sʌb'dju:/ *US*: -du:/ *vt* **1** bring under control: *~ one's hatred.* **2** make quieter, softer, gentler: (*esp pp*) *d voices/lights.*

sub-hu-man /sʌb'hju:mən/ *adj* more like an animal than a human being.

sub-ject¹ /sʌbdʒɪkt/ *adj* **subject to**, **1** owing obedience (to): *We are ~ to the law of the land.* **2** having a tendency (to): *Are you ~ to colds?* **3** (*adj, adv*) conditional(ly) on: *The plan is ~ to confirmation.*

sub-ject² /sʌbdʒɪkt/ *n* [C] **1** any member of a State except the supreme ruler: *British ~s.* **2** something (to be) talked or written about or studied: *an interesting ~ of conversation. What ~ are you studying?* **change the subject**, talk about something different. **3** person, animal or thing (to be) treated or dealt with, to be made to undergo or experience something: *a ~ for experiment.* **4** (*gram*) word(s) in a sentence which is described, which does, something, etc, eg *book* in 'The book is green' and *they* in 'Did they come early?' **5** (*music*) theme on which a composition is based.

'subject matter, plot, topic, etc of a book or speech (contrasted with style).

sub-ject³ /sʌb'dʒekt/ *vt* **1** bring, get (a country, nation, person) under control: *The Romans ~ed most of Europe to their rule.* **2** cause to undergo or experience: *~ a man to torture.*

sub-jec-tion /sʌb'dʒekʃn/ *n* [U]

sub-jec-tive /sʌb'dʒektɪv/ *adj* **1** (opposite of *objective*) (of ideas, feelings, etc) existing in the mind, not produced by things outside the

mind: *Did he really see a ghost or was it only a ~ impression?* **2** (of art and artists, writing, etc) giving the personal or individual point of view or feeling (opposite to *realistic*). **3** (*gram*) of the subject (**4**).

sub-jec-tive-ly *adv*

sub-jec-tiv-ity /səb'dʒek'tɪvəti/ *n* [U]

sub-ju-gate /səb'dʒuːgeɪt/ *vt* (*formal*): subdue; conquer.

sub-ju-ga-tion /səb'dʒuːgeɪʃn/ *n* [U]

sub-junc-tive /səb'dʒʌŋktɪv/ *adj* (*gram*) expressing a condition, hypothesis, possibility, etc. □ *n* [C] (*gram*) the subjunctive mood; form of a verb in this mood.

sub-lease /səb'liːs/ *vi, vt* lease to another person. □ *n* [C] lease of this kind.

sub-let /səb'let/ *vi, vt* (-tt-) rent (a room, house, etc of which one is a tenant) to somebody else.

sub-li-mate /səb'lɪmənt/ *vt* **1** (*psychology*) direct (emotions, impulses) into higher or more desirable channels. **2** (*informal*) idealize.

sub-lime /səb'laɪm/ *adj* **1** of the greatest and highest sort; causing wonder or reverence: ~ *heroism*. **2** extreme (as of a person who does not fear the consequences): *What ~ indifference!* □ *n* **the** ~, that which fills one with wonder or reverence.

sub-lime-ly *adv*

sub-lim-in-al /səb'lɪmɪnəl/ *adj* of which one is not consciously aware.

sub-mar-ine /səb'mærɪn/ *US*: 'səbməriːn/ *adj* existing, designed for use, under the surface of the sea: *a ~ cable*. □ *n* [C] ship which can operate under water.

sub-merge /səb'mɑːdʒ/ *vt, vi* **1** put under water; cover with a liquid. **2** sink out of sight; (of a submarine) go down under the surface. **3** (*fig*) inundate.

sub-merged *adj* (a) under the surface of the sea, etc: ~ *rocks*. (b) (*fig*) overwhelmed.

sub-merge-ence /səb'mɑːdʒəns/, **sub-mer-sion** /səb'mɑːʃn/ *US*: -ʒn/ *n* [U] submerging or being submerged.

sub-mis-sion /səb'mɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] act of submitting; acceptance of another's power or authority: *The enemy were starved into ~*. **2** [U] obedience; respect: *with all due ~*. **3** [C, U] (*legal*) theory, etc submitted to a judge or jury: *My ~ is that...*

sub-miss-ive /səb'mɪsɪv/ *adj* yielding to the control or authority of another: *Marian is not a ~ wife*.

sub-miss-ive-ly *adv*

sub-mit /səb'mɪt/ *vt, vi* (-tt-) **1** put (oneself) under the control of another: ~ *oneself to discipline*. **2** put forward for opinion, discussion, decision, etc: ~ *plans/proposals to a committee*. **3** (*legal*) suggest: *Counsel ~ted that there was no case against his client*. **4** surrender: ~ *to separation from one's family*.

sub-nor-mal /səb'nɔːml/ *adj* below normal

(esp intelligence).

sub-or-di-nate /sə'bɔːdɪnət/ *adj* junior in rank or position; less important: *in a ~ position*. □ *n* [C] person in a junior position. □ *vt* /sə'bɔːdɪneɪt/ treat as junior.

subordinate clause, (*gram*) dependent clause; clause which, introduced by a conjunction, serves as a *noun*, *adj* or *adv*.

sub-scribe /səb'skraɪb/ *vi, vt* **1** (agree to) pay (a sum of money) with other persons (to a cause, for something): *He ~s liberally to charities*. **2** agree to take (a newspaper, periodical, etc) regularly. **3** agree with, share (an opinion, view, etc): *subscribing to the general view that...*

sub-scriber, (a) person who subscribes (esp to funds). (b) person, business, etc paying for having a telephone, receiving a journal, etc.

sub-scription /səb'skrɪpʃn/ *n* (a) [U] subscribing or being subscribed: *paid for by public subscription*. (b) [C] sum of money paid (to charity, for receiving a newspaper, magazine, etc or for membership of a club).

sub-se-quent /səbsɪkwənt/ *adj* later; following: ~ *events*; ~ *to this event*.

sub-ser-vient /səb'sɜːviənt/ *adj* **1** giving too much respect to: ~ *junior staff*. **2** subordinate or subject to.

sub-ser-vient-ly *adv*

sub-side /səb'saɪd/ *vi* **1** (of flood water) sink to a lower or to the normal level. **2** (of land) sink, eg because of mining operations. **3** (of buildings) settle lower down in the ground. **4** (of winds, anger, etc) become less strong.

sub-sid-ence /səb'saɪdəns/ *n* [C, U] act or process of subsiding (2,3); instance of this.

sub-sidi-ary /səb'sɪdɪəri/ *US*: -dɪəri/ *adj* serving as a help or support but not of first importance: *a ~ company*, controlled by a larger one. □ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) subsidiary company, thing or person.

sub-si-dize (also -ise) /səbsɪdaɪz/ *vt* give a subsidy to.

sub-sidy /səb'saɪdɪ/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) money granted, esp by a government or society, to an industry or other cause needing help, or (eg food subsidies) to keep prices down.

sub-sist /səb'sɪst/ *vi* (*formal*) exist; be kept in existence on: ~ *on a vegetable diet*.

sub-sis-tence /-təns/ *n* [U] (means of) existing: ~ *crops*, those grown for consumption (contrasted with 'cash crops, sold for money).

sub-soil /səb'sɔɪl/ *n* [U] layer of soil that lies immediately beneath the surface layer.

sub-stance /səb'stəns/ *n* **1** [C, U] (particular kind of) matter: *Water, ice and snow are the same ~ in different forms*. **2** [U] most important part, chief or real meaning, of something: *I agree in ~ with what you say, but differ on some small points*. **3** [U] firmness; solidity: *This material has some ~, is fairly solid or*

strong. **4** [U] money; property: *a man of ~, eg a property owner.*
sub-standard /səb'stændəd/ *adj* below average, expected, standard.
sub-stan-tial /səb'stæntʃl/ *adj* **1** solidly or strongly built or made. **2** large; considerable: *a ~ meal/improvement/loan.* **3** possessing considerable property: *a ~ business firm.* **4** of the main or most important part(s): *We are in ~ agreement.* **5** real: *Was what you saw something ~ or only a ghost?*
sub-stan-tially /-ʃəli/ *adv*: *Your efforts contributed ~ly (= a great deal) to our success.*
sub-stan-tiate /səb'stæntʃi'eɪt/ *vt* give facts to support (a claim, statement, charge, etc).
sub-sti-tute /'sʌbstɪtju:t/ *US: -tu:t/ n* [C] person or thing taking the place of, acting for or serving for another: *S~s for rubber can be made from petroleum.* □ *vt, vi* use, serve, as a substitute: *~ margarine for butter.*
sub-sti-tu-tion /səbstɪ'tju:ʃn/ *US: -tu:-/ n* [U]
sub-stra-tum /səb'stra:təm/ *US: -streɪt-/ n* [C] (*pl -ta /-tə/*) level lying below another: *a ~ of rock.*
sub-struc-ture /'sʌbstɹæktʃə(r)/ *n* [C] foundation (the usual word).
sub-sume /səb'sju:m/ *US: -su:m/ vt* (formal) include (an example, etc) under a rule or in a particular class.
sub-ter-fuge /səb'tɜ:fju:dʒ/ *n* [C,U] (formal) trick; [U] trickery.
sub-ter-ranean /səb'tɜ:'reɪniən/ *adj* (formal) = underground.
sub-title /'sʌbtaɪtl/ *n* [C] **1** secondary title (of a book). **2** translation of a film script, printed on the film.
subtle /'sʌtl/ *adj* **1** difficult to become aware of or describe because fine or delicate: *a ~ distinction.* **2** clever; complex: *a ~ argument.* **3** quick and clever at seeing or describing small differences: *a ~ observer.*
subtlety *n* [C,U] (*pl -ies*)
sub-tly /'sʌtli/ *adv*
sub-tract /səb'trækt/ *vt* take (a number, quantity) away from (another number, etc): *~ 6 from 9.*
sub-trac-tion /səb'trækʃn/ *n* [C,U]
sub-tropi-cal /səb'trɒpɪkl/ *adj* nearly tropical.
sub-urb /'sʌbɜ:b/ *n* [C] residential district round the outside of a town or city.
sub-ur-ban /səb'ɜ:bən/ *adj* of or in a suburb.
sub-ur-bia /səb'ɜ:bɪə/ *n* [U] (usually derogatory) (kind of life lived by, characteristic outlook of, people in) suburbs.
sub-ver-sion /səb'vɜ:ʃn/ *US: -ʒn/ n* [U] act of subverting.
sub-vers-ive /səb'vɜ:sɪv/ *adj* tending to subvert: *~ literature/speeches/policies.*
sub-vert /səb'vɜ:t/ *vt* destroy, overthrow, (religion, a government) by weakening

people's trust, confidence, belief.
sub-way /'sʌbwei/ *n* [C] **1** underground passage or tunnel, eg used to get from one side of a street to another. **2** (US) = underground(1).
suc-ceed /sək'si:d/ *vi, vt* **1** do what one is trying to do: *~ in passing an examination. The attack ~ed.* **2** come next after and take the place of: *Who ~ed Kennedy as President?* **3** inherit (a title, position, etc): *On George VI's death, Elizabeth II ~ed (to the throne).*
suc-cess /sək'ses/ *n* **1** [U] succeeding; the gaining of what is aimed at: *meet with ~.* **2** [U] prosperity: *have great ~ in life.* **3** [C] person or thing that succeeds: *The plan/play/lecturer was a great ~.* **make a success (of sth)**, do it successfully.
suc-cess-ful /-fl/ *adj* having, gaining, success: *~ful candidates; a ~ful application.*
suc-cess-fully /-fəli/ *adv*
suc-ces-sion /sək'seʃn/ *n* **1** [U] the coming of one thing after another in time or order: *the ~ of the seasons.* **in succession**, one after the other. **2** [C] number of things in succession: *a ~ of defeats.* **3** [U] (right of) succeeding to a title, the throne, property, etc; person having this right: *Who is first in ~ to the throne?*
suc-cess-ive /sək'sesɪv/ *adj* coming one after the other in an uninterrupted sequence: *Liverpool won eleven ~ games.*
suc-cess-ive-ly *adv*
suc-cess-or /sək'sesə(r)/ *n* [C] person or thing that succeeds another: *appoint a ~ to a headmaster.*
suc-cinct /sək'sɪŋkt/ *adj* expressed briefly and clearly.
suc-cinct-ly *adv*
suc-cour (US = -cor) /'sʌkə(r)/ *n* [U] (literary) help given in time of need. □ *vt* give such help to.
suc-cu-lent /'sʌkjələnt/ *adj* **1** (of fruit and meat) juicy; tasting good: *a ~ steak.* **2** (of stems, leaves) thick and fleshy. □ *n* [C] succulent plant, eg a cactus.
suc-cumb /sək'kʌm/ *vi* yield (to death, temptation, flattery, etc).
such /sʌtʃ/ *adj* (Note: there is no comparative or superlative; *such* can not be placed between a and a noun.) **1** of the same kind or degree (as): *I've never heard of ~ a thing! All ~ people are respected; poets ~ as Keats and Shelley; ~ poets as Keats and Shelley; on ~ an occasion/ on an occasion ~ as this.* ⇨ **as²(10).** **2 such as it is**, (used to suggest that something is of poor quality, of little value, etc): *You can use my bicycle, ~ as it is.* **3 such (...)** **that:** *His behaviour was ~ that everyone disliked him. S~ was the force of the explosion that all the windows were broken.* **4** (Compare the positions of *such* and *so* in these examples): *Don't be in ~ a hurry, in so much of a hurry, in so*

great a hurry. *I haven't had ~ an enjoyable evening* (= so enjoyable an evening) for months. **5** (used in exclamatory sentences): *It was ~ a long time ago!* *We've had ~ a good time!* □ *pron* **1** this, that, these, those (as already stated, etc): *S~ were his words. S~ is life!* Life is like that. **2** person(s) or thing(s) of the same kind, etc: *I may have hurt feelings but ~ (= that) was certainly not my intention. as such*, as this kind: *He's clever and as ~ should pass the exam.*

'such-like *adj* (informal) people, things, of the same kind: *I have no time for pop concerts and ~like.*

suck /sʌk/ *vt, vi* **1** draw (liquid) into the mouth by the use of the lip muscles: *~ the juice from an orange.* **2** hold (something) in the mouth and lick, move, squeeze, etc with the tongue: *The child still ~s its thumb.* **3 suck sth up**, absorb: *plants that ~ up moisture from the soil.* **4** (of a whirlpool, etc) pull in: *The canoe was ~ed (down) into the whirlpool.* **5 suck up to sb**, (informal) flatter them, do things for them, for one's own benefit. □ *n* [C] act or process of sucking: *have/take a ~ at a lollipop.*

sucker /sʌkə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who, that which, sucks. **2** organ of some animals so that they can rest on a surface by suction. **3** rubber device, eg a rubber disc, that can be used to fix an object to a surface by suction. **4** unwanted shoot from the roots of a tree, shrub, etc. **5** (informal) person foolish enough to be deceived by salesmen, advertisements, etc.

suckle /sʌkl/ *vt* feed with milk from the breast or udder.

suc-tion /sʌkʃn/ *n* [U] **1** action of sucking. **2** removal of air, liquid, etc from a cavity so as to produce a partial vacuum and enable air-pressure from outside to force in liquid or dust: *Vacuum-cleaners work by ~.* **3** similar process, eg in a rubber disc, a fly's foot, producing a vacuum that causes two surfaces to be held together.

sud-den /sʌdn/ *adj* happening, coming, done, unexpectedly, quickly, without warning: *a ~ shower.* □ *n* (only in) **all of a sudden**, unexpectedly: *All of a ~ she screamed.*

sud-den-ly *adv*

suds /sʌdz/ *n pl* mass of tiny bubbles on soapy water.

sue /su:/ *vt, vi* **sue for**, **1** make a legal claim against: *~ a person for damages.* **2** beg (the usual word): *suing for mercy.*

suede, suède /sweɪd/ *n* [U] kind of soft leather without a shining surface.

suet /su:ɪt/ *n* [U] hard fat round the kidneys of sheep and oxen, used in cooking.

suf-fer /sʌfə(r)/ *vi, vt* **1 suffer (from)**, feel or have pain, loss, etc: *~ from* (= often have) headaches. *His business ~ed while he was ill.* *His business did not do well.* **2** experience

(something unpleasant): *~ pain/defeat.* **3** put up with: *How can you ~ such insolence?*

suf-ferer, person who suffers.

suf-fer-ing, (a) [U] pain of body or mind. (b) (pl) feelings of pain, unhappiness, etc: *a prisoner's ~ings.*

suf-fer-ance /sʌfərəns/ *n* [U] with permission suggested (not given) because there was no objection: *He's here on ~.*

suf-fice /sʌfais/ *vi, vt* **1** be enough (the more usual words): *Will £10 ~ for your needs?* **2** meet the needs of: *One meal a day won't ~ a growing boy.*

suf-fi-ciency /sʌfɪnsi/ *n* (usually with a) sufficient quantity: *a ~ of fuel.*

suf-fi-cient /sʌfɪnt/ *adj* enough: *Have we ~ food for ten people?*

suf-fi-cient-ly *adv*

suf-fix /sʌfiks/ *n* [C] letter(s), sounds or syllable(s) added at the end of a word to make another word, eg -ly, -ment.

suf-fo-cate /sʌfəkeɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** cause or have difficulty in breathing: *The fumes were suffocating me.* **2** kill, choke, by making breathing impossible.

suf-fo-ca-tion /sʌfə'keɪʃn/ *n* [U]

sugar /'ʃʊgə(r)/ *n* [U] sweet substance obtained from the juices of various plants, used in cooking and for sweetening drinks. □ *vt* sweeten or mix with sugar.

'sugar daddy, (informal) rich, elderly man who is generous to a young woman.

sugary *adj* (a) tasting of sugar. (b) (fig) (of music, etc) too sweet.

sug-gest /sə'dʒest/ *US: sɔg'dʒ-/ vt* **1** put forward for consideration, as a possibility: *I ~ed a visit (~ed going) that we should go to the theatre.* **2** bring (an idea, possibility, etc) into the mind: *That cloud ~s an old man.*

sug-ges-tion /sə'dʒestʃən/ *US: sɔg'dʒ-/ n* (a) [U] suggesting: *at the ~ion of my brother; on your ~ion.* (b) [C] idea, plan, etc that is suggested: *What a silly ~ion!* (c) [C] slight indication: *a ~ion of a French accent.*

sug-ges-tive /sə'dʒestɪv/ *US: sɔg-/ adj* (a) tending to bring ideas, etc into the mind: *~ive remarks.* (b) tending to suggest (2) something indecent: *~ive jokes.*

sug-ges-tive-ly *adv*

sui-cidal /su:'saɪdl/ *adj* **1** of suicide. **2** very harmful: *~ economic policies.*

sui-cide /su:'saɪd/ *n* **1** [U] murder of oneself: *commit ~;* [C] instance of this: *three ~s last week;* [C] person who does this. **2** [U] action destructive to one's interests or welfare: *economic ~*, eg adoption of policies that will ruin the country's economy.

suit /su:t/ *n* [C] **1** set of articles of outer clothing of the same material: *a man's ~*, jacket (waistcoat) and trousers. **2** (formal) request made to a superior, esp to a ruler: *press one's ~.* **3** = lawsuit. **4** any of the four sets of cards

(spades, hearts, diamonds, clubs) used in many card-games. **follow suit**, (fig) do what somebody else has done.

'suit-case, portable case with flat sides for clothes, used when travelling.

suit² /su:t/ *vt, vi* **1** satisfy; meet the needs of; be convenient to or right for: *Does the climate ~ you/your health? Will Thursday ~ (you), be convenient? **suit oneself**, act according to one's own wishes. **2** (esp of articles of dress, hair styles, etc) look well; be appropriate for: *Does this hat ~ me? **3** be suited (to/for)*, be fitted, have the right qualities: *That man is not ~ed for teaching/to be a teacher.**

suit-able /'su:tabl/ *adj* right for the purpose or occasion: *~ clothes for cold weather.*

suit-ably /-əbli/ *adv*: *suitably dressed.*

suit-abil-ity /'su:təbɪləti/ *n* [U]

suite /swi:t/ *n* [C] **1** group of personal attendants of an important person (eg a ruler).

2 complete set of matching articles of furniture: *a 'bedroom ~. **3** set of rooms (eg in a hotel): the 'bridal ~. **4** (music) orchestral composition made up of three or more related parts.*

suitor /'su:tə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person bringing a lawsuit. **2** (dated) man courting a woman.

sulk /sɜ:k/ *vi* be in a bad temper and show this by refusing to talk.

sulky *adj* (-ier, -iest) unsociable.

sul-len /'sələn/ *adj* **1** silent and angry: *~ looks. **2** dark and gloomy: a ~ sky.*

sul-len-ly *adv*

sul-phur (US = **sul-fur**) /'sʌlfə(r)/ *n* [U] light-yellow non-metallic element (symbol **S**) that burns with a bright flame and a strong smell, used in medicine and industry.

sul-phu-ric (US = **sul-fu-**) /səl'fjuərɪk/ *adj*: *~ic acid.*

sul-tan /'sʌltən/ *n* [C] Muslim ruler.

sul-tan-ate /'sʌltənət/, position, period of rule of, territory ruled by, a sultan.

sul-tana /sʌl'tɑ:nə/ US: -'tɑ:nə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) kind of small seedless raisin used in puddings and cakes.

sul-try /'sʌltri/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** (of the atmosphere, the weather) hot and oppressive. **2** (of a person's temper) passionate.

sum /sʌm/ *n* [C] **1** (also **sum** 'total) total obtained by adding together items, numbers or amounts. **2** problem in arithmetic: *good at ~s. **3** amount of money: save a nice little ~ each week. ⇨ lump¹ (1). ⇨ vt, vi (-mm-) **1** give the total of. **2** express briefly (the chief points of what has been said): *The judge ~med up (the evidence). **3** form a judgement or opinion of: *He ~med up the situation at a glance, realized it at once.***

sum-mar-ize (also -ise) /'sʌməraɪz/ *vt* be or make a summary of.

sum-mary /'sʌməri/ *adj* (formal) **1** brief; giving the chief points only: *a ~ account. **2** done*

or given without delay or attention to small matters: *~ justice. ⇨ n* [C] (pl -ies) brief account giving the chief points.

sum-mer /'sʌmə(r)/ *n* [C, U] (in countries outside the tropics) the warmest season of the year: *in (the) ~; this/next/last ~; (used as an adjective) ~ weather; the ~ holidays.*

'summer-house, small building in a park or garden for relaxing in summer.

'sum-mer-time, the season of summer.

'summer time, time as recognized in some countries where clocks are put forward one hour so that darkness falls an hour later.

sum-mery *adj* like, suitable for, summer: *a ~y dress.*

sum-mit /'sʌmɪt/ *n* [C] **1** highest point; top: *reach the ~, of a mountain. **2** (fig): the ~ of his power.*

'summit talk/meeting, (modern use) at the highest level (ie between heads of States).

sum-mon /'sʌmən/ *vt* **1** call or send for: *~ a person to appear as a witness, eg in a law court.*

2 gather together: *~ up courage.*

sum-mons /'sʌmənz/ *n* [C] (pl ~es) **1** order to appear before a judge or magistrate; document with such an order: *issue a ~. **2** command to do something or appear somewhere. ⇨ vt serve a summons (1) on.*

sump-tu-ous /'sʌmptʃʊəs/ *adj* (formal) looking expensive: *~ clothes.*

sun /sʌn/ *n* **1** the ~, the heavenly body from which the earth gets warmth and light. **2** the ~, light and warmth from the sun: *sit in the ~.*

under the sun, anywhere in the world: *the best wine under the ~. **3** [C] any fixed star with satellites: *There are many ~s larger than ours. ⇨ vt (-nn-) put in, expose (oneself) to, the rays of the sun: *The cat was ~ning itself on the path.***

'sun-baked *adj* made hard by the heat of the sun: *~baked fields.*

'sun-bathe *vi* expose one's body to sunlight.

'sun-beam, ray of sunshine.

'sun-burn, (place where there is a) reddening and blistering caused by too much exposure to the sun. Hence, **'sun-burnt** *adj*.

'sun-dial, device that shows the time by the sun producing a shadow on a marked surface.

'sun-down, = sunset (which is more usual).

'sun-drenched *adj* exposed to great light and heat from the sun: *~drenched 'beaches*.

'sun-dried *adj* (of fruit, etc) dried naturally, by the sun, not by artificial heat.

'sun-fish, large fish almost spherical in shape.

'sun-glasses, with dark-coloured glass to protect the eyes from bright sunshine.

'sun-god, the sun worshipped as a god.

'sun-lamp, lamp that gives out ultra-violet rays used for artificial sunbathing.

'sun-light, the light of the sun.

'sun-lit *adj* lit by the sun: *a ~lit room.*

'sun-rise, (time of) the sun's rising.

'sun-set, (time of) the sun's setting.

'sun-shade, shade (like an umbrella) to keep off the sun.

'sun-shine, light of the sun.

'sun-spot, (a) (astronomy) dark patch on the sun. (b) (informal) place that has a sunny climate (eg for holidays).

'sun-stroke, illness caused by too much exposure to the sun, esp on the head.

'sun-tan, browning of the skin from exposure to sunlight: *~tan lotion/oil*.

'sun-worship, (informal) fondness for sunbathing.

sun-less *adj* receiving little or no sunlight.

sunny *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) bright with sunlight: *a ~ny room*. (b) cheerful: *a ~ny smile*.

Sunday /ˈsʌndi/ *n* the first day of the week. (not in) *a month of Sundays*. (not for) *a long period of time*.

sun-dries /ˈsʌndriːz/ *n pl* various small items.

sung /sʌŋ/ *pp* of sing.

sunk /sʌŋk/ *pt, pp* of sink².

sunken /ˈsʌŋkən/ *pp* of sink².

sup /sʌp/ *vi, vt* (-pp-) (esp Scot and N Eng) drink in small amounts. *n* [C] small quantity (of liquid).

super /ˈsuːpə(r)/ *adj* (informal) excellent; splendid.

super- /suːpə(r)-/ *prefix* **1** above, over: *super-impose*. **2** superior to: *superhuman*.

super-an-nu-ation /ˈsuːpəˌænjʊˈeɪʃn/ *n* [U] pension (the usual word).

superb /suːˈpɜːb/ *adj* magnificent; first class: *a ~ meal/swimmer/result*.

superb-ly *adv*

super-cili-ous /ˈsuːpəˈsɪliəs/ *adj* (formal) snobbish and indifferent: *with his nose high in the air, looking ~*.

super-cili-ous-ly *adv*

super-fi-cial /ˈsuːpəˈfiʃl/ *adj* **1** of or on the surface only: *a ~ wound*. **2** not thorough or deep: *have only a ~ knowledge of a subject*.

super-fi-cially /-ʃəli/ *adv*

su-per-flu-ous /suːˈpɜːfluəs/ *adj* more than is needed or wanted.

su-per-flu-ous-ly *adv*

super-hu-man /ˈsuːpəˈhjuːmən/ *adj* much greater than ordinary human power, size, knowledge, etc: *by a ~ effort*.

super-im-pose /ˈsuːpəɪmˈpəʊz/ *vt* put (one thing) on top of something else.

super-in-tend /ˈsuːpəɪnˈtend/ *vt, vi* watch and direct (work, etc).

super-in-ten-dence /-əns/ *n* [U]

super-in-ten-dent /-ənt/ *n* [C] (a) person who superintends. (b) police officer above a chief inspector in rank.

su-per-ior /səˈpiəriə(r)/ *adj* **1** better than the average: *~ intelligence*; *~ grades of coffee*. **2** greater in number: *The enemy attacked with ~ forces*. **3 superior to**, (a) better than. (b) higher in rank or position than. **4** snobbish: *a*

~ look. *n* [C] **1** person of higher rank, authority, etc than another, or who is better, etc than another (in doing something): *Napoleon had no ~ as a general*. **2** (in titles) *the Father S~*, abbot; *the Mother S~*, abbess.

su-per-ior-ity /səˈpiəriˈɒrəti/ *US*: -ɪər-/ *n* [U] state of being superior: *the ~ity of one thing to another*.

super-la-tive /suːˈpɜːlətɪv/ *adj* **1** of the highest degree or quality: *a man of ~ wisdom*.

2 (gram) *the ~ degree*, the form of an adjective or adverb expressing the highest degree, eg *best, worst, highest, most foolish(ly)*. *n* [C] superlative form of an adjective or adverb.

super-mar-ket /ˈsuːpəˌmɑːkɪt/ *n* [C] large self-service store selling food, household goods, etc.

super-natu-ral /ˈsuːpəˌnætʃrəl/ *adj* spiritual; of that which is not controlled or explained by physical laws: *~ beings*, eg angels.

super-sede /ˈsuːpəˈsiːd/ *vt* take the place of; put or use a person or thing in the place of: *Motorways have ~d ordinary roads for long-distance travel*.

super-sonic /ˈsuːpəˈsɒnɪk/ *adj* **1** (of speeds) greater than that of sound. **2** (of aircraft) able to fly at supersonic speed.

super-sti-tion /ˈsuːpəˈstɪʃn/ *n* [C,U] (idea, practice, etc based on) belief in magic, witchcraft, etc.

super-sti-tious /ˈsuːpəˈstɪʃəs/ *adj* of, showing, resulting from, believing in, superstitions: *superstitious beliefs/ideas/people*.

super-sti-tious-ly *adv*

super-struc-ture /ˈsuːpəˌstrʌktʃə(r)/ *n* [C] structure built on the top of something else.

super-vise /ˈsuːpəvaɪz/ *vt, vi* watch and direct (work, workers, an organization).

super-vi-sion /ˈsuːpəˈvɪʒn/, supervising: *under the supervision of*, supervised by.

super-vi-sor /-zə(r)/, person who supervises.

sup-per /ˈsʌpə(r)/ *n* [C,U] last meal of the day.

sup-plant /səˈplɑːnt/ *US*: -plənt/ *vt* **1** supersede (the usual word). **2** take the place of (a person): *The Prime Minister was ~ed by his rival*.

supple /ˈsʌpl/ *adj* (-r, -st) easily bent; not stiff: *the ~ limbs of a child*.

supple-ment /ˈsʌplɪmənt/ *n* [C] **1** something added later to improve or complete, eg a dictionary. **2** extra and separate addition to a newspaper or other periodical: *The Times Literary S~*. *vt* /ˈsʌpləmənt/ make an addition or additions to: *~ one's ordinary income by writing books*.

supple-men-tary /ˈsʌplɪˈmentəri/ *adj* additional; extra: *~ estimates*, eg for additional expenditure.

supply /səˈplaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** give or provide (something needed or asked for): *~ children with money for books*. **2** meet (a need):

Should the government ~ the need for more houses, help to provide them (eg by making loans)? □ **n** 1 [U] supplying; [C] (pl -ies) that which is supplied; stock or amount of something which is obtainable: *Have you a good ~ of clothes for the holiday?* **in short supply**, scarce (the more usual word). **2** (pl) (esp) stores necessary for some public need: *The refugees need more medical supplies.*

sup-plier, person or firm supplying goods, materials, etc.

sup-port /sə'pɔ:t/ **vt** 1 bear the weight of; hold up or keep in place: *Is this bridge strong enough to ~ heavy lorries?* **2** provide a person or thing with what is necessary: *~ a political party*, agree with its policies; *a hospital ~ed by voluntary contributions*; *an accusation not ~ed by proofs*. **3** provide (money, etc) for: *He has a large family to ~.* □ **n** 1 [U] supporting or being supported: *I hope to have your ~ in the election.* *If you decide to oppose the decision, you have my full (= total) ~.* *Mr X spoke in ~ of the motion.* *The divorced wife claimed ~ (ie a regular financial contribution) for her children from her ex-husband.* **2** [C] person who, that which, supports: *Dick is the chief ~ of the family*, earns the money for the family.

sup-porter, person who, device which, supports.

sup-pose /sə'pəʊz/ **vt** 1 let it be thought that; take it as a fact that: *Let us ~ (that) the news is true.* *Everyone is ~d to know the rules.* It is assumed that we all know the rules. **2** guess; think: *What do you ~ he wanted?* *'Will he come?' — 'Yes, I ~ so'/'No, I ~ not'/'No, I don't ~ so'.* **3** be supposed to. (a) be expected or required to (by customs, duty, etc): *Is he ~d to clean the outside of the windows or only the inside?* (b) (informal) (in the negative) not be allowed to: *We're not ~d to play football on Sundays.*

sup-posing **conj** if: *Supposing it rains, what shall you do?*

sup-pose-ed-ly /-ɪdli/ **adv** according to what is/was supposed (2).

sup-po-si-tion /sə'pɔ:ʒiʃn/ **n** 1 [U] supposing: *This newspaper article is based on ~, on what the writer thinks is true or correct, not on fact.* **2** [C] guess: *Our ~s were fully confirmed.*

sup-posi-tory /sə'pɔ:ʒɪtri/ **US**: -tɔ:ri/ **n** [C] (pl -ies) medicine (in a container which dissolves) to be put into the rectum or vagina.

sup-press /sə'pres/ **vt** 1 put an end to the activity or existence of: *~ a rebellion.* **2** prevent from being known or seen: *~ the truth/a yawn/one's feelings.*

sup-pres-sion /sə'presn/ **n** [U]

sup-pres-sive **adj** tending to, designed to, suppress: *~ive action by the police.*

sup-pres-sor /-sə(r)/, something that suppresses; (esp) a device fitted to electric apparatus to prevent interference with radio

and television reception.

su-pre-m-acy /sə'preməsi/ **n** [U] being supreme over; highest authority: *His ~ was unchallenged.*

su-pre-me /sə'pri:m/ **adj** 1 highest in rank or authority: *the S~ Commander*; *the S~ Court*, highest in one of the States of the US or in the whole of the US; *the S~ Being*, God. **2** most important; greatest: *make the ~ sacrifice*, die (eg in war).

su-pre-me-ly **adv** extremely: *~ly happy.*

sur-charge /'sɜ:tʃɑ:dʒ/ **n** [C] 1 payment demanded in addition to the usual charge, eg for a letter with insufficient postage paid on it. **2** excessive or additional load. □ **vt** 1 overload. **2** demand a surcharge (1) on or in.

sure /ʃʊə(r)/ **adj** 1 free from doubt; having confidence; knowing and believing; having, seeming to have, good reason for belief: *I think he's coming, but I'm not quite ~.* *You're ~ of (= certain to receive) a welcome.* *I'm not ~ why he wants it.* **be/feel sure (about sth)**, have no doubts (about): *I think the answer's right, but I'm not ~ (about it).* **be sure to**, don't fail to: *Be ~ to write and give me all the news.* **make sure (that/of sth)**, (a) feel sure: *I made ~ he would be here.* (b) satisfy oneself; do what is necessary in order to feel sure, to get something, etc: *I think there's a train at 5 o'clock, but you'd better make ~, eg by looking up trains in a timetable.* **2** proved or tested; reliable: *a ~ cure for colds.* □ **adv** 1 **sure e'nough**, as expected: *I said it would happen, and ~ enough it did.* **2 as sure as**, as certain as: *as ~ as my name's Bob.*

sure-ly /'ʃʊəli/ **adv** 1 with certainty: *He was working slowly but ~.* **2** if experience or probability can be trusted: *S~ this wet weather won't last much longer!* *You didn't want to hurt his feelings, ~!*

surety /'ʃʊərti/ **US**: 'ʃʊərti/ **n** [C,U] (pl -ies) 1 (something given as a) guarantee. **2** person who makes himself responsible for the conduct or debt(s) of another person: *stand ~ for a debtor.*

surf /sɜ:f/ **n** [U] waves breaking in white foam on the seashore, on sand-banks or reefs. **'surf-board**, board used for surfing.

surfing, **'surf-riding**, sport in which one balances oneself on a long narrow board while being carried along by heavy surf.

sur-face /'sɜ:fɪs/ **n** [C] 1 the outside of any object, etc; any of the sides of an object: *Glass has a smooth ~.* *A cube has six ~s.* **2** top of a liquid: *The submarine rose to the ~.* **3** outward appearance; what is seen or learnt from a quick view or consideration: *His faults are all on the ~.* *When you get below the ~, you find that he is generous.* ⇨ scratch²(1). **4** (as an adjective) of the surface only: *~ impressions*, received quickly or casually, with no depth of thought, observation, etc. ⇨ superficial. □

vt, vi 1 give a surface to: *~ a road with tarmac.*
2 (of a submarine, skin-diver, etc) (cause to) come to the surface.

1 **surface mail**, sent by land or sea, not air-mail.

sur-feit /'sɜːfɪt/ *n* [C] (usually with *a, an*) too much of anything, esp food and drink: *have a ~ of curry while in Madras.* □ **vt** (cause to) take too much of anything: *be ~ed with pleasure.*

surge /sɜːdʒ/ *vi* move forward, roll on, in or like waves: *The floods ~d over the valley. The crowds were surging out of the sports stadium.* □ **n** [C] **1** forward or upward movement: *the ~ of the sea.* **2** (fig) (of feelings) grow suddenly: *a ~ of anger/pity.*

sur-geon /'sɜːdʒən/ *n* [C] doctor who performs medical operations.

sur-gery /'sɜːdʒəri/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] the science and practice of treating injuries and disease by operations: *qualified in both ~ and medicine.* **2** [C] (GB) doctor's or dentist's room where patients come to consult him: *~ hours, 4pm to 6pm.* **3** (also **political surgery**) (informal) place where constituents can consult a member of Parliament.

sur-gi-cal /'sɜːdʒɪkl/ *adj* of, by, for, surgery: *~ instruments.*

sur-gi-cal-ly /-klt/ *adv*

sur-ly /'sɜːli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) bad-tempered and unfriendly.

sur-mise /sə'maɪz/ *vt, vi* guess (the usual word). □ **n** /'sɜːmaɪz/ [C] guess.

sur-mount /sə'maʊnt/ *vt 1* overcome (difficulties); get over (obstacles). **2** **be sur-mounted by/with**, have on or over the top: *a spire ~ed by a cross.*

sur-mount-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be overcome or conquered.

sur-name /'sɜːneɪm/ *n* [C] person's hereditary family name: *Smith is a very common English ~.*

sur-pass /sə'pɑːs/ *US: -'pæs/ vt* (formal) do or be better than: *~ him in speed/skill.*

sur-pass-ing *adj* (formal) excellent: *of ~ing beauty.*

sur-plice /'sɜːplɪs/ *n* [C] loose-fitting (usually white) gown with wide sleeves worn by (some) priests (over a cassock) during church services.

sur-plus /'sɜːpləs/ *n 1* [C] amount (of money) that remains after needs have been supplied. **2** amount (of anything) in excess of requirements: *Brazil had a ~ of coffee last year.* **3** (as an adjective) more than what is needed or used: *~ population*, for which there is not enough food, employment, etc.

sur-prise /sə'praɪz/ *n 1* [C, U] (feeling caused by) something sudden or unexpected: *What a horrible/wonderful ~! He looked up in ~.* **2** (as an adjective) unexpected; made, done, etc without warning: *a ~ visit/attack.* □ **vt 1** give a feeling of surprise to: *She was more ~d than*

frightened. **take sb by surprise**, ⇨ **take** (2). **2** experience surprise: *We were ~d at the news/~d to hear the news.* **3** discover, see, suddenly or without warning: *~ a burglar in a house.*

sur-pris-ing *adj* causing surprise.

sur-pris-ing-ly *adv*

sur-ren-der /sə'rendə(r)/ *vt, vi 1* give up (oneself, a ship, a town, etc) to the enemy, the police, etc): *We shall never ~.* **2** give up under pressure or from necessity; abandon possession of: *We shall never ~ our liberty.* **3** give way to (a habit, emotion, influence, etc): *He ~ed to despair and committed suicide.* □ **n** [U] surrendering or being surrendered: *demand the ~ of all weapons.*

sur-rep-ti-tious /sə'reptɪʃəs/ *adj* (formal) (of actions) done secretly.

sur-round /sə'raʊnd/ *vt* be, go, all round, shut in on all sides: *a house ~ed with/by trees.* □ **n** [C] edge, eg of a floor.

sur-round-ing *adj* which is around about: *York and the ~ing countryside.*

sur-round-ings *n* (pl) everything around and about a place; conditions that may affect a person: *pleasant ~ings. Animals are not in their natural ~ings at a zoo.*

sur-veil-lance /sə'veɪləns/ *n* [U] close watch kept on persons suspected of doing wrong, etc: *under police ~.*

sur-vey /sə'veɪ/ *vt 1* take a general view of: *~ the countryside from the top of a hill.* **2** examine the general condition of: *The Prime Minister ~ed the international situation.* **3** measure and map out the position, size, boundaries, etc of (an area of land, a country, coast, etc): *~ a parish/a railway.* **4** examine the condition of (a building, etc): *Have the house ~ed before you offer to buy it.* □ **n** /'sɜːveɪ/ [C] **1** general view: *make a general ~ of the situation/subject.* **2** (map, record of) land-surveying: *an aerial ~ of Africa*, made by photography from aircraft. **sur-vey-ing**, the work of surveying (3,4).

sur-veyor /sə'veɪə(r)/, person who surveys (3,4). ⇨ **quantity surveyor.**

sur-vival /sə'vaɪvl/ *n* [U] state of continuing to live or exist; surviving: *the ~ of the fittest*, the continuing existence of those animals and plants which are best adapted to their surroundings, etc; (as an adjective) *a ~ kit*, package of necessities for a person after a disaster, etc (eg at sea).

sur-vive /sə'vaɪv/ *vt, vi* continue to live or exist; live or exist longer than: *~ an earthquake/shipwreck. The old lady has ~d all her children/is still surviving.*

sur-vivor /-və(r)/, person who has survived: *Help was sent to the survivors of the air crash.*

sus-cep-tible /sə'septəbl/ *adj 1* easily influenced by feelings: *a ~ nature.* **2** easily affected, influenced, by: *~ to pain.*

sus-cep-ti-bil-ity /sə'septə'bɪləti/ *n* (pl -ities)

(a) [U] sensitiveness: ~ to colds. (b) (pl) sensitive points of a person's nature: *We must avoid wounding their susceptibilities.*

sus-pect /sə'spekt/ vt **1** have an idea or feeling (concerning the possibility or likelihood of something): *She has more intelligence than we ~ed.* **2** feel doubt about: ~ the truth of an account. **3** have a feeling that a person may be guilty (of): *He is ~ed of telling lies.* □ n /'səspekt/ [C] person suspected of doing wrong, etc: *Are political ~s kept under police observation in your country?* □ adj /'səspekt/ of doubtful character: *His statements are ~.*

sus-pend /sə'spend/ vt **1** hang up (from): *lamps ~ed from the ceiling.* **2** (of solid particles, in the air or other fluid medium) be or remain in place: *dust/smoke ~ed in the air.* **3** stop for a time; delay: ~ judgement, postpone giving one. **4** announce that (a person) cannot be allowed to perform his duties, enjoy privileges, etc for a time: ~ a (professional) football player, eg because of breaking the rules.

sus-penders /sə'spendəz/ n pl (also a pair of ~) **1** (GB) elastic band for keeping up a sock or stocking. **2** (US) = braces¹ (3).

sus-pense /sə'spens/ n [U] uncertainty, anxiety (about news, events, decisions, etc): *We waited in ~ for the doctor's opinion.*

sus-pen-sion /sə'spensjən/ n [U] suspending or being suspended (4): *the ~ of a member of Parliament.*

sus-pension bridge, bridge hanging on steel cables supported from towers.

sus-pi-cion /sə'spɪʃən/ n **1** [C,U] feeling that a person has when he suspects; suspecting or being suspected; feeling that something is wrong: *I have a ~ that he may be right. He was arrested on (the) ~ of having stolen the money.* **above suspicion**, of such good reputation that suspicion is out of the question. **under suspicion (of)**, being considered as possibly guilty (of). **2** (sing with a or an) slight taste or suggestion: *There was a ~ of sadness in her voice.*

sus-pi-cious /sə'spɪʃəs/ adj having, showing or causing suspicion: *The excuse is ~ to me. He's a ~ character.* There is reason to suspect that he is dishonest, etc.

sus-pi-cious-ly adv behave ~ly.

sus-tain /sə'steɪn/ vt **1** keep from falling or sinking: *Will this light shelf ~ (the weight of) all these books?* **2** (enable to) keep up, maintain: ~ing food, that gives strength; ~ an argument/attempt; ~ a note, continue to sing or play the note without stopping; *make a ~ed effort.* **3** suffer; experience: ~ a defeat/an injury. **4** (legal) give a decision in favour of: *The court ~ed his claim.*

sus-ten-ance /'sæstɪnəns/ n [U] (formal) (nourishing quality of) food or drink: *There's more ~ in cocoa than in tea.*

swab /swɒb/ n [C] **1** mop or pad for cleaning,

eg floors, decks. **2** piece of absorbent material, etc for medical use; specimen taken with a swab: *take throat ~s.* □ vt (-bb-) clean with a swab: ~ an injury.

swag-ger /'swægə(r)/ vi walk or behave in a self-important or self-satisfied manner. □ n [C] swaggering walk or way of behaving.

swal-low¹ /'swɒləʊ/ n [C] kinds of small bird with a forked tail.

'swallow-dive, type of diving with arms wide apart until entering the water.

'swallow-tailed adj (of butterflies, birds) with a deeply forked tail.

swal-low² /'swɒləʊ/ vt, vi **1** cause or allow to go down the throat: ~ one's food. **2** take in; exhaust; cause to disappear; use up: *earnings that were ~ed up by lawyers' bills.* **3** (fig): ~ an insult, accept it without complaining. **swallow sth whole**, believe it without argument, doubt. **swallow one's words**, express regret for them. □ n [C] act of swallowing; amount swallowed at one time.

swam /swæm/ pt of swim.

swamp /swɒmp/ n [C,U] (area of) soft wet land; marsh. □ vt **1** flood, soak, with water: *A big wave ~ed the boat.* **2** (fig) overwhelm: *We are ~ed with work. They ~ed us with orders.*

swampy adj (-ier, -iest) having swamps.

swan /swɒn/ n [C] large, graceful, long-necked (and usually white) water bird. □ vi (-nn-) (informal) move, go in a slow, often aimless manner: *I suppose you're ~ning off to Paris for the weekend.*

'swan-song, last performance, appearance, work before death of a poet, musician, etc.

swap /swɒp/ vt, vi (-pp-) = swop.

swarm /swɔ:m/ n [C] large number, of insects, birds, etc moving about together: *a ~ of ants/locusts/bees.* □ vi **1** (of bees) move or go in large numbers round a queen bee for emigration to a new colony. **2** (of places) be crowded: *The beaches were ~ing with people.* **3** be present in large numbers: *The crowds ~ed into the cinemas.*

swarthy /'swɔ:ði/ adj having a dark skin.

swat /swɒt/ vt (-tt-) slap with a flat object: ~ a fly. □ n [C] **1** slap of this kind: *Give that fly a ~.* **2** implement with a handle for swatting (flies, etc): a fly-~.

swathe /sweɪð/ vt wrap: ~d in bandages.

sway /sweɪ/ vi, vt **1** (cause to) move, first to one side and then to the other: *The branches of the trees were ~ing in the wind.* **2** control or influence; govern the direction of: *a speech that ~ed the voters.* □ n [U] **1** swaying movement. **2** rule or control: *under the ~ of Rome*, (in ancient times).

swear /sweə(r)/ vt, vi (pt swore /swɔ:(r)/, pp sworn /swɔ:n/) **1** say solemnly or emphatically: *He swore to tell the truth/that he would tell the truth.* **2** (cause (a person) to) take an oath. **swear sb in**, cause him to take the oath of

office. **swear sb to secrecy**, make him swear to keep a secret. **3 swear by sth**, (a) appeal to as a witness or witnesses: *~ by all the gods that...* (b) (informal) use and have great confidence in: *He ~s by this ointment*. **4** make an affirmation after having taken an oath: *sworn evidence/statements*. **5** use curses and bad language: *The captain swore at his crew*. **'swear-word**, word used in swearing (5).

swearer, person who swears (5).

sweat /swet/ *n* [U] moisture that is given off by the body through the skin: *wipe the ~ off one's brow*. **2** (with *a*, *an*) condition of a person or animal (esp a horse) when covered with sweat: *be in a ~*. □ *vt, vi* give out sweat: *The long hot climb made him ~*.

'sweat shirt *n* [C] thick cotton sweater with long sleeves, worn informally.

sweaty *adj* (-ier, -iest) (making) damp with sweat.

sweater /'swetə(r)/ *n* [C] knitted jacket or jersey, usually of thick wool.

swede /swid/ *n* [C, U] kind of turnip.

sweep /swi:p/ *n* [C] **1** act of sweeping with, or as with, a broom, etc: *Give the room a good ~*. **make a clean sweep of sth**, get rid of what is unwanted completely: *They made a clean ~ of their old furniture/of the members of the committee*. **2** sweeping movement: *with one ~ of his arm*. **3** space, range, covered by a sweeping movement: *The radar has a ~ (= range) of 100 miles*. **4** long unbroken stretch, esp curved, on a road, river, coast, etc or of sloping land: *a fine ~ of country*. **5** steady uninterrupted flow: *the ~ of the tide*. **6** = chimney-sweep.

'sweep-stake, form of gambling on horse-races, the money paid by those who take part being divided among the winners.

sweep /swi:p/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* swept /swept/) **1** clear (dust, dirt, etc) away with, or as with, a brush or broom; clean by doing this: *~ the carpets/the floor*; *~ up the crumbs*; *~ a room clean/clear of dust*. **2** clean or move as with a broom: *The current swept the logs along*. **sweep the board**, win easily. **sweep sb of his feet**, □ *foot*¹ (1). **3** pass over or along, esp so as to overcome obstacles: *A huge wave swept over the deck*. **4** move in a dignified or stately manner: *She swept out of the room*. **5** extend in an unbroken line, curve or expanse: *The coast ~s northwards in a wide curve*. **6** pass over (as if) to examine or survey: *The searchlights swept the sky*. **7** move over lightly and quickly: *Her dress swept the ground*. **8** make (a bow, curtsey) with a sweeping movement: *He swept her a bow*.

sweeper, (a) person or thing that sweeps: *'street ~ers*. (b) (football) defender who covers the backs, tackling any opponent who passes them.

sweep-ing *adj* (a) far-reaching; taking in

very much: *~ing changes/reforms*. (b) *a ~ing statement*, not correct in detail.

sweet /swi:t/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (opposite of *sour*) tasting like sugar or honey: *It tastes ~*, has a sweet taste. **have a sweet tooth**, like things that taste sweet. **2** fresh and pure: *keep a room clean and ~; ~ breath*. **3** having a fragrant smell: *Don't the roses smell ~!* **4** pleasant or attractive: *a ~ face; ~ music*. *Isn't the baby ~!* □ *n* [C] **1** small piece of something sweet (boiled sugar, etc chocolate, etc). **2** dish of sweet food (puddings, tarts, jellies, trifles, etc) as one of the courses of a meal. **3** (dated) (as a form of address) darling: *Yes, my ~*.

'sweet-bread, pancreas of a calf or lamb used as food.

'sweet corn, maize kernels, boiled and eaten as food.

'sweet-heart, (dated) either of a pair of lovers: *David and his ~heart*.

'sweet po'tato, tropical climbing plant with thick edible roots, cooked as a vegetable.

'sweet 'tooth, (informal) liking for sweet-tasting things.

sweet-ly *adv*

sweet-ness *n* [U]

sweeten /'swi:tn/ *vt, vi* make or become sweet.

sweet-en-ing /'swi:tniŋ/ *n* [C, U] that which sweetens food and drink.

swell /swel/ *vi, vt* (*pt* ~ed /sweld/, *pp* swollen /'swəʊlən/) **1** (cause to) become greater in volume, thickness or force: *Wood often ~s when wet*. *His face began to ~*, eg from toothache. **have/suffer from a swollen head**, be conceited. Hence, **'swollen-'headed** *adj*. **2** have, cause to have, a curved surface: *The sails ~ed out in the wind*. *The wind ~ed the sails*. □ *n* [C] **1** gradual increase in the volume of sound: *the ~ of an organ*. **2** (sing only) slow rise and fall of the sea's surface after a storm: *There was a heavy ~ after the storm*. □ *adj* (dated informal) excellent; fashionable.

swell-ing, (esp) swollen place on the body, eg the result of a toothache.

swel-ter /'sweltə(r)/ *vi* be uncomfortably warm: *a ~ing hot day*.

swept /swept/ *pt, pp* of sweep².

swerve /swɜ:v/ *vi, vt* (cause to) change direction suddenly: *The car ~d to avoid knocking the boy down*. □ *n* [C] swerving movement.

swift /swift/ *adj* (-er, -est) quick; fast; prompt: *a ~ revenge*.

swift-ly *adv*

swift-ness *n* [U]

swift /swift/ *n* [C] kinds of small bird with long wings, similar to a swallow.

swill /swil/ *vt, vi* **1** rinse by pouring liquid into, over or through: *~ out a dirty tub*. **2** (informal) drink greedily: *The students were ~ing beer when they ought to have been working*. □ *n* **1** [C] rinsing: *Give the bucket a good ~ out*. **2**

[U] waste food, mostly liquid, eg as given to pigs.

swim /swɪm/ *vi, vt* (*pt* swam /swæm/, *pp* swum /swʌm/) (-mm-) **1** move the body through water by using arms, legs, fins, the tail, etc: *Fishes ~. Let's go ~ing. He swam across the river.* **2** cross by swimming: *~ the English Channel*; take part in (a race) in this way; compete in this way: *~ a race*; *~ two lengths of the pool.* **3** be covered (with), overflowing (with), or (as if) floating (in or on): *eyes ~ing with tears*; *meat ~ing in gravy.* **4** seem to be moving round and round; have a dizzy feeling: *The room swam before his eyes. His head swam.* **5** **swim with/against the tide/stream**, agree, act with/against general opinion. □ *n* [C] **1** act or period of swimming: *have/go for a ~.* **2** (*sing with the*) main current of affairs. **be in/out of the swim**, be/not be taking part in, aware of, what is going on.

swim-mer, person who swims.

'swim-ming bath/pool, pool for swimming in.

'swim-ming costume, **'swim-suit**, one-piece clothing worn by women and girls for swimming. ⇨ bikini.

'swim-ming-trunks *n pl* shorts worn by boys and men for swimming.

swindle /'swɪndl/ *vt, vi* cheat; get (money, etc) by cheating: *swindling money out of a brother*; *~ a child out of his money.* □ *n* [C] piece, act of swindling, eg something sold, etc that is less valuable than it is described to be: *This radio is a ~; the sound is bad.*

swindler /'swɪndlə(r)/, person who gets money, etc by cheating.

swine /swaɪn/ *n* [C] **1** (*pl* unchanged) pig. **2** (*sl*) disgusting person.

swung /swʌŋ/ *vi, vt* (*pt, pp* swung /swʌŋ/) **1** (of something having one end or one side fixed and the other free) move, cause to move, forwards and backwards or in a curve: *His arms swung as he walked. The door swung shut* | *swung to.* **2** turn, cause to turn, in a curve: *He swung round (= turned quickly) and faced his accusers.* **3** (*fig*) change (an opinion, etc). ⇨ **4** below. □ *n* [C] **1** swinging movement: *the ~ of the pendulum.* **2** strong rhythm. **in full swing**, active; in full operation. **3** seat held by ropes or chains for swinging on; act, period, of swinging on such a seat. **4** change (in opinion, voting, etc): *a ~ to the Tories.*

swing voter, person who changes his vote at elections.

swipe /swaɪp/ *vt* (*informal*) **1** hit hard: *The batsman ~d the ball into the grandstand.* **2** steal. □ *n* [C] swinging blow: *have/take a ~ at the ball.*

swirl /swɜ:l/ *vi, vt* (of water, air, etc) (cause to) move or flow at varying speeds, with twists and turns: *dust ~ing about the streets.* □ *n* [C] swirling movement: *the ~ of the tide.*

swish /swɪʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** move (something) through the air with a hissing or brushing sound; cut (something off) in this way: *The horse ~ed its tail.* **2** make, move with, a sound like that of something moving through the air: *Her long silk dress ~ed as she came in.* □ *n* [C] sound of, like, swishing.

switch /swɪtʃ/ *n* [C] **1** device for making and breaking a connection at railway points (to allow trains to go from one track to another). **2** device for making and breaking an electric circuit: *a 'light-~.* **3** thin twig, etc, eg as used for urging a horse on. **4** bunch of false hair. **5** transfer; change: *a ~ from Liberal to Labour.* □ *vt, vi* **1** use a switch (2) to turn (electric current) on/off: *~ the light/radio on.* **2** move (a train, tram, etc) on to another track: *~ a train into a siding.* **3** shift; change: *~ over to a socialist government.* **5** use a switch (3). **switch off**, (*fig*) stop being interested or involved. **switched on**, (*dated*) up-to-date, with-it.

'switch-board, apparatus for operating several telephone connections, eg in an office.

swivel /'swɪvl/ *n* [C] device used to join two parts (eg a chain and hook) so that one part can turn without turning the other. □ *vt, vi* (-ll-, US also -l-) turn on or as if on a swivel: *He ~led round in his chair.*

swob /swɒb/ *n, vt* (-bb-) = swab.

swollen /'swɒlən/ *pp* of swell, esp as an adjective: *a ~ ankle.*

swoon /swu:n/ *vi* (*dated*) faint. □ *n* [C] fainting fit.

swoop /swu:p/ *vi* come down on with a rush: *The eagle ~ed down on the rabbit.* □ *n* [C] swooping movement; sudden attempt to snatch and carry off something.

swop (also **swap**) /swɒp/ *vt, vi* (-pp-) (*informal*) exchange by bargaining: *~ foreign stamps.* **swop places with sb**, exchange seats, jobs, etc. □ *n* [C] exchange by bargaining.

sword /sɔ:d/ *n* [C] long steel blade fixed in a hilt, used as a weapon, or worn by army officers, etc as part of a uniform.

'sword-dance, dance over swords put on the ground, or one in which they are waved or clashed.

'sword-fish, large sea-fish with a long upper jaw.

swore, sworn ⇨ swear.

swot /swɒt/ *vi* (-tt-) **swot (up on)**, study a subject for an examination. □ *n* [C] person who swots.

swum /swʌm/ *pp* of swim.

swung /swʌŋ/ *pt, pp* of swing.

syca-more /'sɪkəmə:(r)/ *n* **1** [C] large tree valued for its wood. **2** [U] its hard wood.

syl-labic /sɪ'læbɪk/ *adj* of or in syllables.

syl-lable /'sɪləbl/ *n* [C] minimum rhythmic unit of spoken or written language. *'Arithmetic* is a word of four ~s.

syl-la-bus /ˈsɪləbəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* -es) outline or summary of a course of studies; programme of lessons.

sym-lo-gism /ˈsɪlədʒɪzəm/ *n* [C] form of reasoning in which a conclusion is reached from two statements, eg: *All men must die; I am a man; therefore I must die.*

sym-bol /ˈsɪmbəl/ *n* [C] sign, mark, object, etc looked on as representing something: *mathematical ~s*, eg \times , \div , $+$, $-$.

sym-bolic /ˈsɪmbəlik/ *adj* of, using, used as, a symbol.

sym-boli-cally /-kli/ *adv*

sym-bol-ize (also **-ise**) /ˈsɪmbəlaɪz/ *vt* be a symbol of; make use of a symbol for.

sym-met-ry /ˈsɪmətri/ *n* [U] (beauty resulting from the) exact shape, design, of opposite parts; quality of harmony or balance (in size, design, etc) between parts: *mathematical ~*.

sym-met-ric /ˈsɪmətrɪk/, **sym-met-ri-cal** /-kli/ *adj* having symmetry; (of a design) having (usually two) exactly similar parts on either side of a dividing line.

sym-met-ri-cally /-kli/ *adv*

sym-path-etic /ˈsɪmpəˈθetɪk/ *adj* having or showing, caused by, sympathy: *~ looks/ words/smiles; he feels ~ to/ towards someone.*

sym-path-eti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

sym-path-ize (also **-ise**) /ˈsɪmpəθaɪz/ *vi* feel or express sympathy (2) (with): *Tom's parents do not ~ with his ambition to be an actor.*

sym-path-izer (also **-iser**), person who sympathizes, eg one who supports a political party.

sym-path-y /ˈsɪmpəθi/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] (capacity for) sharing the feelings (troubles, pain) of others, feeling pity and tenderness: *send her a letter of ~; feel ~ for her.* **2** (often *pl*) beliefs, preferences, etc: *My sympathies are with the miners, I agree with them.*

sym-phon-ic /ˈsɪmfənik/ *adj* of, like, a symphony.

sym-phony /ˈsɪmfəni/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (music) (long) musical composition in (usually) three or four parts (called *movements*) for (usually a large) orchestra.

symp-tom /ˈsɪmptəm/ *n* [C] **1** change in the body's condition that is a sign of illness: *~s of measles.* **2** sign of the existence of something: *~s of political discontent.*

symp-to-matic /ˈsɪmptəˈmætɪk/ *adj* serving as a symptom: *Headaches may be ~atic of many kinds of trouble.*

symp-to-mati-cally /-kli/ *adv*

syna-gogue /ˈsɪnəɡɒɡ/ *n* [C] (building used for an) assembly of Jews for religious teaching and worship.

syn-chron-ize (also **-ise**) /ˈsɪŋkrənaɪz/ *vt, vi* (cause to) happen at the same time, agree in time, speeds, etc: *~ the clocks in a building.*

syn-chron-iz-ation (also **-isation**) /ˈsɪŋkrənəɪˈzeɪʃn/ *US: -nɪˈz-/ n* [U]

syn-di-cate /ˈsɪndɪkət/ *n* [C] **1** business association that supplies articles, cartoons, etc to periodicals. **2** combination of commercial firms associated to forward a common interest. *□ vt* /ˈsɪndɪkeɪt/ publish (articles, strip-cartoons, etc) in several periodicals through a syndicate (1).

syn-drome /ˈsɪndrəʊm/ *n* [C] **1** (medical) number of symptoms which indicate an illness, etc. **2** similar series of happenings describing a general condition.

synod /ˈsɪnəd/ *n* [C] meeting of church officers to discuss and decide questions of policy, government, teaching, etc.

syn-on-ym /ˈsɪnənəm/ *n* [C] word with the same meaning as another in the same language but often with different implications and associations. *□* **antonym.**

syn-ony-mous /sɪˈnɒnɪməs/ *adj*

syn-op-sis /sɪˈnɒpsɪs/ *n* [C] (*pl* -opses /-sɪz/) summary or outline (of a book, etc).

syn-op-tic /sɪˈnɒptɪk/ *adj*

syn-tac-tic /sɪˈtæktɪk/ *adj* of syntax.

syn-tac-ti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

syn-tax /ˈsɪntæks/ *n* [U] (linguistics) (grammatical rules for) forming sentences.

syn-thesis /ˈsɪnθəsis/ *n* [C, U] (*pl* -theses /-sɪz/) combination of separate parts, elements, substances, etc into a whole or into a system; that which results from this process: *produce rubber from petroleum by ~.*

syn-thetic /sɪnˈθetɪk/ *adj*

syph-ilis /ˈsɪfəlɪs/ *n* [U] infectious venereal disease.

syphon /ˈsaɪfən/ *n* = siphon.

syr-ing-e /sɪˈrɪndʒ/ *n* [C] kinds of device for drawing in liquid by suction and forcing it out again in a fine stream, used for injecting liquids into the body, etc: *a hypodermic ~. □ vt* clean, inject liquid into, apply liquid, with a syringe.

syrup /ˈsɪrəp/ *US: ˈsərəp/ n* [U] thick sweet liquid made from sugar-cane juice or by boiling sugar with water.

sys-tem /ˈsɪstəm/ *n* [C] **1** group of things or parts working together in a regular relation: *the ~ nervous ~; the ~ digestive ~; a ~ railway ~.* **2** ordered set of ideas, theories, principles, etc: *a ~ of government; a com~puter ~.* **3** [U] organization: *You mustn't expect good results if you work without ~.*

sys-tem-atic /ˈsɪstəˈmætɪk/ *adj* methodical; based on a system: *a ~atic analysis.*

sys-tem-ati-cally /-kli/ *adv*

Tt

T, t /ti:/ (p/ T's, t's /ti:z/) the twentieth letter of the alphabet.

'T-junction, place where two roads, pipes, wires, etc meet to form a T.

'T-shirt, short-sleeved, cotton shirt like a vest, worn informally.

'T-square, T-shaped instrument for drawing right angles.

ta /ta:/ *int* (informal) thank you.

tab /tæb/ *n* [C] **1** small piece or strip of cloth, etc fixed to clothing, etc as a badge or distinguishing mark or (as a loop) for hanging up a coat, etc. **2** (informal) account. **keep tabs on sth/sb**, keep under observation.

tab-er-na-cle /'tæbəneɪkl/ *n* [C] **1** the T~, the portable structure used by the Jews as a sanctuary during their wanderings before they settled in Palestine. **2** place of worship, eg a Baptist Church or Mormon temple.

table /'teɪbl/ *n* [C] **1** piece of furniture consisting of a flat top with (usually four) supports (called legs): a 'dining~; a 'kitchen~. **set the table**, ⇨ set²(9). **2** (sing only) people seated at a table: *jokes that amused the whole ~*. **3** list, orderly arrangement, of facts, information, etc: a ~ of contents, summary of what a book contains; a 'time~. **4 turn the tables on sb**, gain a position of superiority after having been defeated or in a position of inferiority. □ *vi* **1** put (a proposal, etc) forward for discussion: ~ a motion/a Bill. **2** put in the form of a table(3).

'table-cloth, one (to be) spread on a table.

'table-knife, knife for eating with.

'table-mat, one to be placed under a hot dish or plate on a table.

'table-spoon, large spoon for serving food from a dish, etc.

'table-spoon-ful /-fʊl/, as much as a table-spoon can hold.

'table-talk, conversation during a meal.

'table tennis, game with bats and a ball, similar to tennis but played on a table.

'table-ware, dishes, silver, cutlery, etc used for meals.

tab-let /'tæblɪt/ *n* [C] **1** flat surface with words cut or written on it, eg one fixed to a wall in memory of a person or thing. **2** number of sheets of writing-paper fastened together along one edge. **3** piece of hard soap. **4** small, shaped piece of compressed medicine: *two ~s of aspirin*.

tab-loid /'tæblɔɪd/ *n* [C] newspaper with many pictures, strip cartoons, etc and with its

news presented in a form easily understood.

ta-boo /tə'bu:/ *US*: tæ'bu:/ *n* **1** [C,U] (among some primitive races) something which religion or custom regards as forbidden, not to be touched, spoken of, etc: *That tree is under (a) ~*. **2** [C] general agreement not to discuss or do something. □ *adj* under a taboo: *Many derogatory names for people are ~ □ vi* forbid, esp on moral or religious grounds.

taboo word, one which convention prohibits, eg swear-words.

tabu-lar /'tæbjʊlə(r)/ *adj* arranged in tables(3).

tabu-late /'tæbjʊleɪt/ *vi* arrange (facts, figures, etc) in tables(3).

tabu-la-tion /tæbjʊ'leɪʃn/ *n* [U]

tacit /'tæsɪt/ *adj* understood without being put into words: ~ consent/agreement.

tacit-ly *adv*

taci-turn /'tæsɪtɜ:n/ *adj* (formal) (in the habit of) saying very little.

tack /tæk/ *n* [C] **1** small, flat-headed nail (eg used for securing carpet to a floor). ⇨ thumb-tack. **2** long, loose stitch used in fastening pieces of cloth together loosely or temporarily. **3** sailing-ship's direction as fixed by the direction of the wind and the position of the sails. **on the right/wrong tack**, (fig) following a wise/unwise course of action. □ *vi,vi* **1** fasten with tacks(1): ~ down the carpet. **2** fasten with tacks(2): ~ a hem. **3** make a tack(3).

tackle /'tækl/ *n* **1** [C,U] set of ropes and pulleys for lifting weights, etc. **2** [U] equipment, apparatus, for doing something: 'fishing ~, a rod, line, hooks, etc. **3** [C] act of seizing and bringing down an opponent with the ball (in rugby and American-style football); act of taking the ball from an opponent (in soccer). □ *vi,vi* **1** deal with, attack (a problem, a piece of work): *I don't know how to ~ this problem*, how to start on it. **tackle sb about/over sth**, speak to him frankly (about a problem, etc). **2** seize, eg a thief or a player who, in rugby, has the ball: *He ~s fearlessly*. **3** get the ball from (in soccer, etc): *a fair/unfair ~*.

tact /tækt/ *n* [U] (use of) skill and understanding shown by a person who handles people and situations successfully and without causing offence: *show/have great ~*.

tact-ful /-fʊl/ *adj* having or showing tact.

tact-fully /-fʊli/ *adv*

tact-less *adj* without tact.

tact-less-ly *adv*

tac-tic /'tæktɪk/ *n* [C] **1** means of achieving an aim. **2** (pl) art of placing or moving fighting forces for or during battle. (Note: often used with a *sing verb*.) **3** (pl) (fig) plan(s) or method(s) for carrying out a policy: *These ~s are unlikely to help you*.

tac-ti-cal /-kl/ *adj* of tactics: *a ~al error*.

tac-ti-cally /-kli/ *adv*

tac-ti-cian /tæk'tɪʃn/ *n* [C] expert in tactics.

tac-tile /'tæktail/ *US*: -tl/ *adj* of, experienced by, the sense of touch: ~ greetings, eg kissing.

tad-pole /'tædpəʊl/ *n* [C] form of a frog or toad from the time it leaves the egg to the time when it takes its adult form.

tag /tæg/ *n* [C] 1 metal or plastic point at the end of a shoelace, string, etc. 2 label (eg for showing prices, addresses) fastened to or stuck into something. 3 any loose or ragged end. 4 [U] game in which one child chases and tries to touch another. □ *vt, vi* (-gg-) 1 fasten a tag(2) to. 2 **tag along/behind/after**, follow closely: *T~ along with us* (= Come with us) *if you like*.

tail /teɪl/ *n* [C] 1 long movable part at the end of the body of a bird, some animals, fish or reptiles: *Dogs wag their ~s when they are pleased*. **turn tail**, run away. 2 something like a tail in position: *the ~ of a kite/aircraft*. 3 (pl) side of a coin opposite to that in which there is the head of a monarch, etc. 4 (informal) person employed to follow and watch another person, eg a suspected criminal: *put a ~ on him*. □ *vt, vi* 1 **tail after sb**, follow close behind. 2 **tail sb**, follow him closely, eg because he is suspected to be a criminal. 3 **tail off/away**, (a) gradually become smaller in number, size, etc. (b) (of remarks, etc) end in a hesitating or inconclusive way. (c) fall behind or away in a scattered line. 4 **tail back**, (of a queue, a line of vehicles, etc) extend back a long way.

tail-land, (usually with *the*) final part: *at the ~end of the procession*.

tail-gate, door or flap at the back of a motor-vehicle which can be opened for loading and unloading.

tail-light, light at the end of a train, bus or other vehicle.

tail-spin, spiral dive of an aircraft in which the tail makes wider circles than the front.

tail wind, wind blowing in the same direction as the aircraft, ship, etc.

tail-less *adj* having no tail: *a ~less cat*.

tailor /'teɪlə(r)/ *n* [C] maker of coats, suits, etc. □ *vt* 1 cut out and sew: *a well-~ed suit*. 2 adapt: *~ed for a particular age-group*.

tailor-made *adj* (a) (esp of a woman's coat and skirt) made by a tailor, with special attention to exact fit. (b) (fig) appropriate, suitable: *He seems ~made for the job*.

taint /teɪnt/ *n* [C,U] trace of some bad smell, decay or infection: *There was a ~ of insanity in the family*. □ *vt, vi* make or become infected: *~ed meat*.

take /teɪk/ *vt, vi* (pt took /tʊk/, pp taken /'teɪkən/) (For use with a large number of nouns, ⇨ the noun entries, eg account¹(6), care¹(1), chance¹(1), effect¹(1), hint, leave²(3), notice³(3), offence²(2), part¹(4), place¹(1), stock¹(1), task, trouble¹(3),

word. For special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions* ⇨ 16 below.) 1 get or hold with the hand(s) or any other part of the body, eg the arms, teeth or with an instrument: ~ *her hand*; ~ *a man by the throat*; *He took her in his arms*, embraced her. 2 capture; catch; win (in a contest, etc): ~ *a town*, in war; ~ *50 prisoners*; *be ~n prisoner*, be caught and be made a prisoner. *Her horse took* (= was awarded) *the first prize*. **take a fancy to**, ⇨ fancy²(3). **be taken ill**, ⇨ ill¹(1). **take sb by surprise/unawares**, discover him doing something when he does not know that one sees him, etc. 3 use without permission or by mistake; steal: *Who has ~n my bicycle?* 4 carry something, go (away) with somebody from a place: ~ *letters to the post*; ~ *a friend home in one's car*. *T~ her some flowers*. 5 get, have; eat or drink; allow oneself: ~ *a holiday/a walk/a bath/a quick look round/a deep breath*. *Do you ~ sugar in your coffee?* **take a/the chair/a seat**, ⇨ chair¹(1), seat¹(1). 6 accept; receive: *Will you ~ £450 for the car*, let me buy it for this sum? ⇨ takings. *I'm not taking any more of your insults*, I refuse to listen to them. ⇨ also easy²(2). **take it from me; take my word for it**, ⇨ word⁴(4). **be able to take it; can take it**, be able to endure suffering, punishment, attack, etc without showing weakness, without admitting defeat, easily etc. 7 receive and pay for regularly: *Which newspapers do you ~?* 8 make record of: ~ *notes of a lecture*; ~ *a letter*, from dictation; ~ *a photograph*. 9 need, require: *The work took four hours*. ⇨ time¹(3). 10 suppose; consider to be: *I took you to be an honest man*. *Do you ~ me for a fool?* 11 find out (by inquiry, measurement, etc): *The doctor took my temperature*. 12 (gram) use: *a transitive verb ~s a direct object*. 13 be in charge and act: ~ *a class*, give the class its lesson, etc. 14 be successful: *That smallpox injection did not ~*. 15 use as transport: *I always ~ the bus to work*.

16 (special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*):

be taken aback, ⇨ aback.

take after sb, resemble (esp a parent or relation) in features or character: *Your daughter does not ~ after you in any way*.

take sth apart, separate it (machinery, etc) into its (component) parts.

take away, (a) (maths) minus: *4 ~ away 2 is 2*. (b) (of a meal) take out of a restaurant to eat at home. Hence, **take-away** *adj, n*: ~away 'meals; Chinese ~aways. **take sth/sb away (from sb/sth)**, remove: *Not to be ~n away*, eg books from a library. *The child was ~n away from the school*.

take sth back, (a) withdraw (what one has said) as an admission of error, as an apology, etc: *I ~ back what I said*. (b) agree to receive back: *Shops will not usually ~ back goods after*

they have been paid for. **take sb back (to)**, cause to think of an earlier period: *These stories took him back to his childhood, brought it back to his mind.*

take sth down, (a) write down: *The reporters took down the speech.* (b) lower; get by lifting down from (a shelf, etc): *~ down a book from the top shelf; ~ down a mast.* (c) pull down; get into separate parts: *~ down the scaffolding round a building.*

take from, ⇨ take away above.

take sth in, (a) receive (work) to be done in one's own house for payment: *She earns money by taking in sewing.* (b) reduce the size, area, length or width of (clothes, a sail, etc): *This dress needs to be ~n in (= made smaller) at the waist.* (c) include, eg in one's journey or route: *a tour that ~s in six European capitals.* (d) understand: *They listened to my lecture, but how much did they ~ in?* (e) see at once: *She took in every detail of her clothes.* (f) listen to, watch, with excitement: *The children took in the whole spectacle open-mouthed.*

take sb in, (a) admit (into one's home) for payment: *make a living by taking in guests.* (b) deceive: *Don't let yourself be ~n in by these politicians.*

take off, (a) make a start in jumping. (b) (of an aircraft) leave the ground and rise. Hence, **'take-off** *n*: *a smooth ~off.* **take sth off**, (a) remove: *~ off one's hat.* (b) withdraw (from service): *The 7am express to Bristol will be ~n off next month, will not run.*

take sth off (sth), (a) lift and move to another position: *T~ your hand off my shoulder.*

(b) deduct: *~ 50p off the price.* **take sb off**, (a) lead away somewhere: *He was ~n off to prison.* (b) imitate (for amusement): *Alice is clever at taking off her head teacher.* Hence, **'take-off** *n*: *a good ~off of the Prime Minister.*

not/never take one's eyes off sth/sb, look at constantly: *He never took his eyes off her, looked at her all the time.*

take sth on, (a) undertake: *~ on extra work/responsibilities.* (b) put on (a quality, appearance): *The chameleon can ~ on the colours of its background.* **take sb on**, (a) accept as an opponent: *~ him on at golf.* (b) employ: *~ on twenty more workers.* (c) (of a train, etc) allow to enter: *The bus stopped to ~ on some children.*

take sth out, (a) extract; remove: *have a tooth ~n out.* (b) obtain: *~ out an insurance policy.* **take sb out**, (a) invite and go with a girlfriend, etc on a social outing. (b) lead, go with: *~ the children out for a walk.* **take it out of sb**, leave him weak and exhausted: *All that hard work has ~n it out of him.* **take it out on sb**, show one's disappointment, etc by being angry, etc with somebody else: *He was angry at losing his job and took it out on his wife.*

take sb over, carry from one place to an-

other: *Mr White took me over to the island in his launch.* **take sth over**, assume control of; succeed to the management or ownership of (a business, etc): *When Mrs Green retired her son took over the business.* Hence, **'take-over** *n* [C] change of control of a firm or company, eg after another has made a successful bid to buy its stock: *a ~over bid.* **take over (from sb)**, accept duties, responsibilities, etc: *The new Chancellor took over (ie from his predecessor) yesterday.*

take to sth, (a) adopt as a practice or hobby, etc; get into a habit: *~ to gardening when one retires.* (b) take refuge in; use as a means of escape: *~ to the woods, go to the woods to avoid capture.* **take to sth/sb**, have a liking for: *He will never ~ to cricket. I have really ~n to my mother-in-law.*

take sth up, (a) pick up; raise: *~ up one's pen/book/gun.* (b) interest oneself in: *~ up photography.* (c) continue (something unfinished): *Harry took up the tale at the point where John had left off.* (d) occupy (time, space): *This table ~s up too much space.*

take sth up with sb, speak or write to: *I will ~ the matter up with the Ministry, eg by asking for information, or by making a protest.*

take sth upon oneself, assume responsibility; undertake: *You mustn't ~ upon yourself the right to make decisions.*

take² /teɪk/ *n* 1 [C] amount (of money) taken. 2 (filming) scene that has been or is to be photographed. 3 act of taking.

taker /'teɪkə(r)/ *n* [C] person who, that which, takes: *There were no ~s, no one placed a bet.*

tak-ing /'teɪkɪŋ/ *adj* attractive; captivating. *o n (pl)* money taken in business; receipts.

tal-cum powder /'tælkəm paʊdə(r)/ *n* [U] perfumed powder for the skin.

tale /teɪl/ *n* [C] 1 story: *~s of adventure.* 2 report; account. **tell tales**, tell something about another person, esp something he has done wrong.

tal-ent /'tælənt/ *n* [C,U] (particular kind of) natural power or ability to do something well: *a man of many ~s; have a ~ for music/not much ~ for painting.*

tal-ented *adj* having talent; skilled.

tal-is-man /'tælɪsmən/ *n* [C] lucky charm.

talk¹ /tɔːk/ *n* 1 [C,U] conversation; discussion: *I've had several ~s with the headmaster about my boy.* ⇨ small talk. **the talk of the town**, something or somebody that everyone is talking about. 2 [C] informal speech: *give a ~ on a holiday in Asia.*

talk² /tɔːk/ *vi*, *v* 1 say things; speak to give information; discuss something, etc: *He was ~ing to (less often with) a friend. What are they ~ing about? Were they ~ing in Spanish or in Portuguese?* **be/get oneself talked about**, be made the subject of gossip. **talk down to sb**, talk in a way that suggests that

the speaker is superior. **Talking of...** While on the subject of: *Talking of travel, have you been to Munich yet?* **talk sth over**, discuss it. **talk round sth**, discuss a subject without reaching the point or a conclusion. **2** have the power of speech: *Can the baby ~ yet?* **3** be able to use (a language): *~ English/Spanish*. **4** discuss: *We ~ed music all evening*. **5** express in words: *~ sense/nonsense/treason*. **talk shop**, ⇨ **shop**(2). ⇨ also **neck**(1). **6** bring into a certain condition by talking: *~ oneself hoarse*, talk until one's throat hurts. **talk sb into/out of doing sth**, persuade him to do/not to do it: *She ~ed her husband into having a holiday in France*. **7** (various uses): *Don't do anything indiscreet—you know how people ~, gossip*. *Has the accused man ~ed yet*, given information, eg under torture or threats?

'talking point, topic that has caused or will probably cause discussion.

talka-tive /'tɔ:kətv/ *adj* fond of talking.

talker, (esp with an adjective) person who talks: *a good/poor ~er*.

tall /tɔ:l/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (of persons) of more than average height: *She is ~er than her sister*. **2** (of objects such as a tree whose height is greater than its width) higher than the average or than surrounding objects: *a ~ block of flats*. **2** of a specified height: *Tom is six foot ~*. **3 a tall order**, an unreasonable request; a task difficult to perform. **a tall story**, excuse, explanation, description, etc that is difficult or impossible to believe.

tall-ish /-ɪʃ/ *adj* rather tall.

tal-low /'tæləʊ/ *n* [U] hard (esp animal) fat used for making candles, etc.

tally /'tæli/ □ *vi* (pt, pp -ied) (of stories, amounts, etc) correspond; agree: *The two lists do not ~*. *Does your total ~ with mine?*

talon /'tælən/ *n* [C] claw of a bird, eg an eagle.

tam-bour-ine /'tæmbə:rɪn/ *n* [C] small, shallow drum with metal discs in the rim, played by striking with the knuckles and shaking it at the same time.

tame /teɪm/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (of animals) brought under control and/or accustomed to living with human beings; not wild or fierce: *a ~ monkey*. **2** (of a person) easily controlled or persuaded: *Her husband is a ~ little man*. **3** dull: *The story/film has a ~ ending*. □ *vt* make tame: *~ a lion*.

tamer, (usually in compounds) person who tames animals: *a lion-~er*.

tame-ly *adv* (of a person) acting, speaking, without courage, strength, etc.

tame-ness *n* [U]

tam-per /'tæmpə(r)/ *vi* **tamper with**, interfere with: *Someone has been ~ing with the lock*.

tam-pon /'tæmpən/ *n* [C] compact lump of cotton-wool, etc used to plug a hole in the body, eg to stop bleeding.

tan /tæn/ *n* [C], *adj* yellowish-brown; brown colour of sunburnt skin: *~ leather shoes/gloves*; *get a good ~* (on one's skin). □ *vt, vi* (-nn-) **1** (of an animal's skin) make, be made, into leather. **tan sb's hide**, (sl) give him a good beating. **2** make or become brown with sunburn: *Some people ~ quickly*.

tan-ner, workman who tans skins.

tan-ner-y /'tænəri/, place where skins are tanned..

tan-dem /'tændəm/ *n* [C] bicycle made for two persons to ride on one behind the other, with pedals for both. □ *adv* (of horses in harness or two persons on a tandem) one behind the other: *drive/ride ~*.

tang /tæŋ/ *n* [C] sharp taste or flavour, esp one that is characteristic of something: *the salty ~ of the sea air*.

tan-gent /'tændʒənt/ *n* [C] straight line touching a curve. **go/fly off at a tangent**, (fig) change suddenly from one line of thought, action, etc to another.

tan-ger-ine /'tændʒərɪn/ *US*: /'tændʒərɪn/ *n* [C] small, sweet-scented kind of orange.

tan-gible /'tændʒəbl/ *adj* **1** that can be known by touch. **2** clear and definite: *~ proof*.

tan-gibly /-əblɪ/ *adv*

tangle /'tæŋgl/ *n* [C] **1** confused mass (of string, hair, etc): *brush the ~s out of a dog's hair*. **2** confused state: *The traffic was in a frightful ~*. □ *vt, vi* **1** make or become confused, disordered: *~d hair*. **2 (informal)** be/ become involved in a fight or quarrel: *Don't ~ with Peter—he's bigger than you*.

tango /'tæŋɡəʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) (music for a) S American dance with strongly marked rhythm and a variety of steps.

tank /tæŋk/ *n* [C] **1** (usually large) container for liquid or gas: *the 'petrol-~ of a car*; *an 'oil-~*. **2** armoured fighting vehicle with guns, moving on endless belts instead of wheels. □ *vi* **get tanked up**, (sl) get drunk (on beer).

tan-ker, (a) ship or aircraft for carrying petroleum. (b) heavy road vehicle with a large cylindrical tank for carrying oil, milk or other liquid.

tank-ard /'tæŋkəd/ *n* [C] large drinking mug, esp one for beer.

tan-ner, tan-ner-y, ⇨ **tan**.

tan-ta-lize (also **-ise**) /'tæntəlaɪz/ *vt* raise hopes that cannot (yet) be realized; keep just out of reach something that a person desires: *a tantalizing smell of food*.

tan-ta-mount /'tæntəmaʊnt/ *adj* **tantamount to**, equal in effect to: *The Queen's request was ~ to a command*.

tan-trum /'tæntɾəm/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) fit of temper or anger: *He's in one of his ~s again*.

tap /tæp/ *n* [C] **1** device for controlling the flow of liquid or gas from a pipe, barrel, etc: *Turn the ~ on/off*. *Don't leave the ~s running*, 'ie turn them off. **on tap**, (fig) available when

needed. **2** plug used to close the opening of a cask. □ *vt* (-pp-) **1** draw out liquid through the tap of a (barrel): ~ (off) *cider from a cask*. **2** cut (the bark of a tree) and get (the sap, etc): ~ *rubber-trees*. **3** extract or obtain: ~ *a man for information*; ~ *a telephone/wire/line*, listen in without permission to get information, etc.

tap² /tæp/ *n* [C] **1** quick, light touch or blow: *a ~ on the window/at the door*. **2** (pl) (US armed forces) last signal of the day (by drum or bugle) for lights to be put out. □ *vt, vi* (-pp-) give a tap or taps (to): ~ *a man on the shoulder*. **'tap-dancing**, with rhythmical tapping of the foot.

tape /teip/ *n* [C, U] **1** (piece, length of) narrow strip of material used for tying up parcels, etc or in dressmaking: *three metres of linen ~*. □ also insulating tape, red tape. **2** length of tape stretched between the winning-posts on a race-track. **3** = magnetic tape. □ *vt* **1** fasten, tie together, with tape. **2** record (sound) on magnetic tape. **3 have sth/sb taped**, (informal) understand it/him thoroughly.

'tape deck, tape recorder (without speakers or amplifiers) as a component in a hi-fi system.

'tape-measure, length of thin, flexible metal or of strengthened cloth, marked for measuring distances, widths, etc.

'tape recorder, apparatus for recording sound on, and playing sound back from, magnetic tape.

'tape-worm, kinds of many-jointed, long, flat worm that lives during its adult stage as a parasite in the intestines of man and other animals.

taper¹ /'teipə(r)/ *n* [C] length of string with a covering of wax, burnt to give a light.

taper² /'teipə(r)/ *vt, vi* make or become gradually narrower towards one end: *One end ~s/is ~ed off to a point*.

tap-es-try /'tæpɪstri/ *n* [C, U] (pl -ies) (piece of) cloth into which threads of coloured wool are woven by hand to make designs and pictures.

tapi-oca /'tæpi'əʊkə/ *n* [U] food (hard, white grains) used to make a milk pudding.

ta-pir /'teipə(r)/ *n* [C] animal of Central and S America, like a pig but with a long, flexible nose.

tar /tɑ:(r)/ *n* [U] black substance obtained from coal, etc used to preserve timber (eg in fences and posts), in making roads, etc. □ *vt* (-rr-) cover with tar. **tar and feather sb**, put tar on him and then cover him with feathers as a punishment. **tarred with the same brush**, having the same faults.

'tar-mac, (mixture of tar and gravel, as used for a) road surface.

ta-ran-tula /tə'ræntjələ/ *US*: -tʃələ/ *n* [C] large, hairy, poisonous spider of S Europe.

tar-get /'tɑ:ɡɪt/ *n* [C] **1** something to be aimed

at in shooting-practice; any object aimed at. **2** thing, plan, etc against which criticism is directed: *This book will be the ~ of bitter criticism*. **3** objective (set for savings, production, etc); total which it is desired to reach.

tar-iff /'tærɪf/ *n* [C] **1** list of fixed charges, esp for meals, rooms, etc at a hotel. **2** list of taxes on goods imported or (less often) exported.

tar-mac /'tɑ:mæk/ *n* □ *tar*.

tarn /tɑ:n/ *n* [C] small mountain lake.

tar-nish /'tɑ:nɪʃ/ *vi, vt* **1** (esp of metal surfaces) lose, cause the loss of, brightness: *Brass ~es easily*. **2** (fig) lessen the quality of: *His reputation is ~ed*. □ *n* [U] dullness because of loss of polish.

tar-pau-lin /tɑ:'pɔ:lin/ *n* [C, U] (sheet or cover of) canvas made waterproof, esp by being tarred.

tar-ra-gon /'tærəɡən/ *US*: -ɡɒn/ *n* [U] herb with sharp-tasting leaves.

tarry¹ /'tærɪ/ *adj* covered, sticky, with tar.

tarry² /'tærɪ/ *vi* (literary) stay, remain; be slow in coming, going, appearing.

tart¹ /tɑ:t/ *adj* **1** acid in taste: *a ~ flavour*. **2** (fig) bitter: ~ *humour*.

tart-ly *adv*

tart² /tɑ:t/ *n* [C] pastry cooked with fruit or jam on it.

tart³ /tɑ:t/ *n* [C] (sf) girl or woman of immoral character. □ *vi* **tart sth/sb up**, (informal) dress, decorate, (too) brightly.

tar-tan /tɑ:tæn/ *n* [U] Scottish woollen fabric woven with coloured crossing stripes; [C] this pattern, eg of a Scottish clan.

tar-tar¹ /'tɑ:tə(r)/ *n* [U] **1** chalk-like substance deposited on the teeth. **2** substance deposited on the sides of casks from fermented wine.

task /tɑ:sk/ *US*: tæsk/ *n* [C] piece of (esp hard) work (to be) done: *set a boy a ~*. **take sb to task (about/for sth)**, scold him: *It's wrong of you to take the child to ~ for such a silly offence*.

'task-force, specially organized unit (of police, etc) for a special purpose.

'task-master/-mistress, person who decides on work to be done, esp strictly.

tas-sel /tæsl/ *n* [C] bunch of threads, etc tied together at one end and hanging (from a flag, hat, etc) as an ornament.

tas-sel-led (US = **tas-seled**) *adj* having tassels.

taste¹ /teɪst/ *n* **1** [U] (with *the*) sense by which flavour is known: *sweet/sour to the ~*. **2** [C, U] quality of a substance made known by this sense, eg by putting some on the tongue: *Sugar has a sweet ~*. **3** (usually *sing* with *a, an*) small quantity (of something to eat or drink): *Won't you have a ~ of this cake/wine? Give him a ~ of the whip, (fig) enough to be a sample of what it feels like to be whipped*. **4** [C, U] liking or preference: *She has expensive ~s in clothes*. **There's no accounting for tastes**, It is

not obvious why different people like different things. **5** [U] ability to enjoy beauty, esp in art and literature; ability to form judgements about these; ability to choose and use the best kind.

taste-ful /-fl/ *adj* showing good taste(5).

taste-fully /-fəli/ *adv* in a tasteful manner: ~fully decorated with flowers.

taste-less *adj* (a) (of food) having no flavour. (b) without taste(5).

taste-less-ly *adv*

tasty *adj* (-ier, -iest) having a pleasant flavour.

taste² /teɪst/ *vt, vi* **1** be aware of the taste of something: *Can you ~ anything strange in this soup?* **2** have a particular taste or flavour: *tasting sour/bitter/sweet.* **3** test the taste of: *She ~d the soup to see if she had put enough salt in it.* **4** experience: ~ happiness/the joys of freedom.

tat /tæt/ *n* ⇨ tit².

ta ta /tɑː/ *int* (baby language) goodbye.

tat-ters /'tætəz/ *n pl* pieces of cloth, paper, etc torn off or hanging loosely from something: *in ~*, torn badly.

tat-too¹ /tæ'tuː/ *n [C] (pl ~s)* **1** (sing only) beating of drum(s) to call soldiers back to quarters; hour at which this is sounded: *beat/sound the ~.* **2** [C] continuous tapping: *He was beating a ~ on the table with his fingers.* **3** [C] public entertainment, with music, marching, etc by soldiers.

tat-too² /tæ'tuː/ *vt* mark (a person's skin) with permanent designs or patterns by pricking it and putting in dyes or stains: *The sailor had a ship ~ed on his arm.* **n** [C] (pl ~s) mark or design of this kind.

tatty /'tæti/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (sl) untidy and worn.

taught /tɔ:t/ *pt, pp* of teach.

taunt /tɔ:nt/ *n [C]* remark intended to hurt a person's feelings: *listen to the ~s of a successful rival.* **vt** attack (a person) with taunts: *They ~ed the boy with being a coward.*

taunt-ing-ly *adv*

Taurus /'tɔ:ras/ *n* the Bull, second sign of the zodiac.

taut /tɔ:t/ *adj* (of ropes, nerves, etc) tightly stretched: *pull a rope ~.*

tauto-logi-cal /tɔ:tɔ'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* of, containing, tautology.

taut-ol-ogy /tɔ:tɔ'lɒdʒɪ/ *n [U]* the saying of the same thing again in different ways without making one's meaning clearer or more forceful; [C] (pl -ies) instance of this, eg 'a two-wheeled bicycle'.

tav-ern /'tævən/ *n [C] (old use)* pub selling food and drink (to be consumed on the premises).

taw-dry /'tɔ:drɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) brightly coloured or decorated, but cheap or in bad taste: ~ jewellery/dresses.

taw-drily /-əli/ *adv*

tawny /'tɔ:ni/ *adj* brownish-yellow.

tax /tæks/ *n* **1** [C,U] (sum of) money (to be) paid by citizens (according to income, value of purchases, etc) to the government for public purposes: *state/local ~es*; *direct ~es*, ie on income; *indirect ~es*, eg paid when one buys goods. **2** *a tax on*, (sing only) something that is a burden or strain: *a ~ on one's strength/health/patience.* **vi** **1** put a tax on; require (a person) to pay a tax: ~ luxuries/incomes/rich and poor alike. **2** be a tax on: ~ a person's patience, eg by asking him many silly questions. **3** *tax sb with sth*, accuse: ~ her with neglect of/with having neglected her work.

tax-free *adj* (a) not subject to taxation. (b) (of dividends or interest) on which tax has been deducted before distribution.

tax-collector, official who collects taxes.

tax-payer, person who pays taxes.

tax-able /-əbl/ *adj* to be taxed: ~able income.

tax-ation /tæks'eɪʃn/ *n [U]* (system of) raising money by taxes; taxes (to be) paid.

taxi /'tæksi/ *n [C] (pl ~s)* motor-car, esp one with a meter, which may be hired for journeys. **vi, vt** (of an aircraft) (cause to) move on wheels along the ground (or on floats, etc on the surface of water): *The plane ~ed/was ~ing across the tarmac.*

'taxi-cab, (common abbr *cab*) = taxi.

'taxi rank, place where taxis wait to be hired.

tea /tiː/ *n* **1** [U] (dried leaves of an) evergreen shrub of eastern Asia, India, etc; drink made by pouring boiling water on these leaves: *a cup of ~*; *make (the) ~*, prepare it. **not my cup of tea**, (fig) not the sort of thing I like. **2** [C, U] occasion (in the late afternoon) at which tea is drunk: *We have ~ at half-past four.* ⇨ high tea.

'tea bag, small bag with enough tea leaves for one cup of tea.

'tea-break, (in an office, factory, etc) short period when work is stopped for tea drinking.

'tea-caddy, air-tight box in which to keep a supply of tea for daily use.

'tea-chest, large wooden box in which tea is packed for export.

'tea-cloth, cloth used for drying cups, etc when they are washed.

'tea-cosy, cover for keeping the contents of a teapot warm.

'tea-cup, cup in which tea is served. **a storm in a teacup**, a lot of fuss about something unimportant.

'tea-pot, vessel in which tea is made.

'tea-room, restaurant which serves tea and light refreshments.

'tea-service/-set, set of cups, saucers, plates, with a teapot, milk-jug, etc.

'tea-spoon, small spoon for stirring tea.

'tea-spoon-ful /-fʊl/, as much as a teaspoon can hold.

'tea-strainer, device for sieving tea.
'tea-things, (informal) things needed for having tea: *Please wash up the ~-things.*
'tea-time, time at which tea is usually taken in the afternoon.
'tea-tray, one on which a tea-set is used or carried.
teach /tɪ:tʃ/ vt, vi (pt, pp taught /tɔ:t/) give instruction to (a person); cause (a person) to know or be able to do something; give a person (knowledge, skill, etc); give lessons (at school, etc); do this for a living: ~ children; ~ French/history; ~ a child (how) to swim. *She is ~ing the piano to children. He ~es for a living. That will ~ you (not) to ..., (informal) (used as a threat) That experience will show you the risk or penalty of...*
'teach-in, (informal) discussion of a subject of topical interest (as held in a college, with students, staff and other speakers).
teach-able /-əbl/ adj that can be taught.
teacher, person who teaches.
teach-ing, (a) [U] work, profession of a teacher: *earn a living by ~ing.* (b) (usually pl) that which is taught; *the ~ings of Islam.*
teak /ti:k/ n [C] tall, evergreen tree of India, Malaysia, etc; [U] its hard wood, used for making furniture, etc.
team /ti:m/ n [C] 1 two or more oxen, horses, etc pulling a cart, plough, etc together. 2 number of persons playing together and forming one side in some games, eg football, cricket, hockey and sports, eg relay races. 3 group of people working together: *a ~ of surgeons in the operating theatre.* □ vi **team up (with)**, (informal) make an effort in co-operation (with); work together (with).
'team-work, combined effort; organized co-operation: *good/poor ~work.*
'team-mate, fellow member of a team(2).
'team 'spirit, spirit in which each member of a team thinks of the success, etc of the team and not of personal advantage, glory, etc.
tear¹ /tɜ:(r)/ n [C] drop of salty water coming from the eye: *Her eyes filled with ~s. The sad story moved us to ~s, made us cry. The girl burst into ~s, began to cry.*
'tear-drop, single tear.
'tear-gas, gas that causes severe watering of the eyes (used by the police to disperse a mob of demonstrators, etc).
tear-ful /-fl/ adj crying; wet with tears: *a ~ful face.*
tear-fully /-fəli/ adv
tear² /tɜ:(r)/ vt, vi (pt tore /tɔ:(r)/, pp torn /tɔ:n/) 1 pull apart or to pieces; make a hole in something, damage, by pulling sharply: ~ a sheet of paper in two/~ it to pieces/to bits. *He tore the parcel open. They tore down several houses and built an office-block.* **tear sth up**, tear it into small pieces. 2 cause (something) to be out of place (down, off, away, etc) by pul-

ling sharply: ~ a page out of a book. *She could scarcely ~ herself away from the scene, found it difficult to leave.* 3 destroy the peace of: *a country torn by civil war; a heart torn by grief.*
be torn between, unable to choose between (conflicting demands, wishes, etc). 4 become torn: *This material ~s easily.* 5 go in excitement or at great speed: *The children tore out of the school gates.* □ n [C] torn place.
'tear-away n [C] aggressive youth.
tease /ti:z/ vt 1 make fun of (a person) playfully or unkindly: *She ~d her father about his bald head. Molly was teasing the cat, eg by pulling its tail.* 2 separate, loosen, into separate fibres; fluff up the surface of (cloth, etc) by doing this: ~ flax. □ n [C] person who is fond of teasing others: *What a ~ she is!*
teaser, person who often teases.
teat /ti:t/ n [C] nipple(2) (esp an artificial one).
tech-ni-cal /'teknɪkəl/ adj 1 of, from, technique. 2 of, connected with, special to, one of the mechanical or industrial arts (eg printing, weaving) or with methods used by experts and artists: *a ~ college, for engineering, etc.*
tech-ni-cally /-kli/ adv
tech-ni-cal-ity /'teknɪkæləti/ n [C] (pl -ies) technical word, phrase, point, etc: *The judge explained the legal technicalities of the case to the jury.*
tech-ni-cian /'teknɪʃn/ n [C] expert in the technique(s) of a particular art, etc; highly skilled craftsman or mechanic.
tech-nique /'tek'ni:k/ n 1 [U] technical or mechanical skill in art, music, etc. 2 [C] method of doing something expertly; method of artistic expression in music, painting, etc.
tech-noc-racy /'tek'nɒkrəsi/ n [C, U] (pl -ies) (state where there is) organization and management of a country's industrial resources by technical experts.
tech-no-crat /'teknəkræt/ n [C] supporter, member, of a technocracy.
tech-no-logi-cal /'teknə'lɒdʒɪkəl/ adj of technology: ~ problems.
tech-nol-ogist /'tek'nɒlədʒɪst/ n [C] expert in, student of, technology.
tech-nol-ogy /'tek'nɒlədʒi/ n [U] 1 study, mastery and using of manufacturing methods and industrial arts. 2 systematic application of knowledge to practical tasks in industry: *study engineering at a college of ~.*
tedi-ous /'ti:diəs/ adj causing tiredness; not interesting: *a ~ lecture/lecturer; ~ work.*
tedi-ous-ly adv
te-dium /'ti:diəm/ n [U] (informal) boredom.
tee /ti:/ n [C] 1 (golf) place from which a player starts at each hole; specially shaped piece of wood or rubber used for this. 2 mark aimed at in certain games, such as quoits. *to a tee*, perfectly; exactly: *She suits him to a ~.* □ vt, vi 1 **tee (up)**, put the ball on a tee(1). 2 **tee off**,

hit the ball from a tee (1).

teem¹ /ti:m/ vi 1 be present in large numbers: *Fish ~ in this river.* 2 **teem with**, have in great numbers: *His head is ~ing with bright ideas.*

teem² /ti:m/ vi (of rain) fall heavily; pour: *It was ~ing with rain.*

teen-age /'ti:neɪdʒ/ adj for persons in their teens: ~ fashions/music.

teen-ager /'ti:neɪdʒə(r)/ n [C] boy or girl in his or her teens or up to 21 or 22 years of age: *a club for ~s.*

teens /ti:nz/ n pl the ages 13 to 19: *girls in their ~.*

tee-shirt /'ti:ʃɜ:t/ n [C] = T-shirt.

tee-ter /'ti:tə(r)/ vi stand or walk unsteadily: (fig) ~ing on the edge of disaster.

teeth /ti:θ/ pl of tooth.

teethe /ti:ð/ vi (of a baby) be getting its first teeth.

'teething troubles, (fig) problems which occur when first using a new system.

tee-to-tal /'ti:təʊtl/ adj not drinking, opposed to the drinking of, alcoholic liquor.

tee-to-tal-ler (US also **tee-to-taler**) n [C] person who does not drink alcoholic liquor.

tele-com-muni-cations /i'telɪkə'mju:nɪkeɪʃnz/ n pl communications by cable, telegraph, telephone, radio or TV.

tele-gram /'telɪgræm/ n [C] message sent by telegraphy.

tele-graph /'telɪgrɑ:f/ US: -græf/ n [C] apparatus for sending messages by the use of electric current along wires or by radio. □ vi, vt send (news, etc) by telegraph.

tel-eg-ra-pher /'telɪgrəfə(r)/, operator who sends and receives messages by telegraph.

tele-graphic /'telɪgræfɪk/ adj sent by, suitable for, of, the telegraph.

tel-eg-ra-phy /'telɪgrəfi/ n [U] art, science, process, of sending and receiving messages by telegraph.

tel-epa-thy /'telɪpəθi/ n [U] transference of thoughts or ideas from one mind to another without using speech, signs, etc.

tele-pathic /'telɪpæθɪk/ adj

tele-phone /'telɪfəʊn/ n (usual abbr *phone* in speech) 1 [U] means, system, of transmitting the human voice by electric current, usually through wires. 2 [C] apparatus (with receiver and mouthpiece) for this purpose: *You're wanted on the ~.* □ vi, vt send (a message to a person) by telephone.

'telephone booth, (also 'phone booth or 'call-box), small enclosure with a coin-operated public telephone.

'telephone directory, (informal = 'phone book) list of names with telephone numbers and addresses.

'telephone exchange, place where telephone connections are made.

tele-phon-ist /'telɪfənist/ n [C] operator in a

telephone exchange.

tele-eph-ony /'telɪfəni/ n [U] method, process, of sending and receiving messages by telephone.

tele-prin-ter /'telɪprɪntə(r)/ n [C] (tele-graphy) apparatus for sending messages that changes typing into coded telephone signals which are changed back into typed form at the other end.

tele-scope /'telɪskəʊp/ n [C] long instrument with lenses for making distant objects appear nearer and larger. □ vt, vi make or become shorter by means of or in the manner of sections that slide one within the other: *When the trains collided, the first two cars of one of the trains ~d/were ~d.*

tele-scopic /'telɪskəpɪk/ adj (a) of, containing, able to be seen with, a telescope: *a tele-scopic view of the moon*, seen through a telescope. (b) having sections which slide one within the other: *a telescopic aerial*, eg as part of a portable radio.

tele-vi-sion /'telɪvɪʒn/ n (abbr **TV**) 1 [U] process of transmitting pictures by radio waves with sound at the same time: *Did you see the news on (the) ~?* 2 [C] (also ~ set) apparatus for receiving and showing these pictures and sound.

tele-vise /'telɪvaɪz/ vt send by television: *The Olympic Games were televised.*

telex /'telɛks/ n [C, U] (instance of) sending messages using a teleprinter.

tell /tel/ vt, vi (pt, pp told /təʊld/) 1 make known (in spoken or written words); give information concerning or a description of: *I told him my name.* T ~ me where you live. I can't ~ you how happy I am, can't find words that are adequate. I told you so, I warned you that this would happen, etc and now you see that I'm right: *Things have gone wrong but please don't say 'I told you so!'* 2 express with words: ~ a lie; ~ the children a story. **tell tales**, ⇨ tale(2). 3 order; direct: *You must do as you're told.* T ~ him to wait. 4 (esp with can/could/be able to) identify: *Can you ~ Tom from his twin brother? They look exactly the same; how can you ~ which is which?* 5 learn by observation; become aware (of something): *How do you ~ which of these keys to use?* **tell the time**, (be able to) read (or say) the time from a clock, etc: *Can Mary ~ the time yet? Can you ~ me what time it is?* **there is/was, etc no telling**, it is impossible or difficult to know: *There's no ~ing what may happen/where she's gone/what he's doing.* 6 **tell sb off (for sth/for doing sth)**, (informal) criticize, blame, him with angry words: *He told me off for being late.* 7 have a marked effect on; influence the result of: *All this hard work is ~ing on him*, is affecting his health. 8 (informal) inform against: *John told on his sister.* 9 tell a secret: *You promised not to ~ and now*

you've done so!

tel-ler, (a) person who receives and pays out money over a bank counter. (b) man who counts votes, eg in the House of Commons.

tell-ing *adj* impressive: *a ~ing argument/ blow.*

telling-¹off, *n* [C] ⇨ 6 above.

tell-tale /'telteɪl/ *n* [C] **1** person who tells about another's private affairs, makes known a secret, etc. **2** (used as an *adjective*) circumstances, etc that reveal a person's thoughts, activities, etc: *a ~ blush.*

telly /'teli/ *n* (informal) (abbr for) television: *I saw it on (the) ~.*

te-mer-ity /'tɪmərəti/ *n* [U] (formal) impudent speech or action: *have the ~ to go home early after arriving late.*

tem-per¹ /'tempə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** state or condition of the mind: *in a good ~, calm and pleasant; in a bad ~, angry, impatient, etc. get/fly into a temper, become very angry. keep/lose one's temper, keep/fail to keep one's temper under control. 2 [C] (of steel, etc) degree of strength, hardness, etc.*

-tem-pered /'tempəd/ *suffix* having or showing a certain kind of temper: *a bad-/hot-~ed 'man. She's so bad-~.*

tem-per² /'tempə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** give, come to, the required temper(2) by heating and cooling. **2** soften or modify: *~ justice with mercy, be merciful when giving a just punishment.*

tem-pera-ment /'tempərəmənt/ *n* **1** [C,U] person's personality or nature, esp as this affects his way of thinking, feeling and behaving: *a girl with a nervous/an artistic ~. 2 [U] (without an adjective) kind of personality that is easily excited, not easily controlled, eg as in some actresses and opera singers.*

tem-pera-men-tal /'tempərə'mentl/ *adj* (a) caused by temperament: *a ~al dislike for study. (b) quickly changing moods: a ~al tennis player.*

tem-pera-men-tally /-təli/ *adv*

tem-per-ance /'tempərəns/ *n* [U] **1** self-control in speech, behaviour and (esp) in the use of alcoholic drinks. **2** total abstinence from alcoholic drinks.

tem-per-ate /'tempərət/ *adj* **1** showing, behaving with, self-control: *Be more ~ in your language, please. 2 (of climate, parts of the world) free from extremes of heat and cold: the north ~ zone, between the Tropic of Cancer and the Arctic zone.*

tem-per-ate-ly *adv*

tem-pera-ture /'tempərəʃə(r)/ *US:* /'tempərəʃʊər/ *n* [C,U] degree of heat and cold: *The nurse took the ~s of all the patients, measured their body temperatures with a thermometer. have/run a temperature, have a fever.*

tem-pest /'tempɪst/ *n* **1** [C] violent storm. **2** (fig) violent agitation: *A ~ of anger swept*

through the crowd.

tem-pes-tu-ous /tem'pestʃʊəs/ *adj* (of the weather and fig of personality) violent; stormy.

temple¹ /'tempəl/ *n* [C] **1** building used for the worship of a god. **2** any of the three successive religious centres of the Jews in ancient Jerusalem.

temple² /'tempəl/ *n* [C] flat part of either side of the forehead.

tempo /'tempəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or, in music, *tempi* /-pt/) (It) **1** rate of movement or activity: *the tiring ~ of city life. 2 (music) speed at which music is (to be) played.*

tem-por-al /'tempərəl/ *adj* (formal) **1** of, existing in, time. **2** of earthly human life; of this physical life only, not spiritual.

tem-por-ary /'tempəri/ *US:* -pərəri/ *adj* lasting for, designed to be used for, a short time only: *~ employment; a ~ bridge.*

tem-por-ar-ily /'tempərəli/ *US:* /tempə'rərəli/ *adv*

tempt /tempt/ *vt* **1** (try to) persuade (a person) to do something wrong or foolish: *Nothing could ~ him to agree that torture is a necessary evil. 2 attract (a person) to have or do something: The warm weather ~ed us to go for a swim.*

temp-ter, person who tempts.

tempt-ing *adj* attractive: *a ~ing offer.*

temp-ress /-trɪs/ *n* woman who tempts.

temp-ta-tion /temp'teɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] tempting or being tempted: *yield/give way to ~. Don't put ~ in my way. 2 [C] that which tempts or attracts: Clever advertisements are ~s to spend money.*

ten /ten/ *n* [C], *adj* (of) the number 10. **ten to one**, very probably: *T ~ to one he will arrive late.*

tenth /tenθ/ *n* [C], *adj* (abbr 10th) (of) the next after 9 or one of 10 equal parts.

tenth-ly *adv*

ten-fold *adv* ten times as many or much.

ten-pence *n* [C,U] (GB coin with the) value of ten pennies.

ten-able /'tenəbl/ *adj* **1** that can be defended successfully: *His theory is hardly ~. 2 (of an office or position) that can be held (by a person): The lectureship is ~ for a period of three years.*

ten-acious /tɪ'neɪʃəs/ *adj* (formal) holding tightly, refusing to let go: *a ~ memory; ~ of our rights.*

ten-acious-ly *adv*

ten-ac-ity /tɪ'næsəti/ *n* [U]

ten-ancy /'tenənsɪ/ *n* [U] **1** use of land, etc as a tenant: *during his ~ of the farm. 2 (with a, an) length of time during which a tenant uses land, etc: hold a 'life ~ of a house.*

ten-ant /'tenənt/ *n* [C] person who pays rent for the use of land, a building, a room, etc.

tend¹ /tend/ *vt* watch over; look after: *shep-*

herds ~ing their flocks.

tend² /tend/ *vi* be inclined to move; have as a characteristic or direction: *Prices are ~ing upwards. He ~s to make too many mistakes.*

ten-dency /'tendəns/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) turning or inclination: *Business is showing a ~ to improve.*

ten-den-tious /ten'denʃəs/ *adj* (formal) (of a speech, a piece of writing, etc) having an underlying purpose, aimed at helping a cause; not impartial: *Countries at war often send out ~ reports, designed to win sympathy, etc.*

ten-den-tious-ly *adv*

ten-der¹ /'tendə(r)/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** delicate; easily hurt or damaged; quickly feeling pain: ~ blossoms, eg easily hurt by frosts; *a ~ heart*, easily moved to pity. Hence, **tender-hearted** *adj*. **2** (of meat) easily chewed; not tough: *a ~ steak*. **3** kind, loving: ~ looks; ~ parents.

ten-der-loin, tender part of the loin of beef or pork.

ten-der-ly *adv*

ten-der-ness *n* [U]

ten-der² /'tendə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who looks after, watches over, something. ⇨ bartender. **2** small ship attending a larger one. **3** wagon for fuel and water behind a steam locomotive.

ten-der³ /'tendə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** offer; present: *He ~ed his resignation to the Prime Minister.* **2** make an offer (to carry out work, supply goods, etc) at a stated price: ~ for the construction of a new motorway. ⇨ *n* [C] **1** statement of the price at which one offers to supply goods or services, or to do something: *invite ~s for a new bridge*. ⇨ legal tender.

ten-don /'tendən/ *n* [C] tough, thick cord that joins muscle to bone.

ten-dril /'tendril/ *n* [C] part like a thread of a plant, eg a vine, that twists round any nearby support.

ten-ement /'tenimənt/ *n* [C] **1** large house for the use of many families at low rents. **2** (legal) any dwelling-house; any kind of permanent property.

tenet /'tenet/ *n* [C] (formal) principle; belief; doctrine.

ten-nis /'tenis/ *n* [U] game for two or four players who hit a ball with a racket backwards and forwards across a net.

tennis-court, marked area on which tennis is played.

tennis-elbow, inflammation of the elbow caused by playing tennis.

tenor /'tenə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (music for, singer with, the) highest normal adult male voice: (as an adjective) ~ voice; the ~ part. **2** (of instruments) with a range about that of the tenor voice: *a ~ saxophone*.

tense¹ /tens/ *adj* (-r, -st) tightly stretched or strained: ~ nerves; *a moment of ~ excitement/a ~ moment; look ~, appear to be*

under strain. ⇨ *vt, vi* make or become tense: *He ~d his muscles for the effort.*

tense-ly *adv*

tense-ness *n* [U]

tense² /tens/ *n* [C, U] (gram) verb form that shows time: the present/past/future ~.

ten-sion /'tenʃn/ *n* [U] **1** state of, degree of, being tense: *If you increase the ~ of the rope it will break.* **2** stretching or being stretched. **3** mental, emotional or nervous strain; condition when feelings are tense, when relations between persons, groups, states are strained: *political ~*. **4** voltage: *Keep away from those high ~ wires or you'll be electrocuted.*

tent /tent/ *n* [C] shelter made of canvas supported by poles and ropes, esp as used by campers, soldiers, etc. ⇨ oxygen tent.

ten-tacle /'tentəkl/ *n* [C] long, slender, boneless growth on certain animals used for touching, feeling, holding, moving, etc.

ten-ta-tive /'tentətv/ *adj* made or done as a trial, to test the effect: *make a ~ offer.*

ten-ta-tive-ly *adv*

tenth /tenθ/ *n, adj* ⇨ ten.

tenu-ous /'tenjuəs/ *adj* (formal) **1** thin; slender: *the ~ web of a spider.* **2** (of opinions, differences) without much meaning or value.

ten-ure /'tenjuə(r) *US*: -jə(r)/ *n* [C, U] (period, time, condition of) holding (eg political office) or using (land): *The farmers want security of ~, to be secure in their tenancies.*

tepid /'tepid/ *adj* lukewarm.

term /tɜ:m/ *n* [C] **1** fixed or limited period of time: *a long ~ of imprisonment; during his ~ of office as President.* ⇨ long-/short-term. **2** (of schools, universities, etc) one of the periods (usually three) into which the academic year is divided: *end-of-~ examinations; during ~-time.* **3** (legal) period during which a Court holds session. **4** (*pl*) conditions offered or agreed to: ~s of surrender, eg offered to a defeated enemy. ⇨ also reference (1).

come to terms (with sb), reach an agreement. **come to terms with sth**, accept finally: *come to ~s with a difficult situation.* **5** (*pl*) **be on good/friendly/bad terms (with sb)**, be friendly, etc with him. ⇨ also speak (1). **6** words used to express an idea, esp a specialized concept: *technical/scientific/legal ~s.* **7** (*pl*) mode of expression: *How dare you speak of her in such abusive ~s?* **8** (maths) part of an expression joined to the rest by + or -:

The expression $a^2 + 2ab + b^2$ has three ~s. ⇨ *vt* name; apply a term to: *He has no right to ~ himself a professor.*

ter-min-able /'tɜ:mɪnəbl/ *adj* that may be terminated.

ter-minal /'tɜ:mɪnl/ *adj* **1** of, taking place, each term (1,3): ~ examinations/accounts. **2** of, forming, the point or place at the end: ~ cancer, incurable; the ~ ward, (in a hospital) for persons who cannot be cured and must

soon die. □ *n* [C] **1** end of a railway line, bus route, etc; centre (in a town) used by passengers departing for, or arriving from, an airport: *the West London Air T~*. **2** point of connection in an electric circuit: *the ~s of a battery*.

ter-min-ally *adv*

ter-min-ate /'tɜːmineɪt/ *vt, vi* bring to an end; come to an end: *~ his contract*.

ter-mi-na-tion /'tɜːmɪ'neɪʃn/ *n* [C, U] ending: *the ~ of a contract*. **2** [C] final syllable or letter of a word.

ter-mi-nol-ogy /'tɜːmɪ'nɒlədʒi/ *n* [C, U] (*pl* -ies) (science of) the proper use of terms(6); terms used: *medical/grammatical ~*.

ter-mi-no-logi-cal /'tɜːmɪnə'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj*

ter-mi-nus /'tɜːmɪnəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ni /-naɪ/ or ~es) station at the end of a railway line, bus route, etc.

ter-mite /'tɜːmaɪt/ *n* [C] insect (popularly called *white ant*), which makes large hills of hard earth.

ter-race /'terəs/ *n* [C] **1** level(led) area of ground with a vertical or sloping front or side; a series of these, separated by sloping banks, rising one above the other, eg as a method of irrigation on a hillside. **2** flight of wide, shallow steps (eg for spectators in a football stadium). **3** continuous row of houses in one block. □ *vt* (usually as a *pp*) form into terraces: *a ~d lawn*; *~d houses*, (long line of) houses joined together.

terra-cotta /'terə 'kɒtə/ *n* [U] hard, reddish-brown pottery; the colour reddish-brown.

ter-rain /te'reɪn *US*: tə-/ *n* [C] stretch of land, esp regarding its natural features: *difficult ~ for walking*.

ter-res-trial /tə'restriəl/ *adj* **1** of, on, living on, the earth or land: *the ~ parts of the world*. **2** (opposite of *celestial*) of the earth.

ter-ri-ble /'terəbl/ *adj* **1** causing great fear or horror: *a ~ war/accident*. **2** causing great discomfort; extreme: *The heat is ~ in Baghdad during the summer*. **3** (*informal*) extremely bad: *What ~ food they gave us!*

ter-ri-ly /-əbli/ *adv* (*informal*) extremely: *How ~ly boring/kind he is!*

ter-rier /'teriə(r)/ *n* [C] kinds of small and lively dog.

ter-rific /tə'rifɪk/ *adj* **1** causing fear. **2** (*informal*) very great; extreme: *driving at ~ pace*.

ter-rifi-cally /-kli/ *adv* extremely.

ter-rify /'terɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) fill with fear: *The child was ~ed of being left alone in the house*. *What a ~ing experience!*

ter-ri-torial /'teri'tɔːriəl/ *adj* **1** of land, esp land forming a division of a country: *~ possessions*. **2** *T~*, of any of the US Territories: *T~ laws*. **3** (*GB*) of the force of mostly non-professional soldiers organized for the defence of Great Britain and trained in their

spare time: *the T~ Army*. □ *n* [C] member of the Territorial Army.

territorial waters, the sea near a country's coast, over which special rights are claimed, eg for fishing.

ter-ri-tory /'terɪtri *US*: -tɔːri/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [C, U] (area of) land, esp land under one ruler or Government: *Is this American ~?* **2** [C] land or district; [U] extent of such land, etc: *How much ~ can he cover* (= travel across) *in a day?*

ter-ror /'terə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] great fear: *run away in ~*. **2** [C] instance of great fear; (person or thing that causes) great fear: *have a ~ off fire*.

'ter-ror-ism /-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] use of violence and intimidation, esp for political purposes.

'ter-ror-ist /-ɪst/ *n* [C] supporter of, participant in, terrorism.

'ter-ror-ize (also **-ise**) /-aɪz/ *vt* fill with terror by threats or acts of violence.

terse /tɜːs/ *adj* (of speech, style, speakers) brief and to the point.

terse-ly *adv*

ter-ti-ary /'tɜːjəri *US*: -ʃjəri/ *adj* third in rank, order, occurrence, importance.

test /test/ *n* [C] (often as an *adjective*) examination or trial (of something) to find its quality, value, composition, etc; trial or examination (of a person, his powers, knowledge, skill, etc): *methods that have stood the ~ of time*; *a blood ~*, eg at a hospital, for infection, etc; *a driving ~*; *an in'telligence ~*. ⇨ *put*(5). □ *vt* examine; make a trial of: *have one's eyesight ~ed*. *The long climb ~ed* (= was a test of) *our strength*.

'test case, (in law) one that shows the principle involved (even though it may not be important in itself).

'test drive *n* [C] drive in a car one thinks of buying, to judge its qualities, worth, etc. Hence, **'test-drive** *vt*.

'test flight, flight to judge the performance of a new aircraft.

'test match, one of a series of international (cricket, rugby) matches.

'test-pilot, pilot who performs test flights.

'test-tube, slender glass tube, closed at one end, used in chemical experiments: *a ~tube baby*, who was artificially conceived outside the mother's body.

tes-ta-ment /'testəmənt/ *n* **1** [C] (often *last Will and T~*) statement in writing saying how a person wishes his property to be distributed after his death. **2** *Old T~*, *New T~*, the two main divisions of the Bible.

tes-ticle /'testɪkl/ *n* [C] each of the two glands of the male sex organ that secrete sperm.

tes-tify /'testɪfaɪ/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** give evidence: *He testified under oath that he had not stolen the bike*. *The teacher testified to the boy's ability*. **2** serve as evidence of: *Her tears testified her grief*.

tes-ti-mo-nial /ˈtɛstɪˈmɒniəl/ *n* [C] **1** written statement testifying to a person's merits, abilities, qualifications, etc. **2** something given to a person to show appreciation of services: *a ~ match*, for a football player.

tes-ti-mony /ˈtɛstɪməni/ *US*: -məni/ *n* [U] **1** declaration, esp in a law court, testifying that something is true: *The witness's ~ is false*. **2** declarations; statements: *According to the ~ of the medical profession, the health of the nation is improving*.

tes-tis /ˈtɛstɪs/ *n* [C] (*pl* -tes /-ti:z/) = testicle.

teta-nus /ˈtɛtənəs/ *n* [U] disease marked by tightening of voluntary muscles.

tether /ˈtɛðə(r)/ *n* [C] rope or chain by which an animal is fastened while grazing. **at the end of one's tether**, (*fig*) at the end of one's patience, etc. □ *vt* fasten with a tether: *He ~ed his horse to the fence*.

text /tɛkst/ *n* **1** [U] printed words in a book. **2** [C] original words of an author, apart from anything else in a book. **3** [C] short passage, sentence, esp of the Bible, etc as the subject of a sermon or discussion.

'text-book, book used to learn a subject: *an algebra ~book*; *a ~book on grammar*.

tex-tual /ˈtɛkstʃuəl/ *adj* of, in, a text: *~ual errors*.

tex-tile /ˈtɛkstaɪl/ *adj* of the making of cloth: *the ~ industry*. □ *n* [C] cloth.

tex-ture /ˈtɛkstʃə(r)/ *n* [C,U] **1** the arrangement of the threads in a cloth: *cloth with a loose/close ~*. **2** arrangement of the parts that make up something: *the ~ of a mineral*.

than /ðən/ *rarely heard strong form*: ðæn/ *conj* introducing the second part of a comparison: *John is taller ~ his brother*. *I know you better ~ he (does)*, ie than he knows you. *I know you better ~ him*, ie than I know him. **sooner than**, ⇨ soon (3,4).

thank /θæŋk/ *vt* express gratitude: *~ a person for his help*. *There's no need to ~ me*. **Thank you**, formula for accepting something or expressing thanks. **No, thank you**, formula used to decline an offer. □ *n* (*pl*) (expression of) gratitude: *T~s for the meal*. **No, thanks**, (*informal*) No, thank you. **thanks to**, as the result of: *T~s to you, we were successful*. **a vote of thanks**, a public expression of gratitude: *The Chairman proposed a vote of ~s to the speaker*.

,thanks-giving, (**a**) expression of gratitude, esp to God; form of prayer for this. (**b**) (*US*) (also, *T~s-giving Day*) day set apart each year to thank God for His goodness (usually the fourth Thursday in November).

thank-ful /-fl/ *adj* grateful: *You should be ~ful that we waited for you*.

thank-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

thank-less *adj* not feeling or expressing gratitude or winning appreciation: *a ~less task*, with no appreciation or reward.

that¹ /ðæt/ *adj, pron* (*pl* those /ðəʊz/) (contrasted with *this, these*) **1** the person or thing pointed to or drawn attention to (and often far from the speaker), named or understood to be known: *Look at ~ man/those men*. *What is ~? What are those? What was ~ noise? What noise was ~? This book (nearby) is much better than ~ (one)* (farther away). *These are much better than those*. *T~s more like it*, is an improvement, a better example, etc. *He's like ~*, has the kind of personality mentioned. *Those who do not wish to go need not go*. *I don't like ~ new secretary of his*. **in 'that case**, ⇨ case¹ (1). **that's 'that**, there is nothing more to say, do: *I'm not going to help you and ~s ~!* **2** (used as a collective *sing*): *What about ~ five pounds you borrowed from me last month?* □ *adv* (*informal*) to such a degree; *so*: *I can't walk ~ far*, = as far as that. *It's about ~ high*, ie as high as that.

that² /ðæt/ *rarely heard strong form*: ðæt/ *conj* **1** (introducing *noun* clauses): *She said (~) she would come*. *The trouble is ~ we are short of money*. **2 so that; in order that**, (introducing clauses of purpose): *Bring it nearer so ~ I can see it better*. **3** (introducing clauses of manner): *His behaviour was so bad ~ we all refused to talk to him*. **4** (introducing clauses of condition): *on condition ~...*

that³ /ðæt/ *rarely heard strong form*: ðæt/ *relative pron* (*pl* unchanged) (*Note*: when *that* is in parentheses in examples, it is often omitted.) **1** (used as the subject of the *verb* in a clause): *The letter ~ came this morning is from my father*. **2** (*who* is usually preferred to *that* for a person, but *that* is preferred to *who* after superlatives, *only*, *all*, *any*, and *it* is or it was): *Newton was one of the greatest men ~ ever lived*. *You're the only person ~ can help me*. **3** (used as the object of the *verb* in the clause): *The pen (~) you gave me is very nice*. *Is this the best (~) you can do?* **4** (used after an expression of time.): *the year (~) my father died*. **5** (used as the object of a *preposition*): *All the people (~) I wrote to agreed to come*. *Is this the book (~) you were looking for?*

thatch /θætʃ/ *n* [U] roof covering of dried straw, reeds, etc. □ *vt* cover (a roof, etc) with thatch.

thaw /θə:/ *vi, vt* **1** (of snow and ice) begin to melt. **2** (cause anything frozen to) become liquid or soft again: *leave frozen food to ~ before cooking it*. **3** (of persons, their behaviour) (cause to) become less formal, more friendly: *After a good dinner he began to ~*. □ *n* (usually *sing*) (state of the weather causing) thawing: *Let's go skating before a ~ sets in*.

the /ðə/ *strong form and before vowels*: ði:/ *definite article* **1** (used as a less specific form of *this, these, that, those*, applied to person(s), thing(s), event(s), etc already referred to or being discussed. *Note* the changes from *a, an* to

the in these sentences): *An old man lived in a small hut near a forest. One day ~ old man left ~ hut and went into ~ forest to collect wood.* **2** (used when the situation indicates who or what is referred to): *Please close ~ window*, ie the window that is open. **3** (used with a *noun* when it stands for something unique): *~ sun; ~ moon; ~ year 1989; ~ universe.* **4** (used with *nouns* such as *sea, sky*, when there is no adjective): *T~ sea was calm. Isn't ~ wind strong!* **5** (used with a *noun* if it is shown by the context to be unique): *~ back of ~ house.* (Note: in many phrases the *is* or *may* be omitted: *from beginning to end; from (~) top to (~) bottom; in (~) future.*) **6** (used with a superlative): *~ best way to get there.* (Note: *the* is not needed after the verb 'be' when the superlative is used without a *noun*: *It is wisest (= The wisest plan is) to avoid the centre of the town.* When *most* means 'very', *the* is not used: *This is a most useful dictionary.*) **7** (used before geographical terms and names: *~ Mediterranean; ~ Nile; ~ Alps; ~ West Indies; ~ Sahara.* **8** (used to indicate all members of a class): *~ rich; ~ dead; an officer of ~ law.* **9** (used with musical instruments): *to play ~ piano/~ violin/~ guitar* (but not with names of games: *to play tennis/football*). **10** (used with *nouns* expressing a unit): *This car does thirty miles to ~ gallon*, ie to each gallon of petrol. **11** (used with titles): *Elizabeth ~ Second.* □ *adv* by so much; by that amount: *T~ more he reads ~ less he understands.*

theatre (US = **theater**) /'θi:ətr(ə)/ *n* [C] **1** building, etc for the performance of plays, for dramatic events, etc: *go to the ~ to see a Shakespeare play.* **2** hall or room with seats in rows rising one behind another for lectures, scientific demonstrations, etc. **3** = operating theatre. **4** scene of important events: *a ~ of war.* **5** (usually *sing with the*) the writing and acting of plays, esp when connected with one author, country, period, etc: *a book about the Greek ~.*

theatre-goer, person who (often) visits theatres.

theatrical /θi:'ætrɪkəl/ *adj* (a) of, for, the theatre: *theatrical costumes.* (b) of behaviour, manner, way of speaking, (persons, etc) designed to impress; exaggerated.

theatrically /-klɪ/ *adv*

theft /θeft/ *n* [C,U] (the act of, an instance of) stealing.

their /ðeə(r)/ *possessive adj* belonging to them: *They have lost ~ dog. They have a house of ~ own. Good students do ~ best*, the best they can.

theirs /ðeəz/ *possessive pron* (the one or ones) belonging to them: *That dog is ~s, not ours. It's a habit of ~s, one of their habits.*

them /ðəm *strong form*: ðem/ *personal pron* (object form of *they*): *Give ~ to me. It was kind*

of ~.

theme /θi:m/ *n* [C] **1** topic; subject of a talk or a piece of writing. **2** (music) short melody which is repeated, expanded, etc eg in a sonata or symphony.

theme song, one that is often repeated in a musical play, film, etc.

them-selves /ðəm'selvz/ *pron* **1** (reflex): *They hurt ~. They kept some for ~.* (all) **by themselves**, (a) without help: *They did the work by ~.* (b) alone: *They were by ~ when I called.* **2** (used for emphasis): *They ~ have often made that mistake.*

then /ðen/ *adv* **1** at the/that time (past or future): *I was still unmarried ~. He'll still be too young ~.* (every) **now and then**, □ **now**(2). **2** (used after a preposition) that time: *from ~ onwards; until ~; since ~.* **3** next; after that; afterwards: *We spent a week in Rome and ~ we went to Naples.* **4** in that case; that being so: *A: 'It isn't here.'—B: 'T~ it must be in the next room.'* **5** and also: *T~ there's Mrs Green—she must be invited to the wedding.*

theo-lo-gian /θi:ə'ləʊdʒɪn/ *n* [C] advanced student of theology.

theo-logi-cal /θi:ə'lɒdʒɪkəl/ *adj* of theology.

theo-logi-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

the-ol-ogy /θi:'blɒdʒɪ/ *n* [U] formation of a series of theories about the nature of God and of the foundations of religious belief.

the-orem /'θi:ərəm/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) **1** statement which logical reasoning shows to be true. **2** (maths) statement for which a reasoned proof is required.

the-or-etic, -i-cal /θi:'retɪk, -kl/ *adj* based on theory, not on practice or experience.

theor-eti-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

the-ory /'θi:əri/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [C,U] (explanation of the) general principles of an art or science (contrasted with practice): *Your plan is excellent in ~, but would it succeed in practice?* **2** [C] reasoned account offered to explain facts or events: *Darwin's ~ of evolution.* **3** [C] something offered as an opinion, not necessarily based on reasoning: *He has a ~ that wearing hats makes men bald.*

the-or-ist /-ɪst/, person who forms theories.

the-or-ize (also -ise) /'θi:əraɪz/ *vi* form theories.

thera-peutic /,θerə'pjʊ:tɪk/ *adj* connected with the art of healing, the cure of disease.

thera-pist /'θerəpɪst/ *n* [C] specialist in therapy, esp psychotherapy.

ther-apy /'θerəpi/ *n* [U] curative treatment (esp of a kind shown by a preceding word): *occupational ~, the curing of an illness by means of exercise.* □ psychotherapy.

there' /ðeə(r)/ *adv* of place and direction (contrasted with *here*) **1** in, at or to, that place: *We shall soon be ~. We're nearly ~, have nearly arrived. I've never been to Rome but I hope to go ~ next year.* **2** (used in exclamations; al-

ways stressed): *T~ goes the last bus!* *T~ they go!* **so 'there**, (used when expressing refusal, etc): *I won't give it back, so ~3* (used to call attention; always stressed): *T~s the bell for lunch.* *T~s gratitude for you!* Note how grateful/ungrateful he/she is! **4 at**, in connection with, that point (in an action, story, argument, etc): *Don't stop ~!* *T~ and you are mistaken.* **5** (in phrases): **here and there; here, there and everywhere**, ⇨ **here(3).** **there and back**, to a place and back again: *Can I go ~ and back in one day?* **there you are**, (used when giving something to somebody). ⇨ also **there 3(2).** **over there**, (of a place farther than is shown by using *there* alone): *I live here, Mr Green lives ~, and Mr Brown lives over ~, on the other side of the river.*

there² /ðeə(r)/ *adv* (always unstressed) (used as an introduction in a sentence of which the verb, esp 'be' precedes the subject) **1** (used with 'be'): *T~s a man at the door.* **2** (used with other verbs, esp *seem* and *appear*): *T~ seems (to be) no doubt about it.* *T~ comes a time when...*

there³ /ðeə(r)/ *int* (always stressed) **1** (used to comfort): *T~! T~! You'll soon feel better.* **2** (used to suggest that the speaker was right, or to show triumph, dismay, etc according to the context): *T~ (you are)! What did I tell you!* *You now see that I was right! T~! You've upset the ink!*

thereabouts /'ðeərəbaʊts/ *adv* (usually preceded by *or*) near that place, number, quantity, degree, etc: *in March 1978 or ~; £5/15 metres/3 o'clock or ~.*

there-after /ðeə'lɑ:fɑ:tə/ *US: -'æftə/* *adv* (formal) = afterwards.

there-by /ðeə'baɪ/ *adv* (formal) by that means; in that connection.

there-fore /'ðeəfɔ:(r)/ *adv* for that reason.

therm /θɜ:m/ *n* [C] (100000 GB thermal units as a) unit of heat as used for measuring the consumption of gas.

ther-mal /'θɜ:ml/ *adj* of heat: ~ *springs*, of naturally warm or hot water. □ *n* [C] rising current of warm air (as needed by a glider to gain height).

thermo- /'θɜ:məʊ/ *prefix* of heat, temperature.

thermo-dy-namics *n pl* (usually used with a *sing verb*) science of the relations between heat and mechanical work.

thermo-'nuclear *adj* (eg of weapons) of, using, the high temperatures released in nuclear fission: *the ~-nuclear 'bomb.*

'thermo-stat /'θɜ:məstæt/ *n* [C] device for automatically regulating temperature by cutting off and restoring the supply of heat (eg in central heating).

ther-mom-eter /θə'mɒmɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] instrument for measuring temperature.

ther-mos /'θɜ:mɒs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) (also ~

flask) (P) vacuum flask.

the-sau-rus /θɪ'sɔ:ɹəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es or -ri /-raɪ/) (esp) a book or collection of words, phrases grouped together according to similarities in their meanings.

these /ði:z/ *pl* of *this*.

the-sis /'θi:sis/ *n* [C] (*pl* theses /-si:z/) statement or theory (to be) put forward and supported by arguments, submitted (as part of the requirements) for a university degree.

they /ðeɪ/ *personal pron* (subject form, *pl*, of *he, she, it*): *T~ (= People in general) say that the government will resign.* *What a lot of questions ~ (= those in authority) ask in this application!* ⇨ *them.*

they'd /ðeɪd/ = *they had; they would.*

they'll /ðeɪl/ = *they will; they shall.*

they're /ðeɪə(r)/ = *they are.*

they've /ðeɪv/ = *they have.*

thick /θɪk/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (opposite of *thin*) of comparatively great or of a specified measurement in diameter, from one side to the other, or from the front to the back: *a ~ line; ice three metres ~.* **2** having a large number of units close together: ~ *hair; a ~ forest.* **3** (of a hedge) with bushes, etc closely planted. **4** **thick with**, full of or packed with: *The air was ~ with dust.* **5** (of liquids) semi-solid: ~ *soup; (of the air, etc) not clear; dense: a ~ fog.* **6** (informal) stupid. **7** (informal) **as thick as thieves**, very friendly. **8** (informal) **a bit thick**, beyond what is reasonable or endurable: *Three weeks of rain is a bit ~.* **lay it on thick**, ⇨ *lay on.* □ *n* [U] **1** most crowded part; part where there is greatest activity: *We were in the ~ of it.* **through thick and thin**, under any kind of conditions, good or bad. **2** thick part of anything: *the ~ of the thumb.* □ *adv* thickly: *You spread the butter too ~.*

'thick-headed *adj* stupid.

'thick-'set *adj* (a) (of a person) short and solid. (b) (of hedges, etc) closely planted.

'thick-'skinned *adj* (fig) not sensitive to criticism, insults, etc.

thick-ly *adv*

thick-ness, (a) [U] quality or degree of being thick: *four centimetres in ~ness.* (b) [C] layer: *two ~nesses of woollen cloth.*

thicken /'θɪkən/ *vt, vi* make or become thick: ~ *the gravy.*

thicket /'θɪkɪt/ *n* [C] group of trees, shrubs, growing thickly together.

thief /θi:f/ *n* [C] (*pl* thieves /θi:vz/) person who steals, esp secretly and without violence. ⇨ *thick(7).*

thieve /θi:v/ *vi, vt* steal (the usual word).

thigh /θaɪ/ *n* [C] **1** part of the human leg between the knee and the hip. **2** corresponding part of the back legs of other animals.

thimble /'θɪmbəl/ *n* [C] cap (of metal, etc) used to protect the end of the finger when pushing a needle through cloth, etc.

thin /θɪn/ *adj* (-ner, -nest) **1** (opposite of *thick*) having opposite surfaces close together; of small diameter: *a ~ sheet of paper*; *a ~ piece of string*. **2** not full or closely packed: *~ hair*; *a ~ audience*, with more seats empty than occupied. **thin on the ground**, (of persons, helpers, etc) few in number. **3** (opposite of *fat*) having not much flesh: *looking ~ in the face*. **4** (of liquids) not having substance; watery: *~ soup*; *~ blood*, as when weakened by illness, etc; (of the air, etc) not dense: *a ~ mist*. **5** not having some important ingredient; poor in quality: *a ~ excuse*, not very convincing; *a ~ disguise*, easily seen through. **adv** so as to be thin: *You've spread the butter very ~*. **vi**, **vt** (-nn-) make or become thin: *We had better wait until the fog ~s*, becomes less dense. *At last the crowd ~ned*.

thin-ly *adv* in a thin manner: *Sow the seed ~ly*, not close together.

thin-skinned *adj* (fig) sensitive to criticism, insults, etc.

thin-ness /'θɪnnɪs/ *n* [U]

thing /θɪŋ/ *n* [C] **1** any material object: *What are those ~s on the table?* **2** (pl) belongings; articles of which the nature is clear (or thought to be clear) from the context: *Bring your swimming ~s* (= your swim-suit, towel, etc) *with you*. *Have you packed your ~s* (= clothes, etc) *for the holiday?* **3** subject: *There's another ~* (= something else) *I want to ask you about*. **4** *be 'seeing things*, ⇨ see¹(1). **5** situation; event; course of action: *That only makes ~s worse*. *I must think ~s over*, consider what has happened, what has to be done, etc. *What's the next ~ to do?* What must be done next? **for 'one thing**, (used to introduce a reason): *For one ~, I haven't any money*; *for another...* **6** (used of a person or an animal, expressing an emotion of some kind): *Poor ~, he's been ill all winter*. **7** (sing with *the*) just what will be best in the circumstances: *A holiday will be the very ~ for you*. *He always says the right/wrong ~*, makes the most suitable/unsuitable remark or comment. **8** (phrases) *the 'thing 'is*, the question to be considered is: *The ~ is*, can we get there in time? **first thing**, ⇨ first¹. **a 'near thing**, ⇨ near¹(1). **have a 'thing about**, (informal) be obsessed by. ⇨ also same(4).

think¹ /θɪŋk/ *vi*, *vt* (pt, pp *thought* /θɔ:t/) (For special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*, ⇨ 7 below.) **1** use, the mind in order to form opinions, come to conclusions: *What she said has set me ~ing*. *You should ~* (= not be hasty) *before doing that*. *Do you ~ in English when you speak English?* **think aloud**, say one's thoughts as they occur. **2** consider; be of the opinion: *Do you ~ it will rain?* *Yes, I ~ so*. *The child thought there was no harm in picking flowers in your garden*. *It will be better, don't you ~, to start early*. *I*

thought it better to stay away. **think fit**. ⇨ fit¹(2). ⇨ also such¹. **3** (negative with *can/could*): *I can't ~ what you mean*. **4** have a vague intention: *I ~ I'll go for a swim*. **5** reflect: *She was ~ing (to herself) how strange the children were*. **6** expect, intend: *I thought as much*, That is what I expected or suspected.

7 (special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*):

think about sth, (a) examine, consider (esp a plan, idea, to see whether it is desirable, practicable, etc): *She's ~ing about emigrating to Canada*. (b) reflect on: *She was ~ing about her childhood days*.

think of sth, (a) consider; take into account: *We have a hundred and one things to ~ of before we can decide*. (b) consider (without reaching a decision or taking action): *We're ~ing of going to Venice for Easter*. (c) imagine: *Just ~ of the cost/danger!* (d) have, entertain, the idea of (often with *could*, *would*, *should*, and *not* or *never*, with *dream* as a possible substitute for *think*): *He would never ~ of marrying a girl like you!* (e) remember: *I can't ~ of his name at the moment*. (f) suggest: *Can you ~ of a good place for a weekend holiday?* **think highly/well/little, etc of sb/sth**, have a high/good/poor, etc opinion of: *Her work is highly thought of by the critics*. *He ~s the world of her*, loves her dearly. **think nothing of**, consider as ordinary or unremarkable: *Barbara ~s nothing of walking 10 or 20 miles a day*.

think sth out, consider carefully and make a plan for: *It seems to be a well-thought out scheme*.

think sth over, consider further (before reaching a decision, etc): *Please ~ over what I've said*.

think sth up, invent, devise (a scheme, etc): *There's no knowing what he'll ~ up next*.

think² /θɪŋk/ *n* (informal) occasion of, need for, thinking: *He's got another ~ coming*, will need to think again (because I refuse, etc).

thinker /'θɪŋkə(r)/ *n* [C] (used with an *adjective*) person who thinks: *a great ~*.

think-ing /'θɪŋkɪŋ/ *adj* who think: *all ~ men*, those people who think (about public affairs, etc). **□ n** [U] thought; way of reasoning: *do some hard ~*, think deeply.

third /θɜ:d/ *adj*, *n* [C] (abbr *3rd*) (of) the next after two or one of three equal parts: *the ~ month of the year*, ie March; *on the ~ of April*; *every ~ day*; *a ~ of the cake*; *two ~s of a litre*. **third class** *n* [U] standard of accommodation in a hotel, ship, etc next to second. **□ third-class** *adj* of a third standard: *~class travel*. **adv** by the third standard: *travel ~class*.

third de'gree, prolonged or hard questioning, use of torture (as used by the police in some countries to get confessions or information).

third ¹*party*, another person besides the two principals: (as an *adjective*) *~party insurance*, of/to a person other than the person insured, which the insurance company undertakes to meet.

third-rate *adj* of poor quality.

the Third World, the economically and industrially less developed countries of the world; the developing countries.

thirdly *adv*

thirst /θɜːst/ *n* [U, and with *a*, *an* as in examples] **1** feeling caused by a desire or need to drink; suffering caused by this: *They lost their way in the desert and died of ~.* **2** (fig) strong desire (for): *a ~ for knowledge.* □ *vt* **1** have thirst. **2** be eager (for): *~ for revenge.*

thirsty *adj* (-ier, -iest) having or causing thirst: *be/feel ~y.*

thir-teen /θɜːˈtiːn/ *adj, n* [C] (of) 13.

thir-teenth /θɜːˈtiːnθ/ *adj, n* [C] (abbr 13th) (of) the next after 12 or one of 13 equal parts.

thirty /θɜːti/ *adj, n* [C] (of) 30. **in the thirties**, (a) (of a person's age, temperature, speed, etc) between 29 and 40. (b) between '29 and '40 in a century.

thir-ti-eth /θɜːtiːθ/ *adj, n* [C] (abbr 30th) (of) the next after 29 or one of 30 equal parts.

this /ðɪs/ *adj, pron* (pl *these* /ðiːz/) (contrasted with *that*, *those*) **1** the person or thing nearby, touched, etc or drawn attention to, named or understood to be known: *Look at ~ box/these boxes. What's ~? What are these?* *T~ (one) is larger than that. These are better than those. He will be here ~ day week, in a week's time. T~ boy of yours seems very intelligent.* **in 'this case**, ⇨ *case*¹(1). **2** (in narrative) a certain: *Then ~ funny little man came up to me.* □ *adv* (informal) so: *It's about ~ high. Now that we have come ~ far (= as far as this)...*

thistle /θɪsl/ *n* [C] (sorts of) wild plant with prickly leaves and yellow, white or purple flowers.

tho' /ðəʊ/ *adv, conj* = *though*.

thong /θɒŋ/ *n* [C] narrow strip of leather, eg as a fastening, the lash of a whip.

tho-rax /θɔːræks/ *n* [C] **1** part of an animal's body between the neck and the belly, eg in a man, the chest. **2** middle of the three main sections of an insect (with the legs and wings).

thorn /θɔːn/ *n* **1** [C] pointed growth on the stem of a plant. **a thorn in one's flesh/side**, (fig) constant source of irritation. **2** [C,U] kinds of shrub or tree with thorns.

thorny *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) having thorns. (b) (fig) full of trouble and difficulty: *a ~y problem.*

thor-ough /θɔːrəʊ/ *US: 'θɔːrəʊ/ adj* complete in every way; not forgetting or overlooking anything; detailed: *a ~ worker; be ~ in one's work.*

thorough-going *adj* complete: *a ~going re'vision.*

thor-ough-ly *adv*

thor-ough-ness *n* [U]

thor-ough-bred /θɔːrəbrɛd/ *US: 'θɔːrə-/ n* [C], *adj* (animal, esp a horse) of pure breed.

thor-ough-fare /θɔːrəfeə(r)/ *US: 'θɔːrə-/ n* [C] road or street, esp one much used by the traffic and open at both ends: *Broadway is New York's most famous ~.*

those /ðəʊz/ *pl* of *that*.

though /ðəʊ/ *conj* **1** (also *al-though* /ɔːl'dəʊ/) in spite of the fact that: *T~ they are poor, they are always neatly dressed. He passed the examination al~ he had been prevented by illness from ~studying.* **2** (introducing an independent statement) and yet; all the same: *I'll try to come, ~ I don't think I shall manage it.* **as though**, ⇨ *as*²(11). □ *adv* however: *He said he would come; he didn't, ~.*

thought¹ /θɔːt/ *pt, pp* of *think*¹.

thought² /θɔːt/ *n* **1** [U] (power, process of) thinking: *He was lost/deep in ~, thinking so deeply as to be unaware of his surroundings, etc.* **2** [U] way of thinking characteristic of a particular period, class, nation, etc: *Scientific/Greek ~.* **3** [U] care, consideration: *He often acts without ~.* **4** [C,U] idea, opinion, intention, etc formed by thinking: *That boy hasn't a ~ in his head. He keeps his ~s to himself, does not tell anyone what he thinks. She says she can read my ~s, knows what I am thinking. He had no ~ (= intention) of hurting your feelings.* **food for thought**, ⇨ *food*(2). **on second thoughts**, after further consideration. **give sb/sth a thought**, think about before deciding, be sympathetic, etc according to context. **spare a thought for sb**, ⇨ *spare*²(2).

thought-ful /θɪfl/ *adj* (a) full of, showing, thought: *~ful looks.* (b) considerate; thinking of the needs of others: *It was ~ful of you to warn me of your arrival.*

thought-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

thought-less *adj* (a) careless; unthinking: *Young people are often ~less for the future.* (b) selfish; inconsiderate (of others): *a ~less action.*

thought-less-ly *adv*

thou-sand /θəʊzənd/ *adj, n* [C] **1** (of) 1000. **2** great number: *A ~ thanks for your kindness. He made a ~ and one (= very many) excuses.* **a thousand to one (chance)**, a remote possibility. **one in a thousand**, a rare exception.

thousand-fold /-fəʊld/ *adj, adv* a thousand times (as much or many).

thou-sandth /θəʊzənθ/ *adj, n* [C] (abbr 1000th) (of) the next after 999 or one of 1000 parts.

thrash /θræʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** beat with a stick, whip, etc: *He threatened to ~ the life out of me, beat me thoroughly.* **2** (informal) defeat (a team, etc) in a contest. **3 thrash sth out**, (a) clear

up (a problem, etc) by discussion. **(b)** arrive at (the truth, a solution, etc) by discussion. **4** (cause to) toss, move violently: *The swimmer ~ed about in the water.*

thrash-ing, **(a)** beating: *give/get a good ~ing*. **(b)** defeat, eg in games.

thread /θred/ *n* 1 [C,U] (length of) spun cotton, silk, flax, wool, etc esp for use in sewing and weaving: *a needle and ~*. **2** something like a thread: *A ~ of light came through the key-hole*. **3** [C] chain or line (connecting parts of a story, etc): *lose the ~ of one's argument*. **4** spiral ridge round a screw or bolt. □ *vi* **1** pass a thread through the eye of (a needle); put (beads, pearls, etc) on a thread. **2** **thread one's way through**, make one's way (through a crowd, etc). **3** (of hair) streak: *black hair ~ed with silver*, with streaks of silver hair in it.

'thread-bare /-beə(r)/ *adj* (of cloth) worn.

threat /θret/ *n* [C] **1** statement of an intention to punish or hurt a person, esp if he does not do as one wishes: *carry out a ~*; *be under the ~ of expulsion*, eg from a university. **2** sign or warning of coming trouble, danger, etc: *There was a ~ of rain in the dark sky*.

threaten /'θretn/ *vt, vi* **1** use threats: *~ an employee with dismissal*. **2** give warning of: *The clouds ~ed rain*. **3** seem likely to occur or come: *Knowing that danger ~ed, I kept an extra careful watch*.

threat-en-ing *adj*: *a ~ sky*.

threat-en-ing-ly *adv*

three /θri:/ *adj, n* [C] (of) 3.

'three-'cornered *adj* triangular: *a ~ cornered 'contest/fight*, with three contestants or competitors, eg in a Parliamentary election.

'three-'D, (abbr for) three-dimensional.

'three-di-'mensional *adj* having, or appearing to have, three dimensions (length, breadth and depth).

'three-'figure *adj* (of numbers, amounts) between 100 and 999 (inclusive).

'three-'piece *n* [C], *adj* set of three articles of clothing (eg a suit); set of furniture (a sofa and two armchairs): *a ~-piece 'suite*.

'three-'ply *adj* (of wool, thread) having three strands.

'three-quarter(s), three fourths of the size, numbers, length, area, etc.

'three-'score, sixty.

'three-some /-səm/ *n* [C] (game, dance, for) three persons.

thresh /θref/ *vt, vi* beat (the grain out of) wheat, etc: *~ corn by hand*.

'thresh-ing-machine, one for threshing grain.

thresher, person who, machine that, threshes.

thresh-old /'θrefhəuld/ *n* [C] **1** stone or plank under a doorway in a house, church, etc: *cross the ~*. **2** (fig) start, beginning: *He*

was on the ~ of his career.

threw /θru:/ *pt* of throw¹.

thrice /θraɪs/ *adv* (rare) three times.

thrift /θrɪft/ *n* [U] care, economy, in the use of money or goods.

thrifty *adj* (-ier, -iest) economical (the usual word).

thrill /θrɪl/ *n* [C] (experience causing an) excited feeling passing like a wave along the nerves: *a ~ of joy/pleasure/horror*. □ *vt, vi* cause a thrill in: *The film ~ed the audience*. *We were ~ed with horror/joy*. **2** feel a thrill: *We ~ed at the good news*.

thriller, novel, play or film in which excitement and emotional appeal are the essential elements.

thrive /θraɪv/ *vi* (*pt* thrive /θraʊv/ *pp* thriven /'θrɪvn/) prosper; succeed; grow strong and healthy: *Children ~ on good food*. *He has a thriving business*.

thro', **thro** /θru:/ = through.

throat /θrəʊt/ *n* [C] **1** front part of the neck: *I gripped him by the ~*. **2** passage in the neck through which food passes to the stomach and air to the lungs: *A bone has stuck in my ~*. **cut one's own throat**, cause one's own defeat. **force/thrust sth down sb's throat**, try to make him accept one's views, beliefs, etc. **jump down sb's throat**, criticize him, become angry with him, suddenly. **stick in one's throat**, (fig) be unable to be accepted: *His words stuck in my ~*. ⇨ lump¹ (2).

throb /θrɒb/ *vi* (-bb-) (of the heart, pulse, etc) beat, esp beat more quickly than usual: *His head ~bed*. He had a bad headache. □ *n* [C] throbbing or vibration: *~s of joy*. ⇨ heart-throb.

throb-bing *adj* that throbs: *a ~bing pain/sound*.

throne /θrəʊn/ *n* [C] **1** ceremonial chair or seat of a king, queen, bishop, etc. **2** **the ~**, royal authority: *come to the ~*, become king/queen.

throng /θrɒŋ *US*: θrɔ:ŋ/ *n* [C] crowd. □ *vt, vi* make, be, a crowd: *People ~ed to see the new play*.

throttle /'θrɒtl/ *vt, vi* **1** seize (a person) by the throat and stop his breathing; strangle: *He ~d the guard and then robbed the bank*. **2** control the flow of steam, etc in an engine; lessen the speed of (an engine) by doing this. □ *n* [C] valve controlling the flow of steam, etc in an engine.

through¹ (*US* also **thru**) /θru:/ *adv* (For special combinations with verbs, eg *get ~*, ⇨ the verb entries.) **1** from end to end, beginning to end, side to side: *They wouldn't let us ~, eg pass the gate*. *He slept the whole night ~*, all night. *The nail went ~ (the wood) easily*. **all through**, all the time (something was happening, etc): *I knew that all ~*. **2** to the very end. **be through (with)**, **(a)** finish (with):

When will you be ~ with your work? (b) (informal) have had enough of; be tired of: *I'm ~ with this job; I must find something more interesting.* (c) (informal) no longer be in love: *I'm ~ with her.* **get through**, ⇨ get through. **see sth through**, continue to do it, etc until it is finished. **through and through**, in all parts; completely: *He's a reliable man ~ and ~.* **3** all the way to: *This train goes ~ to Paris.* **4** (as an adjective) (used in the sense of 3): *a ~ train to Paris; ~ traffic*, road traffic which is going through a place (contrasted with local traffic). **5** (telephoning) (a) (GB) connected: *I will put you ~ to the manager*, connect you. (b) (US) finished; not wishing to continue the call.

through-put /-put/, amount of material put through a process.

through² (US also **thru**) /θru:/ prep (For combinations with verbs, eg *go through*, ⇨ the verb entries.) **1** (of places) from end to end or side to side of; entering at one side, on one surface, etc and coming out at the other: *The River Thames flows ~ London. There is a path ~ (= across) the fields. He was looking ~ a telescope.* **2** (fig): *He went ~/has come ~ (= experienced) many hardships. We must go ~ (= examine) the accounts.* **3** (of time) from beginning to end of: *He won't live ~ the night. He will die before morning.* **4** (showing the agency, means or cause) because of: *The accident happened ~ no fault of yours.* **5** without stopping for: *Don't drive ~ a red light.* **6** (US) up to and including: *Monday ~ Friday.*

through-out /θru:'aot/ adv right through; in every part; in all ways or respects: *The house needs painting ~.* □ prep all or right through; from end to end of: *~ the country; ~ the war; ~ the year.*

throve /θrəʊv/ pt of thrive.

throw¹ /θrəʊ/ vt, vi (pt threw /θru:/, pp thrown /θrəʊn/) (For special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 11 below) **1** cause (something) to go through the air, usually with force, by a movement of the arm or by mechanical means: *Don't ~ stones at my dog! He threw the ball to his sister.* **2** put (articles of clothing) (on, off, over, etc) quickly or carelessly: *~ a coat over one's shoulders.* **3** move (one's arms, legs, etc) (out, up, down, about) energetically: *~ one's chest out; ~ one's head back.* **4** (a) (of a horse) cause the rider to fall to the ground: *Two of the jockeys were ~n in the race.* (b) (of a wrestler) force (an opponent) to the floor. **5** (of dice) drop on to the table (after shaking them in something); get by doing this: *~ three sixes.* **6** (fig) cause to be noticed as if by throwing: *He threw me an angry look.* **7** shape (pottery) on a potter's wheel. **8** (informal) **throw a party**, give a (dinner, cocktail, etc) party. **throw a fit**, ⇨ fit² (3). **9 throw sth open (to)**, make (eg a

competition) open to all persons. **10** (used with nouns) ⇨ cold¹ (1), doubt¹, gauntlet¹ (1), light³ (5), weight² (2).

11 (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

throw sth about, scatter: *Don't ~ waste paper about in the park.* **throw money about**, (fig) spend it carelessly.

throw sth away, (a) lose by foolishness or neglect: *~ away an opportunity.* (b) (of words spoken by actors, broadcasters, etc) say in a casual way, with conscious under-emphasis.

throw back, show characteristics of, revert to, a remote ancestor. Hence, **'throw-back n** [C] person, animal, with these characteristics.

throw oneself down, lie down quickly at full length (eg to avoid danger).

throw sth in, (a) give something extra, without an addition to the price: *You can have the guitar for £20, with the case ~n in.* (b) put in (a remark, etc) casually. (c) (football) throw the ball in after it has gone out of play. Hence, **'throw-in n** [C]. **throw in the towel**, (informal) admit defeat.

throw oneself into sth, begin to work hard at it.

throw sb/sth off, manage to get rid of; become free from: *~ off a cold/a pursuer.*

throw oneself on sb/sth, put one's trust in: *~ oneself on the mercy of the court.*

throw sth out, (a) say (esp casually): *~ out a hint/suggestion.* (b) reject (a Bill in Parliament, an idea, etc).

throw sb over, desert, abandon: *~ over one's girlfriend.*

throw sth together, assemble (too) quickly: *That dress seems to have been ~n together.*

throw sth up, (a) vomit (food). (b) resign from: *~ up one's job.* **throw up one's hands (in horror)**, express horror by doing this.

throw oneself upon sb/sth, = throw on.

throw² /θrəʊ/ n [C] throwing; distance to which something is or may be thrown: *a ~ of 70 metres; a well-aimed ~*, eg cricket, to get a batsman out. **within a stone's throw (of)**, ⇨ stone² (2).

thru /θru:/ (US) = through.

thrush /θrʌʃ/ n [C] sorts of songbird, esp the 'song-~.

thrust /θrʌst/ vt, vi (pt, pp ~) push suddenly or violently; make a forward stroke with a sword, etc: *He ~ his hands into his pockets/a coin into my hand.* □ n **1** [C] act of thrusting. **2** [C] (in war) strong attempt to push forward into the enemy's positions. **3** [C] (in debate, etc) attack in words. **4** [U] force directed forward in a jet-engine.

thud /θʌd/ n [C] dull sound as of a blow on something soft: *He fell with a ~ to the carpet.* □ vi (-dd-) strike, fall, with a thud.

thug /θʌg/ *n* [C] violent and dangerous person.

thumb /θʌm/ *n* [C] short, thick finger set apart from the other four. **under sb's thumb**, under his influence and control. **by rule of thumb**, using a method or procedure based on experience and practice. □ *vt* **1** turn over (pages, etc); make dirty by doing this: *~ the pages of a dictionary; a well-used 'book*. **2 thumb a lift**, = hitch-hike.

thump /θʌmp/ *vt, vi* **1** strike heavily; hit with the fists: *He ~ed (on) the door. The two boys began to ~ one another. He was ~ing out a tune on the piano, playing noisily. 2 beat(7) heavily: His heart ~ed with excitement.* □ *n* [C] (noise of, or as of, a) heavy blow (esp one given with the fist): *Give him a friendly ~ on the back.*

thunder /'θʌndə(r)/ *n* [U] **1** noise which usually follows a flash of lightning: *a loud crash/a long roll of ~. 2 (also pl)* loud noise like thunder: *the ~ of the guns. steal sb's thunder*, spoil his opportunity to be impressive by speaking or acting first. □ *vi, vt* **1** (impersonal): *It was ~ing and lightening. 2 make a noise like thunder: Someone was ~ing at the door, beating at it. 3 speak in a loud voice, attack violently in words.*

'thunder-bolt, (a) flash of lightning with a crash of thunder. (b) (fig) unexpected and terrible event.

'thunder-clap, sudden noise of thunder.

'thunder-storm, storm of thunder and lightning, usually with heavy rain.

'thunder-struck *adj* (fig) amazed.

thunder-ous /-əs/ *adj* making a noise like thunder: *~ous applause.*

Thurs-day /'θɜ:zdi/ *n* fifth day of the week.

thus /ðʌs/ *adv* in this way; so: *~ far, to this point.*

thwack /θwæk/ *vt, n* = whack.

thwart /θwɔ:t/ *vt* obstruct (and so defeat): *be ~ed in one's ambitions/aims.*

thyme /taim/ *n* [U] kind of herb.

thy-roid /'θaɪrɔɪd/ *n* [C] (also *'~ gland*) gland in the front part of the neck, producing a substance which affects the body's growth and activity.

ti-ara /tɪ'ɑ:rə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** coronet for a woman. **2** triple crown worn by the Pope.

tibia /'tɪbiə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~e /-bi:/) (*anat*) inner and thicker of the two bones between the knee and the foot.

tic /tɪk/ *n* [C] involuntary twitching of the muscles (esp of the face).

tick ¹ /tɪk/ *n* [C] **1** light, regularly repeated sound, esp of a clock or watch. **2** (informal) moment: *I'll be with you in a couple of ~s. 3* small mark (often ✓) to show that something is correct. □ *vi, vt* **1** (of a clock, etc) make ticks(1): *The child put the watch to its ear and listened to it ~ing. What makes him/it*

tick? (informal) What makes him/it act, behave, etc like that? **2** (of a clock): *~ away the hours. 3 tick over*, (a) (of an internal-combustion engine) be operating with gears disconnected. (b) (fig) be active but slow: *Business is ~ing over. 4* put a tick(3) against: *~ off a name/the items on a list. tick sb off*, (informal) tell him off. Hence, **'ticking-off** *n*: *give her a good ~ing-off.*

tick ² /tɪk/ *n* [C] small parasite that fastens itself on the skin and sucks blood.

ticker /'tɪkə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** telegraphic machine which automatically prints news on paper tape (called **'ticker-tape**). **2** (sl) heart.

ticket /'tɪkɪt/ *n* [C] **1** written or printed piece of card or paper giving the holder the right to travel in a train, bus, ship, etc or to a seat in a cinema, concert hall, etc: *Do you want a single or a return ~? 2* piece of card or paper, label, attached to something and giving information, eg about the price, size of clothing, etc. **3** printed notice of an offence against traffic regulations (eg a parking offence): *get a ('parking) ~. 4 (just) the ticket*, (informal) the proper thing to do, have. □ *vt* put a ticket(2) on.

'ticket-collector, person who collects (railway) tickets.

tickle /'tɪkl/ *vt, vi* **1** excite the nerves of the skin by touching lightly, esp at sensitive parts, often so as to cause laughter: *~ him in the ribs. 2* please (one's sense of humour, etc). **tickled pink/to death**, very, pleased, amused: *I was ~ pink at the praise given to me. 3* have, feel, cause, an itching or tingling sensation: *My nose ~s.*

tick-ler /'tɪklə(r)/, (esp) puzzling question.

ticklish /'tɪklɪʃ/ *adj* (a) (of a person) easily made to laugh when tickled. (b) (of a problem, piece of work, etc) needing delicate care or attention: *be in a ticklish situation.*

ti-dal /'taɪdl/ *adj* of a tide or tides: *a ~ river*, in which the tide rises and falls.

'tidal wave, great ocean wave, eg one that is (thought to be) caused by an earthquake.

tid-dler /'tɪdlə(r)/ *n* [C] (informal) **1** very small fish. **2** small young child.

tide /taɪd/ *n* [C,U] regular rise and fall in the level of the sea, caused by the attraction of the moon: *at high/low ~. 2* [C] flow or tendency (of public opinion, feeling, etc): *The Liberals hoped for a turn of the ~, that public opinion might turn in their favour. □ vt tide sb over (sth)*, help him to get through or survive (a period of difficulty, etc): *Will £5 ~ you over until you're paid?*

'tide-mark, highest point reached by a tide on a beach.

tid-ings /'taɪdɪŋz/ *n pl* (literary) (used with a *sing* or *pl verb*) news: *glad ~.*

tidy /'taɪdi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** arranged neatly and in order; having the habit of placing and

keeping everything in its right place: *a ~ room/boy*. **2** (informal) fairly large (esp of money): *a ~ sum of money*. □ *n* [C] (pl -ies) receptacle for odds and ends: *a 'sink-~, for bits of kitchen waste*. □ *vt, vi* make tidy: *You'd better ~ (up) the room before the guests arrive*.

ti-dily /'taɪdɪl/ *adv*

ti-di-ness *n* [U]

tie¹ /taɪ/ *n* [C] **1** something (rope, ribbon) used for fastening. **2** (fig) something that keeps people united: *the ~s of friendship; family ~s*. **3** something that takes up one's attention and limits one's freedom of action: *Mothers often find their small children a ~*. **4** equal score in a game, etc: *The game ended in a ~, 2-2*. **5** band of material worn round the neck of a shirt and knotted in front.

tie² /taɪ/ *vt, vi* (present participle *tying*, *pt, pp* *tied*) **1** fasten or bind (with string, rope, wire, etc): *~ a man's feet together; ~ up a parcel*. **2** fasten by means of the strings, etc of: *~ on a label*. **3** arrange (a ribbon, etc) in the form of a bow or knot: *~ one's shoelaces; ~ a ribbon/scarf; ~ the ribbon in(to) a bow*. **4** make by tying: *~ a knot in a piece of string*. **5** be fastened: *Does this dress ~ in front or at the back?* **6** (of players, teams, candidates in a competitive examination) make the same score (as): *The two teams ~d. They ~d for first place (in the examination)*.

7 (special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*):

tie sb down, restrict his freedom: *He's not in a hurry to get married; he doesn't want to get ~d down*. **tie sb down to sth**, restrict him to (the terms of a contract, etc).

tie (sth) in with sth, link, agree, with: *Doesn't this ~ in with what we were told last week?*

tie sth up, (a) invest (capital) so that it is not easily available. (b) ensure that (property, eg land, buildings) can be used, sold, etc only under certain conditions. **be/get tied up (with sth/sb)**, (a) be, get, involved (with it/him) so that one has no time for other things: *I'm afraid I can't help you now—I'm too ~d up with other things*. (b) be, become, linked with: *Isn't this company ~d up with Vickers-Armstrong?* Hence, **'tie-up** *n* [C] link; merger; partnership.

tier /tɪə(r)/ *n* [C] row (esp of seats) parallel to and rising one above another, eg in a theatre or stadium.

tiff /tɪf/ *n* [C] slight quarrel.

ti-ger /'taɪgə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** large, fierce animal of the cat family, yellow-skinned with black stripes. ⇨ *paper tiger*. **2** (informal) strong opponent; energetic person.

ti-ger-ish /-ɪʃ/ *adj* like, cruel as, a tiger.

ti-gress /'taɪgrɪs/ *n* [C] female tiger.

tight /taɪt/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** fastened, fixed, fitting, held, closely: *a ~ knot. The drawer is so*

~ that I can't open it. **2** (esp in compounds) made so that something cannot get out or in: *water-/air-~*. **3** packed so as to occupy the smallest possible space or to get in as much as possible: *Make sure that the bags are filled/packed ~*. **4** (informal) having had too much alcoholic drink: *He gets ~ every pay-day*. **5** fully stretched: *a ~ rope*. **6** produced by pressure; causing difficulty. **in a tight corner/spot**, (fig) in a difficult or dangerous situation. **a tight schedule**, one that is difficult to keep to. **a tight squeeze**, ⇨ *squeeze*. **7** (of money) not easily obtainable, eg on loan from banks: *Money is ~*. □ *adv* = tightly: *squeeze/hold it ~*. **sit tight**, ⇨ *sit* (1).

'tight-fisted, miserly.

'tight-laced *adj* = strait-laced.

'tight-lipped *adj* (fig) saying little or nothing.

'tight-rope, one on which acrobats perform.

tight-ly *adv*

tight-ness *n* [U]

tighten /'taɪtn/ *vt, vi* make, become, tight(er): *~ (up) the screws; ~ the ropes of the tent*.

tights /taɪts/ *n* pl **1** close-fitting (usually nylon) clothing covering the hips, legs and feet, as worn by girls and women. **2** skin-tight clothing covering the legs and body, worn by acrobats, ballet-dancers, etc.

tilde /tɪld/ *n* [C] the mark (~) (as used in this dictionary to replace the headword in the example sentences).

tile /taɪl/ *n* [C] (usually square or oblong) plate of baked clay for covering roofs, walls, etc, often painted with designs or pictures. **be (out) on the tiles**, (sl) out drinking, etc. □ *vt* cover (a roof, etc) with tiles.

till¹ /tɪl/ (also *until* /ʌn'tɪl/) (Note: the choice between *till* and *until* is chiefly a matter of personal preference, though *until* is often considered more formal.) *conj* up to the time when: *Go straight on ~ you come to the post office and then turn left. She won't go away ~ you promise to help her*. □ *prep* up to the time when; up to; down to: *I shall wait ~ ten o'clock. He works from morning ~ night, day after day*.

till² /tɪl/ *n* [C] money-drawer in a cash-register.

till³ /tɪl/ *vt* cultivate (land).

till-age /'tɪlɪdʒ/ *n* [U] act or process of tilling; tilled land.

tiller /'tɪlə(r)/ *n* [C] lever (like a long handle) used to turn the rudder of a small boat.

tilt /tɪlt/ *vt, vi* (cause to) come into a sloping position (as by lifting one end); tip: *Don't ~ the table*. □ *n* [C] tilting; sloping position.

tim-ber /'tɪmbə(r)/ *n* **1** [U] wood prepared for use in building, etc: a *'~yard*, place where timber is stored, bought and sold, etc. **2** [U] growing trees thought of as containing wood suitable for building, carpentry, etc: *The fire destroyed thousands of acres of ~*. **3** [C] large piece of shaped wood, beam, forming a sup-

port (eg in a roof or a ship).

tim-bered *adj* (of buildings) made of timber.

time¹ /taɪm/ *n* 1 [U] all the days of the past, present and future: *past, present and future ~. The world exists in space and ~.* 2 [U] the passing of all the days, months and years, taken as a whole: *T~ will show who is right.* 3 [U] (also with *a*, *an* and an adjective) portion or measure of time: *Six minutes is a short period of ~. What a (long) ~ you have been!* **all the time**, (a) during the whole period in question: *I looked all over the house for that letter, and it was in my pocket all the ~, while I was searching.* (b) at all times; first and last: *He's a business man all the ~, has no other interests in life.* **half the time**, (a) as in: *He did the work in four hours; I could have done it in half the ~, in two hours.* (b) very often; nearly always: *He says he works hard, but he's asleep half the ~.* **behind time**, late: *The train is ten minutes behind ~.* **for the time being**, ⇨ *be*³(3). **on time**, not late, punctual(ly): *The train is/came in on ~.* **in no time**, very soon; very quickly. **make up for lost time**, hurry, etc after starting late. **play for time**, delay doing something in the hope that the situation will improve. **take one's time (over sth)**, ⇨ *take*¹(9). 4 [U] point of time stated in hours and minutes of the day: *What ~ is it? What's the ~?* ⇨ *tell*(5). 5 [U] time measured in units (years, months, hours, etc): *The winner's ~ was 11 seconds.* **pass the time**, do something during a period of spare time, eg while waiting. **pass the time of day (with...)**, ⇨ *pass*²(8). 6 [C,U] point or period of time associated with, or available or suitable for, a certain event, purpose, etc: *by the ~ we arrived home; every ~ I looked at her.* *It's 'lunch-~. It's ~ I was going ~ for me to go, I ought to leave now.* **at the same time**, (a) together: *laugh and cry at the same ~.* (b) (introducing a fact, etc that is to be thought about) still, nevertheless: *At the same ~ you must not get that...* **from time to time**; **at times**, occasionally; now and then. **at all times**, always. **in time**, (a) not late; early enough: *We were in ~ to catch the train.* (b) sooner or later: *You will learn how to do it in ~.* **in no time (at all)**, very quickly. ⇨ also *nick*. **do time**, (informal) go to prison for a period. 7 [C] occasion: *this/tha/next/another ~; the ~ before last; for the first/last ~.* **time and (time) again**; **times without number**, always and again; repeatedly. 8 (pl) (used to show multiplication): *Three ~s five is/are fifteen, 3 × 5 = 15.* 9 [C] (often pl) period of time, more or less definite, associated with certain events, circumstances, persons, etc: *in ancient/prehistoric ~s.* 10 [C] (often pl) the conditions of life, the circumstances, etc of a period characterized by certain qualities, etc: *We lived through terrible ~s during the war*

years. *T~s are good/bad*, (often meaning that it is easy/difficult to make a living). **behind the times**, old-fashioned. **have a good time**, ⇨ *good*¹(4). **have the time of one's life**, ⇨ *life*(5). 11 [U] **Greenwich / local / summer / standard time**, ⇨ these entries. 12 (music) measurement depending on the number of rhythmic beats in successive bars of a piece of music. **beat time**, ⇨ *beat*²(7). **mark time**, ⇨ *mark*²(7).

time-bomb, designed to explode at some time after being dropped, placed in position.

time-card/-sheet, one for a record of workmen's hours of work.

time-consuming *adj* using, needing, a lot of time.

time-honoured (US = -honored) *adj* respected because of its age.

time-keeper, (a) one who, or that which, records the time spent by workers at their work. (b) (of a watch, etc) one that keeps time well, etc: *a good/bad ~keeper.*

time-lag, interval of time between two connected events.

time-limit, limited period of time; last moment of this: *set a ~-limit for the completion of a job.*

time-saving *adj* serving to save time: *a ~-saving idea.*

time-signal, signal (eg a series of pips) for telling the time (in a radio programme).

time-switch, switch set to operate at a desired time (eg to turn a heating system on or off).

time-table, list showing the days or hours at which events will take place, work will be done, etc esp a list showing the times at which trains, etc will arrive and depart.

time-zone, region of the world where the same time(4) is used.

time² /taɪm/ *vt* 1 choose the time or moment for; arrange the time of: *He ~d his journey so that he arrived before dark.* 2 measure the time taken by or for (a race, runner, an action or event). 3 regulate: *~ the speed of a machine.*

tim-ing *n* [U] act of determining or regulating the (order of) occurrence of an action, event, etc to achieve the desired results: *The timing of last night's performance was excellent.*

time-ly /'taɪmlɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) occurring at just the right time: *a ~ arrival.*

timid /'tɪmɪd/ *adj* easily frightened: *He's as ~ as a rabbit.*

tim-id-ity /'tɪmɪdəti/ *n* [U]

timid-ly *adv*

tim-or-ous /'tɪmərəs/ *adj* timid.

tim-or-ous-ly *adv*

tim-pani /'tɪmpəni/ *n* pl set of kettledrums (eg of an orchestra).

tim-pan-ist /'tɪmpənɪst/, player of a kettledrum.

tin /tɪn/ *n* 1 [U] soft, white metal (symbol **Sn**)

used in alloys and for coating iron sheets. **2** [C] (US = can) tin-plated airtight container for food: *a ~ of sardines/beans*. □ **vt** (-nn-) **1** put a coating of tin on. **2** (US = can) pack (food, tobacco, etc) in tins (2): *~ned peaches*.

'tin-foil, tin in thin, flexible sheets, used for wrapping and packing cigarettes, confectionery, etc.

'tin-opener, device for opening tins.

tinny *adj* (-ier, -iest) of or like tin (eg in sound): *a ~ piano*.

tine /taɪn/ *n* [C] **1** point, prong (eg of a fork, etc). **2** branch of a deer's antler.

tinge /tɪndʒ/ *vt* **1** 'colour slightly (with red, etc). **2** (fig) (esp in *pp*) affect slightly: *admiration ~d with envy*. □ **n** [C] slight colouring or mixture (of): *There was a ~ of sadness in her voice*.

tingle /'tɪŋɡl/ *vi* have a pricking or stinging feeling in the skin: *His fingers ~d with the cold*. *The children were tingling with excitement*. □ **n** [C] tingling feeling.

tin-ker /'tɪŋkə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** worker who repairs kettles, pans, etc. **2** attempt to repair; work: *have an hour's ~ at the radio*, try to mend it. □ **vi** work in an inexpert way (at): *Please don't ~ with my car engine*.

tinkle /'tɪŋkl/ *vi, vt* (cause to) make a succession of light, ringing sounds, eg of a small bell. □ **n** (sing) such sounds: *the ~ of a bell*.

tin-sel /'tɪnsəl/ *n* [U] **1** glittering metallic substance made in sheets, strips and threads, used for ornament: *trim a Christmas tree with ~*. **2** cheap, showy brilliance. □ **vt** (-ll-, US also -l-) trim with tinsel.

tint /tɪnt/ *n* [C] (esp pale or delicate) shade or variety of colour: *~s of green in the sky at dawn*. □ **vi** give a tint to; put a tint on.

tiny /taɪni/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) very small.

-tion /-ʃn/ (also **-sion** /-ʃn/, **-ation** /-eɪʃn/, **-ition** /-ɪʃn/) suffix (verb + ~ = noun): *relation*; *confession*; *hesitation*; *competition*.

-tional /-ʃənl/ *adj*

-tion-ally /-ʃənəli/ *adv*

tip¹ /tɪp/ *n* [C] **1** pointed or thin end of something: *the ~s of one's fingers/the 'finger-~s*. (*have sth*) *on the tip of one's tongue*, (be) just going to say (it), just about to remember (it). **2** small piece put at the end of something: *cigarettes with filter-~s*. □ **vt** (-pp-) supply with a tip (2): *~ped cigarettes*.

'tip-toe *adv* *on tiptoe*, on the tips of one's toes: *be on ~toe with excitement*. □ **vi** walk on tiptoe: *She ~toed out of the bedroom*.

tip¹-top *adj, adv* (informal) first-rate: *in ~top condition*.

tip² /tɪp/ *vi, vt* (-pp-) **1** *tip (sth) up*, (cause to) rise, lean or tilt on one side or at one end: *The table ~ped up*. **tip sth (over)**, (cause to) overbalance or overturn: *Careful! You'll ~ the canoe over*. **tip the scale (at)**, (a) be just enough to cause one scale or pan (of a ba-

lance) to go lower than the other. (b) (fig) be the deciding factor (for or against). (c) weigh: *He ~ped the scale at 70 kilos*. **2** empty (the contents of something) out of/into: *No rubbish to be ~ped here*, a warning put up in open spaces. *She ~ped the water out of the bowl into the sink*. □ **n** [C] **1** (not US) place where rubbish may be tipped (2): *a 'refuse ~*. **2** hill of waste material from a coalmine, etc. **3** (informal) untidy place: *This room is a ~!*

tip³ /tɪp/ *vt* (-pp-) **1** touch or strike lightly: *His bat just ~ped the ball*. **2** give a tip to (1,2 below): *~ the waiter*. **tip sb off**, (informal) give him a warning, information or a hint. Hence, **'tip-off** *n* [C] hint or warning: *give the police a ~off*. **tip the winner**, name the winner (of a horse-race) before the event takes place. □ **n** [C] **1** gift of money to a porter, waiter, etc for services: *leave a ~ on the table*, eg in a restaurant. **2** piece of advice on something, eg information about the probable winner of a horse-race, about a person wanted by the police, etc: *If you take my ~ (= advice) you'll say you're sorry*. **3** tap (1).

tipple /'tɪpl/ *n* [U] (usually alcoholic) drink: *My favourite ~ is sherry*.

tip-ster /'tɪpstə(r)/ *n* [C] person who gives tips about races. ⇨ **tip³ (2)**.

tipsy /'tɪpsɪ/ *adj* (informal) slightly drunk.

ti-rade /taɪ'reɪd/ *n* [C] long, angry or scolding speech.

tire¹ /taɪə(r)/ *n* [C] (US) = tyre.

tire² /taɪə(r)/ *vi, vt* make or become weary, in need of rest, etc: *The long walk ~d the child* | *~d him out/made him ~d*. **be tired of**, have had enough of: *be ~d of boiled eggs*, have had them too often.

tired /taɪəd/ *adj* weary in body or mind; sleepy: *feel ~d after a long climb*. **tired out**, completely exhausted.

tired-ness *n* [U]

tire-less *adj* (a) not easily tired: *a ~less worker*. (b) continuing a long time: *~less energy*.

tire-some /-səm/ *adj* troublesome; tedious.

tis-sue /'tuː/ *n* [C, U] mass of cells and cell-products in an animal body: *'muscular ~*. **2** [C, U] (also *'~ paper*) thin, soft paper for wrapping things, protecting delicate articles, etc. **3** [C] (fig) series: *a ~ of lies*.

tit¹ /tɪt/ *n* [C] kinds of small bird.

tit² /tɪt/ *n* (only in) **tit for 'tat**, blow for blow.

tit³ /tʌt/ *n* Δ (vulgar sl) nipple; woman's breast.

tit-bit /'tɪtbɪt/ *n* [C] attractive bit (of food, news, gossip, etc).

tit-il-late /'tɪtɪlənt/ *vt* stimulate or excite pleasantly.

tit-il-la-tion /'tɪtɪləʃn/ *n* [U]

titi-vate (also **titti-**) /'tɪtɪveɪt/ *vi, vt* (informal) make smart: *She was titivating herself in front of the mirror*.

title /'taɪtl/ *n* **1** [C] name of a book, poem, picture, etc. **2** [C] word used to show a person's rank, occupation, status, etc, eg Lord, Prince, Professor, Dr, Miss. **3** [C,U] (*legal*) right or claim, esp right to the possession of a position, property: *Has he any ~ to the land?* **4** = credit titles.

'title-deed, document proving a title(3) to property.

'title-role, part in a play that gives the play its name: *a great performance of 'Othello' with Olivier in the ~-role*, with Olivier as Othello.

titled /'taɪtlɪd/ *adj* having a title of nobility: *a ~d lady*, eg a duchess.

tit-ter /'tɪtə(r)/ *vt, n* [C] (give a) silly little laugh.

titu-lar /'tɪtjələ(r) *US*: -tʃu-/ *adj* **1** held by virtue of a title: *~ possessions*. **2** existing in name but not having authority or duties: *the ~ ruler*.

tizzy /'tɪzi/ *n* **be in a tizzy**, (*informal*) in a nervous state.

T-junction /'ti: dʒʌŋkʃn/ *n* [C] ⇨ T, t.

TNT /'ti: en 'ti: n (= trinitrotoluene) powerful explosive.

to¹ /tu:/ *adverbial particle* **1** to or in the usual or required position, esp to a closed or almost closed position: *Push the door ~*. **2 to and fro**, ⇨ *fro*. **3** ⇨ *come*(13), *bring*(5), and *fall*²(14).

to² /tə/ *before vowels and strong form*: tu:/ *particle* (marking the infinitive) **1** (used after many verbs but not after *can*, *do*, *may*, *must*, *shall*, *will*): *He wants ~ go*. **2** (used with adverbs of functions, purpose, result, outcome): *They came (in order) ~ help me*. *He lived ~ be ninety*. **3** (limiting the meanings of adjectives and adverbs): *The book is easy ~ understand*. *He's old enough ~ go to school*. **4** (a subsequent fact): *The good old days have gone never ~ return*, and will never return. *He awoke ~ find himself (= and found himself) in a strange room*. **5** (used with an infinitive as a noun): *It is wrong ~ steal*. **6** (used as a substitute for the infinitive): *We didn't want to go home but we had ~*, ie had to go home.

to³ /tə/ *before vowels and strong form*: tu:/ *prep* **1** in the direction of; towards: *walk ~ work*; *point ~ it*; *hold it (up) ~ the light*; *turn ~ the right*. **2** (*fig*) towards (a condition, quality, etc): *a tendency ~ laziness*; *slow ~ anger*. **3** (introducing the indirect object): *Who did you give it ~?* *The man I gave it ~ has left*. **4** as far as: *from beginning ~ end*; *count (up) ~ ten*. **5** before: *a quarter ~ six*. **6** until: *from morning ~ night*. *I didn't stay ~ the end of the meeting*. **7** (of comparison, ratio, reference): *I prefer walking ~ climbing*. *We won by six goals ~ three*.

toad /təʊd/ *n* [C] animal like a frog that lives on land except when breeding.

'toad-stool, kinds of fungus, some of them poisonous.

toast¹ /təʊst/ *n* [U] (slice of) bread made brown and crisp by heating: *two slices of ~*. □ *vt, vi* **1** (of bread) make or become brown and crisp by heating. **2** warm (oneself, one's toes, etc) before a fire.

toaster, electric device for toasting bread.

toast² /təʊst/ *vt* wish happiness, success, etc to (a person or thing) while raising a glass of wine: *~ the bride and bridegroom*. □ *n* [C] act of toasting: person, group, etc toasted: *propose/ drink a ~*.

to-bacco /tə'bækəʊ/ *n* [U] (*pl* for kinds of tobacco leaf) (plant having) leaves which are dried, cured and used for smoking (in pipes, cigars, cigarettes) or as snuff: *This is a mixture of the best ~s*.

to-bac-co-nist /tə'bækənɪst/, shop, person, selling tobacco, cigarettes, etc.

to-bog-gan /tə'bɒgən/ *n* [C] long, narrow sledge without runners for sliding on ice. □ *vi* go down a snow-covered or ice-covered slope on a toboggan.

to-day /tə'deɪ/ *adv, n* [U] **1** (on) this day: *T ~ is Sunday*. *Have you seen ~'s newspaper?* *We're leaving ~ week/a week ~*, in one week's time. **2** (at) this present age or period: *the writers/~ the young people of ~*.

toddle /'tɒdl/ *vi* walk with short, uncertain steps as a baby does.

tod-dler /'tɒdlə(r)/, baby who can toddle.

toe /təʊ/ *n* [C] **1** each of the five divisions of the front part of the foot; similar part of an animal's foot. **tread/step on sb's toes**, (*fig*) offend him. **from top to toe**, from head to foot, completely. **on one's toes**, (*fig*) alert, ready for action. **on tiptoe**, ⇨ *tip-toe*. **2** part of a sock, shoe, etc covering the toes. □ *vt* touch, reach, with the toes. **toe the line**, (*fig*) behave properly; obey orders given to one as a member of a group or party.

'toe-nail, nail of the toe of a human being.

tof-fee /'tɒfi *US*: 'tɒfi/ *n* [C,U] (piece of) hard, brown sticky sweet made by boiling sugar, butter, etc.

tog /tɒg/ *vt* (-gg-) (*informal*) put on smart clothes.

togs *n pl* (*informal*) clothes: *'swimming ~s*.

toga /'tɒgə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) loose flowing outer clothing worn by men in ancient Rome.

to-gether /tə'geðə(r)/ *adv* **1** in company: *They went for a walk ~*. **together with**, as well as; in addition to; and also: *These new facts, ~ with the evidence you have already heard, prove the prisoner's innocence*. **2** so as to be in the same place, to be in contact, to be united: *Tie the ends ~*. *The leader called his men ~*. **put your/our, etc heads to-gether**, consult with each other (to find a solution, make plans, etc). **3** at the same time: *All his troubles seemed to come ~*.

to-gether-ness *n* [C] friendship; feeling of unity.

togs /tɒgz/ *n pl* ⇨ tog.

toil /tɔɪl/ *vi* work long or hard (at a task); move with difficulty and trouble: ~ *up a steep hill*. □ *n* [U] hard work: *after long ~*.

toiler, hard worker.

toilet /'tɔɪlɪt/ *n* [C] **1** lavatory; water-closet. **2** process of dressing, arranging the hair, etc: *She spent only a few minutes on her ~*. **3** (used as an adjective): a ~ *set*, ~ *articles*, such things as a hairbrush, comb, etc.

'toilet-paper, for use in a lavatory.

'toilet-roll, roll of toilet-paper.

to-ken /'təʊkən/ *n* [C] **1** sign, evidence, guarantee or mark: *I am giving you this watch as a ~ of my affection*. ⇨ book token. **2** (used as an adjective) acting as a preliminary or small-scale substitute: *The enemy offered only a ~ resistance*, did not resist seriously.

'token 'payment, payment of a small part of what is owed, made to show that the debt is recognized.

'token 'strike, for a few hours only (as a warning that a long strike may follow).

told /təʊld/ *pt, pp* of tell.

tol-er-ance /'tɒlərəns/ *n* [U] quality of tolerating opinions, beliefs, customs, physical types, behaviour, etc different from one's own: *religious/racial ~*.

tol-er-ant /'tɒlərənt/ *adj* having or showing tolerance: *Mr X is not very ~ (of criticism)*.

tol-er-ant-ly *adv*

tol-er-ate /'tɒləreɪt/ *vt* **1** put up with, allow, without protest: *I won't ~ your impudence/your doing that*. **2** put up with the company of: *How can you ~ that rude girl?*

tol-er-able /'tɒlərəbl/ *adj* (formal) that can be tolerated; fairly good: *tolerable food*.

tol-er-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

tol-er-ation /'tɒlə'reɪʃn/ *n*, tolerance, esp the practice of allowing religious freedom.

toll /təʊl/ *n* [C] **1** payment required for the use of a road, bridge, harbour, etc. **2** (fig) something paid, lost or suffered: *The war took a heavy ~ of the nation's men*.

'toll-bar/-gate, bar/gate across a road at which a toll is payable.

'toll-house, house for the man in charge of a toll-bar.

toll² /təʊl/ *vt, vi* (of a bell) (cause to) ring with slow, regular strokes: *The funeral bell ~ed solemnly*. □ *n* (sing only) tolling stroke of a bell.

tom-ato /tə'mɑ:təʊ *US*: tə'mentəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) (plant with a) soft, juicy, (usually) red fruit: (used as an adjective) ~ *juice*.

tomb /tu:m/ *n* [C] place dug in the ground, cut out of rock, etc for a dead body, esp one with a monument over it.

'tomb-stone, inscribed stone over a tomb.

tom-boy /'tɒmbɔɪ/ *n* [C] girl who likes rough, noisy games and play.

tom-cat /tɒmkæt/ *n* [C] male cat.

tome /təʊm/ *n* [C] (formal) large, heavy book.

to-mor-row /tə'mɒrəʊ/ *adv, n* [C, U] (on) the day after today: *If today is Monday, ~ will be Tuesday and the day after ~ will be Wednesday*. *The announcement will appear in ~'s newspapers*.

ton /tʌn/ *n* [C] **1** measure of weight (2240 lb in GB, 2000 lb in the US); *metric ton*, 2204.6 lb or 1000 kg. **2** (informal) large weight, quantity or number: *He has ~s of money*.

to-nal /'təʊnl/ *adj* (music) of tone or tones.

to-nal-ity /təʊ'næləti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (music) character of a melody, depending on the scale in which it is written, etc.

tone¹ /təʊn/ *n* **1** [C] sound, esp with reference to its quality, pitch, duration, feeling, etc: *the sweet ~(s) of a violin*; *a serious ~ of voice*. **2** [C] the pitch aspect of a (usually stressed) syllable; rise, fall, etc of the pitch of the voice in speaking: *In 'Are you ill?' there is a rising ~ on 'ill'*. **3** (sing only) general spirit, character, morale, of a community, etc: *The ~ of the school is excellent*. **4** [C] shade (of colour); degree (of light): *a carpet in ~s of brown*. **5** [C] (music) any one of the five larger intervals between one note and the next. **6** [U] proper and normal condition of (parts of) the body: *good muscular ~*.

tone-less *adj* not having colour, spirit, etc; dull: *answer in a ~less voice*.

tone-less-ly *adv*

tone² /təʊn/ *vt, vi* **1** give a particular tone of sound or colour to. **2** **tone (sth) down**, make or become less intense: *The artist ~d down the brighter colours*. *You'd better ~ down some of the offensive statements in your article*. **3** **tone (sth) up**, make or become more healthy, intense, brighter, etc: *Exercise ~s up the muscles*. **4** **tone in (with)**, (esp of colours) be in harmony: *These curtains ~ in well with your rugs*.

tongs /tɒgz/ *n pl* (also a pair of ~) one of various kinds of U-shaped tool for taking up and holding something: *sugar ~*. **be/go at it hammer and tongs**, ⇨ hammer(1).

tongue /tʌŋ/ *n* **1** [C] movable organ in the mouth, used in talking, tasting, licking, etc: *Don't put your ~ out at me!* (**have sth**) **on the tip of one's tongue**, ⇨ tip¹(1).

have one's tongue in one's cheek, say something that one does not intend to be taken seriously. **have lost one's tongue**, be too shy to speak. **hold one's tongue**, be silent, stop talking. **2** [C] language: *one's mother ~*, one's native language. **3** [C, U] animal's tongue, cooked and eaten: *ham and ~ sandwiches*. **4** something like a tongue in shape or use, eg the strip of leather under the laces of a shoe, a flame.

'tongue-tied *adj* silent; unable or unwilling to speak through shyness, fear, etc.

'tongue-twister, word or succession or

words difficult to say quickly and correctly.

tonic /'tɒnɪk/ *n* [C], *adj* **1** (something, eg, medicine) giving strength or energy: *get a bottle of ~ from the doctor. Praise can be a useful mental ~.* **2** (music) keynote. **3** = tonic water: *a gin and ~.*

'tonic water, (bottled) water with quinine: *a gin and ~.*

to-night /tə'naɪt/ *adv*, *n* [U] (on) the night of today: *last night, ~, and tomorrow night; ~'s television news.*

tonnage /'tɒnɪdʒ/ *n* [U] **1** internal cubic capacity of a ship (1 ton = 100 cu ft). **2** total tonnage(1) of a country's merchant shipping. **3** charge per ton on cargo, etc for transport.

ton-sil /'tɒnsɪl/ *n* [C] either of two small oval masses of tissue at the sides of the throat, near the root of the tongue.

ton-sil-itis /'tɒnsɪl'aitɪs/ *n* [U] inflammation of the tonsils.

too /tu:/ *adv* **1** also; as well, in addition: *I, ~, have been to Paris*, eg I, as well as he, you, etc. *I've been to Paris ~, eg to Paris as well as to Rome, Milan, etc.* **2** moreover: *There was frost last night, and in May ~!* **3** to, in, a higher degree than is allowable, required, etc: *We've had ~ much rain lately. You're driving ~ fast for safety. These shoes are much ~ small for me.* **4** (phrases) *go/carry sth too far*, ⇨ *far²* (2). *all too soon/quickly, etc*, sooner, more quickly, etc than is desired: *The holidays ended all ~ soon. none too early/soon, etc*, not at all too early, etc: *We were none ~ early for the train. We caught the train with very little time to spare. one too many*, ⇨ *many* (1). *be too much (for)*, ⇨ *much¹*. *only too* (+ *adj*), ⇨ *only²*.

took /tʊk/ *pt* of *take¹*.

tool /tu:l/ *n* [C] **1** instrument held in the hand(s) and used by workmen. **2** person used by another for dishonest purposes: *He was a mere ~ in the hands of the dictator.*

toot /tu:t/ *n* [C] short, sharp warning sound from a horn, whistle, trumpet, etc. □ *vi, vt* (cause to) give out a toot.

tooth /tu:θ/ *n* [C] (*pl* teeth /ti:θ/) **1** each of the hard, white, structures rooted in the gums, used for biting and chewing: *have a ~ out* (US: *have a ~ pulled*), ie by a dentist. *in the teeth of*, against the full force of, in opposition to. *armed to the teeth*, completely and elaborately armed. *long in the tooth*, old; experienced. *by the skin of one's teeth*, ⇨ *skin* (1). *fight tooth and nail*, ⇨ *fight²*. *get one's teeth into sth*, attack (a job) vigorously. *have a sweet tooth*, ⇨ *sweet* (1). *show one's teeth*, take up a threatening attitude. **2** part of a comb, saw or rake like a tooth. *go over/through sth with a fine-tooth comb*, examine it closely and thoroughly. **3** (*pl*) (informal) effective force: *When will the new legislation be*

given some teeth, be made effective?

'tooth-ache, pain in a tooth or teeth.

'tooth-brush, one for cleaning the teeth.

'tooth-paste/-powder, for cleaning the teeth.

'tooth-pick, short, pointed piece of wood, etc for removing bits of food from between the teeth.

tooth-less *adj* without teeth: *a ~less grin.*

tootle /'tu:tl/ *vi*, *n* [C] toot softly or continuously, as on a car horn.

top¹ /tɒp/ *n* **1** (usually *sing* with *the*) highest part or point: *at the ~ of the hill; the hill ~.* **on top**, (a) above: *The green book is at the bottom of the pile and the red one is on ~.* (b) more successful. **on top of things/one's work**, (informal) able to cope. **on (the) top of**, (a) over, resting on: *Put the red book on (the) ~ of the others.* (b) in addition to: *He borrowed £50 from me for the journey and then, on ~ of that, asked me if he could borrow my car, too.* **from top to bottom**, completely.

from top to toe, from head to foot. **blow one's top**, (informal) explode in rage. **2** [C] upper surface, eg of a table: *polish the ~ of a table.* **on top of the world**, ⇨ *world* (4). **3** [C] highest rank, foremost (or most important) place: *He came out at the ~ of the list, eg of examination results.* **come to the top**, (fig) win fame, success, etc. **reach/be at the top of the ladder/tree**, the highest position in a profession, career, etc. **4** [C] greatest height or degree: **shout at the top of one's voice**, ⇨ *voice*, *n* (3). **5** (as an adjective) highest in position or degree: *on the ~ shelf; at ~ speed; charge ~ prices.* **6** (motor-ing) **in top**, in top (the highest) gear.

'top-'brass, (informal) senior management. **'top-coat**, overcoat (the usual word).

'top-'dog, (sl) master, winner, etc.

'top-'drawer, (informal) the highest social class.

'top-'flight *adj* (informal) first-rate; best possible: *~flight authors.*

'top-'hat, tall silk hat.

'top-'heavy *adj* over-weighted at the top so as to be in danger of falling.

'top-knot, knot of hair, bunch of feathers, etc on the top of the head.

'top-most /-maʊst/ *adj* highest.

'top-'notch *adj* (informal) excellent.

'top-'people, those at the top of their profession, in the highest positions, etc.

'top-'ranking *adj* of the highest rank.

'top-'secret, needing to be secret because very important.

'top soil, soil on the surface.

top-less *adj* (of a woman's clothes) leaving the breasts bare: *a ~less swimsuit.*

top² /tɒp/ *vt* (-pp-) **1** provide a top for; be a top for; be a top to: *a cake ~ped by/with icing.*

2 top (sth) up, fill up (a partly empty con-

tainer): ~ up with oil, add oil; ~ up a drink, refill a partly filled glass. **3** surpass, be taller or higher than: *Our exports have just ~ped the £80000 mark.* **to top it all**, the last (and surprising, etc) touch is.... **4** cut the tops off: *lift and ~ carrots*, take them from the ground and cut off the leaves.

top³ /tɒp/ *n* [C] toy that spins and balances on a point. **sleep like a top**, sleep deeply.

to-paz /'təʊpæz/ *n* [U] transparent yellow mineral; [C] gem cut from this.

topic /'tɒpɪk/ *n* [C] subject for discussion.

topi-cal /-kl/ *adj* of interest now: ~al news.

topi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

top-og-ra-phy /tə'pɒgrəfi/ *n* [U] (description of the) features, eg rivers, valleys, roads, of a place or district.

topo-graphi-cal /tə'pɒgrəfɪk/ *adj*

topo-graphi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

topple /'tɒpl/ *vi, vt* (cause to) be unsteady and fall (over): *The pile of books ~d over/down.* *The dictator was ~d from power.*

tor /tɔ:(r)/ *n* [C] small hill; rocky peak.

torch /tɔ:tʃ/ *n* [C] **1** (GB) electric light held in the hand. **2** piece of wood, etc soaked in oil, etc for carrying or using as a flaming light. **3** (fig) something that gives enlightenment: *the ~ of learning.*

'torch-light, light of a torch: *a ~ light procession.*

tore /tɔ:(r)/ *pt* of *tear²*.

tor-ea-dor /tɔ:'eɪdɔ:(r) *US*: 'tɔ:r-/ *n* [C] bull-fighter (usually on a horse).

tor-ment /tɔ:'ment/ *n* [C, U] (something that causes) severe bodily or mental pain or suffering: *be in ~; suffer ~s from an aching tooth.* □ *vt* /tɔ:'ment/ cause severe suffering to; annoy: ~ed with pain/hunger.

tor-men-tor /-tɔ:(r)/, person who, that which, torments.

torn /tɔ:n/ *pp* of *tear²*.

tor-nado /tɔ:'neɪdɔ:/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) violent and destructive whirlwind.

tor-pedo /tɔ:'pi:dəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) long self-propelled weapon filled with explosives and travelling below the surface of the sea, used to attack ships. □ *vt* **1** attack or destroy with a torpedo. **2** (fig) attack (a policy, institution, etc) and make it ineffective: *Who ~ed the disarmament talks?*

tor-rent /'tɔ:rənt *US*: 'tɔ:r-/ *n* [C] **1** strong rush of liquid (esp water): *mountain ~s; ~s of rain.* **2** (fig) violent outpouring: *a ~ of abuse/insults.*

tor-ren-tial /tə'renʃl/ *adj* of, like, caused by, a torrent: ~ial rain.

tor-so /'tɔ:səʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) (statue of a) human body without head, arms and legs.

tor-toise /'tɔ:təs/ *n* [C] slow-moving, four-legged land (and fresh-water) varieties of turtle with a hard shell.

tor-tu-ous /'tɔ:tʃuəs/ *adj* **1** full of twists and

bends: *a ~ path.* **2** (fig) not straightforward: *a ~ argument/politician.*

tor-tu-ous-ly *adv*

tor-ture /'tɔ:tʃə(r)/ *vt* cause severe suffering to: ~ a man to make him confess; ~d with anxiety. □ **n** **1** [U] infliction of severe bodily or mental suffering: *instruments of ~.* **2** [C, U] pain caused or suffered; method of torturing: *suffer ~ from the secret police.*

tor-turer, person who tortures.

Tory /'tɔ:rɪ/ *adj, n* [C] (*pl* -ies) = Conservative.

toss /tɒs *US*: tɔ:s/ *vt, vi* **1** throw up into or through the air: *He ~ed the beggar a coin/~ed a coin to the beggar.* *The horse ~ed its head.*

toss a coin, send a coin spinning up in the air and guess which side will be on top when it falls.

toss sb for sth, use the method of tossing a coin to decide something: *Who's to pay for the drinks? Let's ~ for it.* **2** (cause to) move restlessly from side to side or up and down: *The ship (was) ~ed about on the stormy sea.*

3 toss sth off, produce it quickly and without much thought or effort: ~ off a letter.

□ *n* [C] **1** tossing movement: *a ~ of the head; take a ~, (esp) be thrown from the back of a horse.* **2 win/lose the toss**, guess correctly/incorrectly when a coin is tossed.

'toss-up, tossing of a coin; (hence) (fig) something about which there is doubt: *It's a ~-up whether he will get here in time.*

tot¹ /tɒt/ *n* [C] **1** (often tiny tot) very small child. **2** (informal) small glass of liquor.

tot² /tɒt/ *vt, vi* (-tt-) **tot (sth) up**, (informal) add up: ~ up a column of figures.

to-tal /'təʊtl/ *adj* complete; entire: ~ silence.

□ *n* [C] total amount: *Our expenses reached a ~ of £20.* □ *vt, vi* (-ll-, *US* also -l-) find, reach, the total of: *The visitors to the exhibition ~led 15000.*

to-tally /'təʊtəli/ *adv* completely: ~ly blind.

to-tal-ity /təʊ'tæləti/ *n* [U] entirety.

to-tali-tar-ian /təʊ'tæli'tɔ:riən/ *adj* of a system based on professed terroristic dictatorship by the most reactionary circles.

tot-ter /'tɒtə(r)/ *vi* **1** walk with weak, unsteady steps; get up unsteadily: *The wounded man ~ed to his feet.* **2** be almost falling; seem to be about to collapse: *The tree ~ed and then fell.*

tou-can /'tu:kən/ *n* [C] kinds of tropical American bird with brightly coloured feathers and a large beak.

touch¹ /tʌtʃ/ *n* **1** [C] act or fact of touching: *I felt a ~ on my arm.* **2** [U] (sense giving) feeling by touching: *soft/rough to the ~*, when touched. **3** [C] stroke made with a brush, pen, etc: *add a few finishing ~es* (to a drawing or any piece of work). **4** [C] slight quantity, trace: *a ~ of frost in the air; a ~ of sadness in his voice.* **5** [C] style or manner of playing a musical instrument, of workmanship (in art), etc:

have a light ~, eg on a piano, a typewriter. **6** [U] communication. **in/out of touch** (**with**), in/not in regular communication (with); having/not having information about: *keep in ~ with old friends; be out of ~ with the political situation*. **lose touch** (**with**), be out of touch (with): *If we correspond regularly we shan't lose ~*. **7** (football) part of the pitch outside the side-lines: *The ball is in/out of ~*. **touch-and-go** adj risky; of uncertain result: *It was ~-and-go whether the doctor would arrive in time*.

touch² /tʌtʃ/ vt,vi (For special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 11 below.) **1** (cause to) be in contact with; bring a part of the body (esp the hand) into contact with: *One of the branches is ~ing the water*. *Can you ~ (= reach with your hand) the top of the door?* Visitors (eg in a museum) are requested not to ~ the exhibits. **touch bottom**, (**a**) reach the bottom: *The water isn't deep here; I can just ~ bottom, ie with my feet*. (**b**) (fig) reach the lowest level of value, misfortune, etc. **touch wood**, touch something made of wood to avoid bad luck: *I've never been in a road accident—~ wood*. **2** apply a slight or gentle force to: *He ~ed the bell, rang it by pressing the button*. **3** (in the negative) compare with; be equal to: *No one can ~ him as an actor of tragic roles*. **4** (in the negative) take (food, drink): *He hasn't ~ed food for two days*. **5** affect (a person or his feelings); concern: *The sad story ~ed us/our hearts*. **6** have to do with: *As a pacifist I refuse to ~ (= invest money in) shares of armament firms*. **7** injure slightly: *Luckily the paintings were not ~ed by the fire*. **8** touched, slightly mad or deranged: *He seems to be a bit ~ed*. **9** cause a painful or angry feeling in; wound: *The remark ~ed him deeply; cause a feeling of gratitude: I was so ~ed by your letter of sympathy*. ⇨ touching. **10** deal with; cope with; get a result from: *Nothing I have used will ~ (= get rid of) these grease spots. She couldn't ~ (= even begin to answer) the first two questions in the biology paper, ie in an examination*. **11** (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

touch down, (of aircraft) come down to land. Hence, **touch-down** n [C]

touch sb for sth, (sl) get money from (by begging): *He ~ed me for a fiver (ie £5)*.

touch sth off, (fig) cause to start: *The arrest of the men's leaders ~ed off a riot*.

touch on sth, mention (a subject) briefly.

touch sth up, make small changes in (a picture, a piece of writing) to improve it.

touch-able /tʌtʃəbl/ adj that may be touched.

touch-ing /tʌtʃɪŋ/ adj pathetic; causing gratitude, sympathy, etc: *a ~ request for help*. □ prep concerning.

touch-ing-ly adv

touchy /tʌtʃi/ adj (-ier, -iest) easily or quickly offended.

tough /tʌf/ adj (-er, -est) **1** (of meat) hard to cut or get one's teeth into. **2** not easily cut, broken or worn out: *as ~ as leather*. **3** strong; able to endure hardships: *~ soldiers*. **4** (of persons) rough and violent: *a ~ criminal*. **5** stubborn; unyielding. **be/get tough** (**with sb**): *The employers got ~ with/adopted a get-~ policy towards their workers*. **6** hard to carry out; difficult: *a ~ job/problem*.

tough luck, (informal) bad luck.

tough-ly adv

tough-ness n [U]

toughen /tʌfn/ vt,vi make or become tough.

tou-pee /tuːpeɪ/ US: tuːpeɪ/ n [C] false hair worn to cover a bald patch.

tour /tuə(r)/ n [C] **1** journey out and home again during which several or many places are visited: *a round-the-world ~; conducted ~s, made by a group conducted by a guide*. **2** brief visit to or through: *a ~ of the palace*. **3** period of duty or employment (overseas): *a ~ of three years as a lecturer in the University of Ibadan*. **4** round of (official) visits to institutions, units, etc: *The Director leaves tomorrow on a ~ of overseas branches*. **5** number of visits to places made by a theatrical company, etc: *take a company on ~*. □ vt,vi make a tour (of): *western Europe. The play will ~ the provinces in the autumn*.

tour-ing n, adj: *a ~ing party*.

tour-ism /tuərizəm/ n [U] organized touring: *foreign exchange from ~ism, from the money brought in by tourists*.

tour-ist /tuərist/ n [C] person making a tour for pleasure: *London is full of ~s in summer*. **2** (used as an adjective) of or for tours: *a ~ agency; ~ class, (on liners, airliners) second class*.

tour-na-ment /tuənəmənt/ US: 'tərn-/n [C] series of contests of skill between a number of players: *a ~ tennis/chess ~*.

tour-ni-quet /tuəniket/ US: 'tərnɪkɪt/ n [C] device for stopping a flow of blood through an artery by twisting something tightly around a limb.

touse /taʊz/ vt (formal) make (esp the hair) untidy: *a girl with ~d hair*.

tout /taʊt/ n [C] person who encourages others to buy something: *a ~ ticket ~, person who sells tickets, eg for a major football match, at a high price*. □ vi act as a tout: *men outside the station ~ing for the hotels*.

tow /təʊ/ vt pull along by a rope or chain: *~ a damaged car to the nearest garage*. □ n [C,U] towing or being towed: *Can we give you a ~?*

in tow, (informal) also with (a person). **on tow**, being towed.

to-ward(s) /tə'wɔ:d(z)/ US: tɔːrd(z)/ prep **1** approaching; in the direction of: *walking ~*

the sea; first steps ~ the abolition of armaments. **2** as regards; in relation to: *What will the Government's attitude be ~ the plan?* **3** for the purpose of (helping): *We must save money ~ her education.* **4** (of time) near: ~ the end of the century.

towel /'taʊəl/ *n* [C] piece of cloth, etc for drying or wiping something wet (eg one's hands or body): *a bath-~; a paper-~.* **throw in the towel**, ⇨ *throw*¹(11). □ *vi* (-ll-, US -l-) dry or rub (oneself) with a towel.

towel-ling (US = **towel-ing**) *n* [U] material for towels.

tower /'taʊə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** tall building, either standing alone (eg as a fort, the *T~ of London*) or forming part of a church, castle or other large building (eg a college). **2 a tower of strength**, (fig) a person who can be relied on for protection, strength or comfort in time of trouble. **3 = water tower**, ⇨ also *cooling-tower*. □ *vi* rise to a great height, be very tall, esp in relation to the height of the surroundings: *the skyscrapers that ~ over New York.* **tower above sb**, (fig) (of persons) greatly exceed in ability, in intellectual or moral qualities: *a man who ~s above his contemporaries.*

tower-block, high block of flats or offices.

town /taʊn/ *n* **1** [C] centre of population larger than a village, esp one that has not been created a city (and often used in contrast to country): *Would you rather live in a ~ or in the country?* **paint the town red**, ⇨ *paint*. **2** [U] the business, shopping, etc part of a town (contrasted with the suburbs, etc): *go to ~ to do some shopping. He's in ~ today.* ⇨ *down-town.* **go out on the town**, go out and enjoy the entertainment facilities of a town (especially at night). **go to town**, (sl) act, behave, without inhibitions, eg by spending money, having a spree. ⇨ *man*¹(1). **3** [U] the chief city or town in the neighbourhood (esp, in England, London): *He's gone up to ~ for the weekend.* **4** [U] (sing with *the*) the people of a town: *The whole ~ was talking about it.* **the talk of the town**, ⇨ *talk*¹(1). **5 the ~**, towns in general: *Farm workers are leaving the country in order to get better jobs in the ~.*

town 'centre, area around which public buildings, eg the town hall, the public library, main shops, are grouped.

town 'clerk, official who keeps town or city records and advises on certain legal matters.

town 'council, governing body of a town.

town 'councillor, member of a town council.

town 'hall, building with offices of local government.

town house, house in town, of a particular style or belonging to a person who also has a house in the country.

towns-folk, people who live in town or the town referred to.

toxic /'tɒksɪk/ *adj* poisonous (the usual word).

toxin /'tɒksɪn/ *n* [C] poisonous substance.

toy /tɔɪ/ *n* [C] **1** something, eg a doll, for a child to play with. **2** (as an adjective): *a ~ soldier*, one made as a toy(1); ~ *dog/spaniel*, small kinds kept as pets. □ *vi* **1** think not very seriously about: *He's ~ing with the idea of buying a new car.* **2 = fiddle**(2): ~ing with a pencil.

'toy-shop, shop where toys are sold.

trace¹ /treɪs/ *n* [C] **1** mark, sign, etc showing that a person or thing has been present, that something has existed or happened: ~s of an ancient civilization. *We've lost all ~ of them*, don't know where they are. **2** very small amount: *There were ~s of poison in his blood.*

trace² /treɪs/ *vt, vi* **1** draw, sketch, the course, outline, etc of: *tracing (out) one's route on a map.* **2** copy (something), eg by drawing on transparent paper the lines, etc on (a map, design, etc) placed underneath. **3** follow or discover (a person or thing) by looking at marks, tracks, evidence, etc: *I cannot ~ (= cannot find) any letter from you dated 1st June.* **trace (sth/sb) back (to sth)**, (a) find the origin of by going back in time: *He ~s his ancestors back to an old Scottish family.* (b) find the origin of by going back through evidence: *The rumour was ~d back to a journalist.* It was discovered that he had started it.

trace-able /-əbl/ *adj* capable of being traced(3) (to).

trac-ing, reproduction (of a map, design, etc) made by tracing(2).

tracery /'treɪsəri/ *n* [C,U] (pl -ies) ornamental arrangement of designs (eg as made by frost on glass, or of stonework in a church window).

tra-chea /trə'kiə/ US: 'treɪkiə/ *n* [C] (pl ~es /-kə/) (anat) = windpipe.

track /træk/ *n* [C] **1** line or series of marks left by a vehicle, person, animal, etc in passing along; path made by persons, animals: ~s in the snow, eg footprints; ~sheep-~s across the moor. **be on sb's track/on the track of sb**, be tracking: *The police are on the ~ of the thief.* **cover up one's tracks**, hide one's movements or activities. **have a one-track 'mind**, give all one's attention to one topic or thought. **keep/lose track of sb/sth**, keep in/lose touch with; follow/fail to follow the course or development of: *read the newspapers to keep ~ of current events.* **off the track**, (fig) following a wrong line of action. ⇨ *beaten*. **2** course; line taken by something (whether marked or not): *the ~ of a storm/spacecraft.* **3** set of rails for trains, etc: *The train left the ~, was derailed.* **4** path prepared for racing (eg made of cinders, etc): *a 'motor-racing/cycling/running ~.* **5 = caterpillar**(2). **6** band for recording sound (on magne-

tized tape); section of something recorded (on a record or tape). □ *vi* follow the track of: ~ *an animal to its den*. **track sb/sth down**, find by searching: ~ *down a bear/a reference*.

track event, athletic contest, eg running, on a track (4).

track record, (fig) individual's known personal achievements: *a good/bad ~ record*.

track shoe, spiked shoe worn by a runner.

track suit, loose-fitting warm suit as worn by an athlete.

tracking station, one which, by radar or radio, maintains contact with space-vehicles, etc.

tracker, person, esp a hunter, who tracks wild animals.

tract¹ /trækt/ *n* [C] 1 stretch or area (of forest, farmland, etc): *the wide ~s of desert in N Africa*. 2 system of related parts in an animal body: *the digestive/respiratory ~*.

tract² /trækt/ *n* [C] short printed essay, esp on a moral or religious subject.

tractable /'træktəbl/ *adj* (formal) easily controlled or guided.

traction /'trækʃn/ *n* [U] (power used in) pulling or drawing something over a surface: *electric/steam ~*.

tractor /'træktə(r)/ *n* [C] motor-vehicle used for pulling agricultural machinery (ploughs, etc), or other heavy equipment, over rough ground.

trade¹ /treɪd/ *n* 1 [U] buying and selling of goods; exchange of goods for money or other goods: *T ~ was good last year*. 2 [C] particular branch of buying and selling: *He's in the 'furniture/book ~*. 3 [C,U] occupation; way of making a living, esp a handicraft: *He's a carpenter/tailor by ~*. *Shoemaking is a useful ~*. ♣ jack.

the Trades, trade-winds.

trade gap, unfavourable difference between exports and imports.

trade-mark, (a) design, special name, etc used to distinguish a manufacturer's goods from others. (b) (fig) distinguishing characteristics: *He leaves his ~ mark on all his activities*.

trade name, name given to a manufactured article.

trade price, price charged by a manufacturer or wholesaler to a retailer.

tradesman, shopkeeper (the usual word).

trade secret, technique, etc used by an industry that is not known or made available to competitors.

trade-union, (also less often **trades-union**) organized association of workers in a trade formed to protect their interests, improve their conditions, etc.

trade-unionist, member of a trade-union.

trade-wind, strong wind blowing always towards the equator from the SE and NE.

trade² /treɪd/ *vi*, *vt* 1 engage in trade(1); buy and sell: *Britain ~s with many European countries*. 2 exchange: *The boy ~d his skates for a cricket bat*. 3 **trade sth in**, give (a used article) in part payment for a new purchase: *He ~d in his car for a new one*. Hence, **'trade-in n** [C]. 4 take a wrong advantage of, use, in order to get something for oneself: *trading on her sympathy*.

trader, person who trades(1).

tra-di-tion /trə'dɪʃn/ *n* 1 [U] (handing down from generation to generation of) opinions, beliefs, customs, etc. 2 [C] opinion, belief, custom, etc handed down.

tra-di-tional /-ʃənəl/ *adj*

tra-di-tion-ally /-nəli/ *adv*

traf-fic /'træfɪk/ *n* [U] 1 (movement of) people and vehicles along roads and streets, of aircraft in the sky: *There was a lot of/not much ~ on the roads yesterday*. 2 transport business done by a railway, steamship line, airline, etc. 3 illegal trading: *the 'drug ~*. □ *vi* (-ck-) trade: ~ *ing in snakes (with...)*.

'traffic indicator = trafficator.

'traffic island, platform in the centre of a busy road, for pedestrians when crossing.

'traffic jam, ♂ jamⁿ (1).

'traffic-light(s), coloured lights by the roadside controlling traffic.

'traffic warden, official controlling the parking of cars and use of parking-meters.

traf-fi-ca-tor /'træfɪkə(r)/ *n* [C] yellow light on a motor-vehicle to show the direction in which it is about to turn.

tra-gedy /'trædʒɪdi/ *n* (pl -ies) 1 [C] play for the theatre, cinema, TV, of a serious kind, with a sad ending. 2 [U] branch of the drama with this kind of play. 3 [C,U] very sad event, action, experience, etc in real life.

tra-gedian /trə'dʒɪdɪən/ *n* [C] writer of, actor in, tragedy.

tra-gedi-enne /trə'dʒɪdɪ'en/ *n* [C] actress in tragedy.

tra-gic /'trædʒɪk/ *adj* of tragedy: *a ~ actor/event*.

tragi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

trail /treɪl/ *n* [C] 1 line, mark or series of marks, drawn or left by a person or thing that has passed by: *a ~ of smoke*, (from a railway steam-engine); *a ~ of destruction*, eg left by a violent storm. 2 track or scent followed in hunting. **hot on the trail (of)**, close behind. 3 path through rough country. □ *vi*, *vt* 1 pull, be pulled, along: *Her long skirt was ~ing along the floor*. 2 = track. 3 (of plants) grow over or along the ground, etc: *roses ~ing over the walls*.

trailer, (a) transport-vehicle pulled by a tractor or truck. (b) caravan pulled by a motor-vehicle. (c) trailing plant. (d) series of short extracts from a film to advertise it.

train¹ /treɪn/ *n* 1 [C] (locomotive and) number

of railway coaches, wagons, etc joined together: 'passenger'/'goods'/'freight' ~s; *travel by ~*; *get on/off a ~*. **2** number of persons, animals, carriages, etc moving in a line: *a ~ of camels*. **3** series or chain: *A knock at the door interrupted my ~ of thought*. **4** part of a long formal dress or robe that trails on the ground.

train² /treɪn/ vt, vi **1** give teaching and practice to (eg a child, a soldier, an animal) in order to bring to a desired standard of behaviour, efficiency or physical condition: *~ a horse for a race/circus*. *There is a shortage of ~ed nurses*. **2** attend a course, do exercises, etc to qualify or to achieve something: *I'm ~ing to be a vet* / *~ing for the Olympic Games*. **3** cause to grow in a required direction: *~ roses against/over a wall*. **4** point, aim: *~ a gun on the enemy*.

trainee /treɪni:/, person undergoing some form of (usually vocational) training.

trainer, person who trains (esp athletes, race-horses, etc).

training, in/out of training, in/not in good physical condition (eg for athletic contests).

trait /treɪt/ n [C] distinguishing quality or characteristic: *Peter's generosity and energy are his best ~s*.

traitor /ˈtreɪtə(r)/ n [C] person who betrays a friend, is disloyal to his country, etc.

traitorous /-əs/ adj = treacherous (the usual word).

tram /træm/ n [C] (US = 'street-car') (also 'car') public transport powered by electricity on rails in the road surface.

tramp /træmp/ vi, vt **1** walk with heavy steps: *He ~ed up and down the platform waiting for the train*. **2** walk through or over (esp for a long distance): *~ through the mountains*; *~ over the hills*. *They ~ed (for) miles and miles*. □ **n 1** the ~, sound of heavy footsteps: *I heard the ~ of marching soldiers*. **2** [C] long walk: *go for a ~ in the country*. **3** [C] homeless person who goes from place to place and does no regular work.

'tramp-steamer, cargo boat which goes to any port(s) where cargo can be picked up.

trample /ˈtræmpl/ vt, vi **1** tread heavily on: *The children have ~d (down) the flowers/~d the grass down*. **2** (fig) affect badly and thoughtlessly: *~ on his feelings*. □ **n** [C] sound, act, of trampling.

tram-po-line /ˈtræmpəli:n/ n [C] strong canvas on a spring frame, used by gymnasts for acrobatic leaps.

trance /træns/ US: træns/ n [C] **1** condition like sleep: *be/fall/go into a ~*. **2** abnormal, hypnotic, state: *send her into a ~*.

tran-quil /ˈtræŋkwɪl/ adj (formal) calm; quiet: *a ~ life in the country*.

tran-quilly /-wɪli/ adv

tran-quil-lity (US also **tran-quil-ity**) /ˈtræŋkwɪləti/ n [U] calm, quiet state.

tran-quil-lize (also **-ise**) (US also **tran-quil-ize**) /ˈtræŋkwɪlaɪz/ vt make calm, quiet.

tran-quil-li-zer (also **-iser**) (US also **tran-quil-izer**) n [C] drug that produces a calm mental state.

trans- /trænz-/ prefix **1** across: *transatlantic*. **2** to a changed state: *transform*.

trans-act /trænˈzækt/ vt (formal) conduct, do, (business, etc).

trans-ac-tion /trænˈzækʃn/ n **1** [U] (*sing with the*) transacting: *the ~ of business*. **2** [C] piece of business: *cash ~s*. **3** (pl) (records of the) proceedings of (esp a learned society, eg its meetings, lectures): *the ~s of the Royal Archaeological Society*.

trans-at-lan-tic /ˈtrænzətələntɪk/ adj **1** beyond, crossing, the Atlantic: *a ~ voyage/flight*. **2** concerning (countries on) both sides of the Atlantic: *a ~ treaty*.

tran-scend /trænˈsend/ vt go or be beyond or outside the range of (human experience, reason, belief, powers of description, etc).

tran-scen-den-tal /ˈtrænsɛndəntl/ adj not based on experience or reason; going beyond human knowledge; that cannot be discovered or understood by practical experience: *~ meditation*, technique (using concentration and silent repetition) for relaxing the mind and body.

tran-scen-den-tally /-təli/ adv

trans-con-ti-nen-tal /ˈtrænz,kɒntɪˈnɛntl/ adj crossing a continent: *a ~ railway*.

trans-scribe /trænˈskraɪb/ vt **1** copy in ordinary writing, esp from shorthand notes or from speech recorded on magnetic tape. **2** write in a special form: *~d into phonetics*.

trans-script /ˈtrænskɪpt/ n [C] something transcribed.

trans-sept /ˈtrænsɛpt/ n [C] (either end of the) transverse part of a cross-shaped church.

trans-fer¹ /ˈtrænsfə:(r)/ n **1** [C,U] (instance of) transferring. **2** [C] document that transfers a person or thing; drawing, plan, etc transferred from one surface to another.

trans-fer² /trænsˈfə:(r)/ vt, vi (-rr-) **1** change position, move: *The head office has been ~red from York to London*. **2** hand over the possession of (property, etc to): *~ rights to a son*. **3** convey (a drawing, design, pattern, etc) from one surface to another (eg from a wooden surface to canvas). **4** change from one train, bus, etc to another. **5** move from one occupation (usually within the same profession), position, company, etc to another: *He has been ~red to the Sales Department*.

trans-fer-able /-əbl/ adj that can be transferred: *These tickets are not ~able*, cannot be given to anyone else.

trans-fer-ence /ˈtrænsfərəns/ US: trænsˈfərəns/ n [U]

trans-fix /trænsˈfɪks/ vt (formal) **1** pierce through: *~ a leopard with a spear*. **2** cause (a person) to be unable to move, speak, think, etc: *He stood ~ed with horror*.

trans-form /træns'fɔ:m/ *vt* change the shape, appearance, quality or nature of: *Success and wealth ~ed his character. A steam-engine ~s heat into energy.*

trans-formation /trænsfə'meɪʃn/ *n* (a) [U] transforming or being transformed. (b) [C] instance of this: *He has undergone a great ~ation since he was married.*

trans-former, person or thing that transforms, eg apparatus that increases or decreases the voltage of an electric power supply.

trans-fuse /træns'fju:z/ *vt* (esp) transfer the blood of one person to another.

trans-fusion /træns'fju:ʒn/ *n* [U] act or process of transfusing; [C] instance of this: *The injured man was given a blood transfusion.*

trans-gress /trænz'gres/ *vi, vi* (formal) **1** go beyond (a limit): ~ the limits of decency. **2** break (a law, treaty, agreement). **3** sin.

trans-gres-sion /trænz'greʃn/ *n* [C,U] (instance of) transgressing.

trans-gres-sor /-sə(r)/, person who transgresses; sinner.

trans-i-ent /trænzɪənt *US: 'trænfənt/* *adj* (formal) lasting for a short time only: ~ happiness.

trans-sis-tor /trænzɪstə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** small electronic device, used in radios, hearing aids and other kinds of electronic apparatus. **2** transistorized radio.

trans-sis-tor-ized (also -ised) /-aɪzd/ *adj* having transistors, not valves: a ~ized computer.

trans-sit /trænsɪt/ *n* [U] sending, carrying or being sent, across, over or through. **in trans-sit**, (while) being carried or sent from one place to another.

transit camp, one for the use of persons (eg refugees, soldiers) who are in transit from one place to another.

transit visa, visa allowing passage through (but not a stay in) a country.

tran-si-tion /træn'zɪʃn/ *n* [C,U] changing, change, from one condition or set of circumstances to another: *Adolescence is the period of ~ between childhood and manhood.*

tran-si-tional /-ʃnəl/ *adj*

tran-si-tive /trænsətɪv/ *adj* (gram) (of verbs) used with a direct object (marked *vt* in this dictionary).

tran-si-tory /trænsɪtri *US: -tɔ:ri/* *adj* = transient.

trans-late /trænz'leɪt/ *vi* **1** give the meaning of (something said or written) in another language: ~ a book from English into French. **2** interpret, explain (a person's behaviour, etc): *How would you ~ his silence? What do you think it means?*

trans-la-tor /-tə(r)/, person who translates.

trans-la-tion /trænz'leɪʃn/ *n* [U] translating: errors in ~; [C] something translated: make/do a ~ into French.

trans-lu-cent /trænz'lu:snt/ *adj* allowing

light to pass through but not transparent: *Frosted glass is ~.*

trans-mis-sion /trænz'mɪʃn/ *n* **1** [U] transmitting or being transmitted: *the ~ of news/a TV programme.* **2** [C] clutch, gears and drive which help to send power from the engine to the wheels (of a motor-vehicle).

trans-mit /trænz'mɪt/ *vt* (-tt-) **1** pass or hand on; send on: ~ a message by radio; ~ a disease. **2** allow through or along: *Iron ~s heat.*

trans-mit-ter, person who, that which, transmits, esp (part of a) radio apparatus for sending out signals, messages, music, etc.

trans-par-ency /træns'pærənsɪ/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] state of being transparent. **2** [C] framed diagram, picture, etc on photographic film (to be projected on to a screen).

trans-par-ent /træns'pærənt/ *adj* **1** allowing light to pass through so that objects (or at least their outlines) behind can be distinctly seen: *Ordinary glass is ~.* **2** about which there can be no mistake or doubt: *a man of ~ honesty.* **3** clear; easily understood: *a ~ style of writing.* **4** (informal) (of a person, his behaviour) obviously lying, insincere, etc.

tran-spire /træns'paɪə(r)/ *vi, vi* (formal) **1** (of an event, a secret) come to be known: *It ~d that the President had spent the weekend playing golf.* **2** (dated) happen.

trans-plant /træns'plɑ:nt *US: -plənt/* *vt, vi* **1** take up (plants, etc) with their roots and plant in another place. **2** transfer (tissue, or an organ, eg a heart or kidney) from one person to another. **3** (fig) (of people) move from one place to another. *n* /trænsplɑ:nt *US: -plənt/* [C] instance of transplanting(2): *a kidney ~.*

trans-port ¹ /træns'pɔ:t/ *n* **1** [U] carrying (to another place) or being carried; means of carrying: *the ~ of goods by air; road ~.* **2** (as an adjective) of or for carrying (to another place): *London's ~ system; ~ charges.*

trans-port ² /træns'pɔ:t *US: -træn-/* *vi* **1** carry (goods, persons) from one place to another: ~ goods by lorry. **2** (in former times) send (a criminal) to a distant colony as a punishment: ~ed to Australia.

trans-port-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be transported.

trans-por-ta-tion /træns'pɔ:təʃn/ *n* [U]

trans-porter /træns'pɔ:tə(r)/ *n* [C] person or thing that transports, eg a long vehicle for carrying motor-vehicles from a factory.

trans-pose /træns'pəʊz/ *vi* **1** cause (two or more things) to change places. **2** (music) put into another key.

trans-po-si-tion /træns'pəʊzɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

tran-sub-stan-tiation /trænsəb-'stænfɪ'eɪʃn/ *n* [U] doctrine that the bread and wine in the Eucharist are changed into the body and blood of Christ.

trans-verse /trænzvɜ:s/ *adj* lying or placed across.

trans-verse-ly *adv*

trap /træp/ *n* [C] **1** device for catching animals, etc: a *mouse* ~. **2** (fig) plan for deceiving a person; trick or device to make a person say or do something he does not wish to do or say: *The employer set a ~ for the man by putting marked money in the till.* **3** U-shaped or other section of a drain-pipe which prevents a return flow of water (eg under a lavatory). **4** light, two-wheeled vehicle pulled by a horse or pony. **5** device (eg a box) from which an animal or object can be released, eg greyhounds at the start of a race. **6** (sl) mouth. □ *vt* (-pp-) **1** catch in a trap. **2** capture by a trick.

trap-per, person who catches animals, esp for their fur.

tra-peze /trə'pi:z/ *US*: træ-/ *n* [C] horizontal bar or rod supported by two ropes, used by acrobats and for gymnastic exercises.

tra-pezium /trə'pi:ziəm/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) (geom) (GB) four-sided figure having two sides which are parallel.

trap-ezoid /'træpizɔɪd/ *n* [C] (geom) (GB) four-sided figure having no sides parallel.

trap-pings /'træpiŋz/ *n* pl (fig) ornaments or decorations, esp as a sign of public office: *He had all the ~ of high office but very little power.*

trapse (*US* = **trapse**) /treɪps/ *vi* (informal) walk wearily: *trapsing round the shops.*

trash /træʃ/ *n* [U] **1** worthless material or writing. **2** (*US*) rubbish; refuse. **3** worthless people.

'trash-can, (*US*) = dustbin.

trashy *adj* (informal) worthless: ~y novels.

trauma /'trɔ:mə/ *US*: 'traumə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s or -mata /-mətə/) **1** diseased condition of the body produced by a wound or injury. **2** emotional shock.

trau-matic /trɔ:'mætɪk/ *US*: trau-/ *adj* (a) of or for (the treatment of) a wound or injury. (b) (of an experience) distressing and unforgettable.

travel /'trævl/ *vi, vt* (-ll-; *US* -l-) **1** make (esp long) journeys: ~ round the world; ~ (for) thousands of miles; ~ (over) the whole world. **2** go from place to place as a salesman: *He ~s in cotton goods.* **3** move; go: *Light ~s faster than sound.* **4** pass from point to point: *Her mind ~led over recent events.* □ **n** **1** [U] travelling: *He is fond of ~.* **2** (pl) journeys, esp abroad: *write a book about one's ~s.*

'travel agent, person who makes arrangements for travel, by selling tickets, reserving accommodation, etc. Hence, **'travel-agency/-bureau** *n* [C]

trav-el-led, (*US* = **trav-eled**) *adj* (a) having made many long journeys: a ~led man. (b) used by people who travel: a much ~led part of the country.

trav-el-ler, (*US* = **trav-eler**) /'trævlə(r)/, (a) person on a journey. (b) = commercial traveller.

'traveller's cheque (*US* = **'traveler's**

check), one issued by a bank or tourist agency for the convenience of travellers in a foreign country.

trav-el-og (also **-logue**) /'trævlɒg/ *US*: -ləg/ *n* [C] film or lecture describing travels.

tra-verse /'trævəs/ *vt* (formal) travel across; pass over: *Searchlights ~d the sky.* □ *n* [C] (mountaineering) sideways movement across the face of a steep slope of ice, etc.

trav-esty /'trævɪsti/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) imitation or description of something that is, often on purpose, unlike and inferior to the real thing: *His trial was a ~ of justice.* □ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) make or be a travesty of.

trawl /trɔ:l/ *vi, vt* fish (with a large net).

traw-ler, boat, fisherman, that trawls.

tray /treɪ/ *n* [C] flat piece of wood, metal, etc with raised edges, for carrying things.

treach-er-ous /'treɪtʃərəs/ *adj* **1** false or disloyal (to a friend, cause, etc). **2** not to be relied on: ~ weather.

treach-er-ous-ly *adv*

treach-ery /'treɪtʃəri/ *n* (pl -ies) [U] being treacherous; (pl) treacherous acts.

treacle /'tri:kəl/ *n* [U] thick, sticky, dark liquid produced while sugar is being refined.

tread /tred/ *vi, vt* (pt trod /trɒd/, pp trodden /'trɒdn/) **1** walk, put the foot or feet down (on): *Don't ~ on the flowers.* **2** *tread on sb's toes*, (fig) offend him. **3** stamp or crush; push (down, etc) with the feet: ~ out a fire in the grass; ~ grapes, when making wine. **4** make by walking: *The cattle had trodden a path to the pond.* **5** walk along: ~ a dangerous path, (fig) follow a risky course of action. **6** *tread water*, keep oneself afloat in deep water by moving the feet up and down (as if working the pedals of a bicycle). □ *n* [C] **1** way or sound of walking: *with a heavy/loud ~.* **2** part of a step or stair on which the foot is placed. **3** grooved part of a tyre which touches the ground.

treadle /'tredl/ *n* [C] pedal or lever that drives a machine, eg a sewing-machine, worked by pressure of the foot or feet. □ *vi* work a treadle.

tread-mill /'tredmɪl/ *n* [C] **1** apparatus worked with the feet for making rotary motion. **2** (fig) monotonous activity.

treason /'tri:zn/ *n* [U] betrayal of one's country or ruler; disloyalty.

treason-able /-əbl/ *adj*

treason-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

treasure /'treɪzə(r)/ *n* **1** [C, U] (store of) gold and silver, jewels, etc; wealth: *The pirates buried their ~.* **2** highly valued object or person: *The National Gallery has many priceless ~s.* *She says her new secretary is a perfect ~.* □ *vt* **1** store for future use: ~ memories of one's youth. **2** value highly: *He ~s the watch she gave him.*

'treasure-house, where treasure is stored.

'treasure-trove, treasure found hidden in the earth and of unknown ownership.

treas-ur-er /'treʒərə(r)/ *n* [C] person in charge of money, etc belonging to a club or society.

treas-ury /'treʒəri/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** the **T~**, (in GB) department of State controlling public revenue. **2** [C] (place for the) funds of a society, organization, etc: *The ~ of our tennis club is almost empty.* **3** [C] person, book, etc looked on as containing valuable information or as a valued source: *The book is a ~ of information.*

treat /'tri:t/ *vt, vi* **1** act or behave towards: *He ~s his wife badly.* **2** consider: *We had better ~ it as a joke*, instead of taking it seriously. **3** discuss; deal with: *The lecturer ~ed his subject thoroughly.* **4** give medical or surgical care to: *Which doctors are ~ing her for her illness?* **5** put (a substance) through a process (in manufacture, etc): *~ wood with creosote.* **6** supply (food, drink, entertainment, etc) at one's own expense (to): *I shall ~ myself/you to a good weekend holiday.* □ **n** **1** [C] something that gives pleasure, esp not often enjoyed or unexpected: *It's a great ~ for her to go to the cinema.* **2** act of treating(6): *This is to be 'my ~, I'm going to pay.*

treat-ise /'tri:tɪz/ *US: -tis* / *n* [C] book, etc that deals systematically with one subject.

treat-ment /'tri:tɪmənt/ *n* [C,U] (particular way of) treating a person or thing; what is done to obtain a desired result: *Is the ~ of political prisoners worse than it used to be?* *They are trying a new ~ for cancer.*

treaty /'tri:tɪ/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [C] (formal) agreement made and signed between nations: *a 'peace ~.* **2** [U] agreement or negotiation between persons: *sell a house by private ~.*

treble ¹ /'trebl/ *adj, n* [C] three times as much or as many (as): *He earns ~ my salary.* □ *vt, vi* make or become treble: *He has ~d his earnings/His earnings have ~d during the last few years.*

treble ² 'chance, method of gambling on football results by predicting all the drawn games (these having higher points value), and then wins for away and home matches (these having less value).

treble ² /'trebl/ *n* [C] (boy's voice with, instrument that takes, the) highest part in a piece of music.

tree /tri:/ *n* [C] **1** plant with a single self-supporting trunk of wood with (usually) no branches for some distance above the ground: *cut down ~s for timber.* **2** = family tree. **3** piece of wood for a special purpose: *a 'shoe-~, for keeping a shoe in shape while not being worn.*

tree-less *adj* without trees.

tre-foil /'trefɔɪl/ *n* [C] **1** kinds of three-leaved plant, eg clover. **2** similar ornament or design.

trek /trek/ *vi* (-kk-) make a long journey, by ox-wagon, pony or on foot. □ *n* [C] journey of

this kind; any long, hard journey. ⇨ safari.

trel-lis /'treɪlɪs/ *n* [C] light upright structure of strips of wood, etc esp as used for supporting climbing plants. □ *vt* furnish with, support on, a trellis.

tremble /'treɪbl/ *vi* **1** shake involuntarily (as from fear, anger, cold, physical weakness, etc): *His voice ~d with anger. We were trembling with cold/excitement.* **2** shake: *The bridge ~d as the heavy lorry crossed it.* **3** be in a state of anxiety: *I ~ to think what has happened to him*, am deeply worried. □ *n* [C] uncontrollable shaking: *There was a ~ in his voice.*

tre-men-dous /tri'mendəs/ *adj* **1** very great; enormous; powerful: *a ~ explosion; travelling at a ~ speed.* **2** (informal) extraordinary: *He's a ~ eater/talker.* **3** (informal) first rate: *a ~ concert/performance/meal.*

tre-men-dously *adv* (esp informal) extremely: *~ly grateful.*

tremor /'tremə(r)/ *n* [C] shaking or trembling: *'earth ~s*, as during an earthquake; *a ~ of fear.*

trench /trentʃ/ *n* [C] ditch dug in the ground, eg for the draining of water.

trend /trend/ *n* [C] general direction; tendency: *The ~ of the coastline is to the south. The ~ of prices is still upwards.* **set the trend**, start a style, etc which others follow. Hence, **'trend-setter** *n* [C], **'trend-setting** *n* [C,U]. □ *vi* have a certain trend: *The road ~s towards the west.*

trendy *adj* (-ier, -iest) (informal) showing, following, the latest fashion, etc.

trepi-da-tion /'trepi'deɪʃn/ *n* [U] (formal) alarm: *in fear and ~.*

tres-pass /'trespəs/ *vt* **1** go on to privately owned land without right or permission: *~ on someone's (private) property.* **2** make too much use of: *~ on my time/hospitality/privacy.* □ *n* [U] trespassing(1); [C] instance of this.

tres-pas-ser, person who trespasses(1): *T~ers will be prosecuted.*

treſs /tres/ *n* [C] (poetic or literary) **1** (pl) hair (esp of a woman's or girl's head). **2** plait or braid of hair.

treſtle /'treɪsl/ *n* [C] horizontal beam of wood with two legs at each end, used in pairs to support planks, a table top, a workman's bench, etc.

'treſtle-table, one made by laying planks on trestles.

tri- /traɪ-/ *prefix* three: *triangle.*

trial /'traɪəl/ *n* **1** [U] testing, trying, proving; [C] instance of this: *give a new typist a ~, give her a chance to show her skill.* **on trial**, (a) for the purpose of testing: *Take the machine on ~ and then, if you like it, buy it.* (b) when tested: *The new clerk was found on ~ to be incompetent.* **trial and error**, method of solving a problem by making tests until there are no more errors. **2** (as an adjective) for the purpose

of testing: *a ~ flight*, eg of a new aircraft. **3** [C,U] examination in a law court before a judge (or judge and jury): *The ~ lasted a week. be/go on trial (for sth)*, be tried in a court of law (for an offence). *bring sb to trial; put sb on trial*, cause him to be tried in a court of law. *stand (one's) trial*, be tried. **4** [C] troublesome or annoying person or thing, esp thought of as a test of one's patience: *Life is full of little ~s*.

tri-angle /'traɪəŋɡl/ *n* [C] **1** flat figure, shape, with three straight sides. **2** group of three. *the eternal triangle*, the situation existing when two persons are in love with the same person of the opposite sex.

tri-ang-u-lar /'traɪ'æŋɡjələ(r)/ *adj* **(a)** in the shape of a triangle. **(b)** in which there are three persons, etc: *a triangular contest in an election*, with three candidates.

tri-bal /'traɪbl/ *adj* of a tribe or tribes: *~ dances*.

tri-bal-ism /-ɪzəm/ *n* [U]

tribe /traɪb/ *n* [C] racial group, esp one united by language and customs, living as a community under one or more chiefs: *the Indian ~s of America*.

tribes-man, member of a tribe.

tribu-la-tion /'trɪbjʊ'leɪʃn/ *n* [C,U] (formal) (cause of) trouble, grief: *trials and ~s*.

tri-bu-nal /'traɪ'bjuːnəl/ *n* [C] place of judgement; board of officials or judges appointed for special duty, eg to hear appeals against high rents.

tri-bune /'trɪbjʊn/ *n* [C] **1** official chosen by the common people of ancient Rome to protect their interests. **2** (later use) popular leader.

tribu-tary /'trɪbjʊtəri/ *US*: -teri/ *adj* (of a river) flowing into another. □ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (esp) tributary river.

trib-ute /'trɪbjʊt/ *n* [C,U] **1** (regular) payment which one government or ruler demands from another: *Many conquered nations had to pay ~ to the rulers of ancient Rome*. **2** something done, said or given to show respect or admiration: *The actress received numerous floral ~s*, bunches of flowers.

trice /traɪs/ *n* in *a trice*, instantly.

trick /trɪk/ *n* [C] **1** something done in order to deceive or done to make a person appear ridiculous: *He got the money from me by a ~. the tricks of the trade*, ways of attracting customers, gaining advantages over rivals, etc. **2** practical joke: *The children are always up to amusing ~s. play a trick on sb*, □ play² (3). **3** feat of skill with the hands, etc: *conjuring ~s. Are you clever at card ~s?* **do the trick**, (sf) make it possible to get something done, finished: *One more turn of the screwdriver should do the ~*, fasten the screw securely. **4** strange or characteristic habit, mannerism, etc: *He has a ~ of pulling his left*

ear when he is thinking out a problem. **5** (cards played in) one round (of bridge, etc): *take/ win/lose a ~*. □ *vt* deceive: *He ~ed the poor girl out of her money/~ed her into marrying him*.

trick-ery /-əri/, deception; cheating.

tricky *adj* (-ier, -iest) **(a)** (of persons and their actions) deceptive: *a ~y politician*. **(b)** (of work, etc) having hidden or unexpected difficulties: *a ~y problem/job*.

trickle /'trɪkl/ *vi,vt* (cause to) flow in drops or in a thin stream: *The tears ~d down her cheeks*. □ *n* [C] weak or thin flow: *~ of blood*.

tri-cycle /'traɪsaɪkl/ *n* [C] three-wheeled cycle.

tried /traɪd/ □ try¹.

tri-en-nial /'traɪ'eniəl/ *n* [C], *adj* (something) lasting for, happening or done every, three years.

trier /'traɪə(r)/ *n* □ try¹.

trifle /'traɪfl/ *n* **1** [C] thing, event, of little value or importance: *It's silly to quarrel over ~s*. **2** [C] small amount of money: *It cost me only a ~*. **3 a trifle**, *adv* a little: *This dress is a ~ too short*. **4** [C,U] sweet dish made of cream, white of eggs, cake, jam, etc. □ *vi,vt* behave lightly or insincerely towards: *trifling with the girl's affections*.

trif-ling /'traɪflɪŋ/ *adj* unimportant: *a trifling error*.

trig-ger /'trɪɡə(r)/ *n* [C] lever for releasing a spring, esp of a gun, rifle. □ *vt* **trigger sth off**, be the immediate cause of (something serious or violent): *Who/What ~ed off the rebellion?*

trig-on-om-etry /'trɪɡə'nɒmətri/ *n* [U] branch of mathematics that deals with the relations between the sides and angles of triangles.

tri-lat-eral /'traɪ'lætərəl/ *adj* having three sides or parts: *a ~ treaty*.

trilby /'trɪlbi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) soft felt hat with a narrow brim and a dent in the top.

trill /trɪl/ *n* [C] **1** shaky or vibrating sound made by the voice or as in bird song. **2** (music) quick alternation of two notes a tone or a semitone apart. **3** vibrating speech sound (eg Spanish 'r'). □ *vi,vt* sing or play (a musical note) with a trill.

tril-lion /'trɪljən/ *n* [C], *adj* **1** (GB) million million. **2** (US, Fr) million million.

tril-ogy /'trɪlədʒi/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) group of three plays, novels, operas, etc having a related subject.

trim /trɪm/ *adj* (-mer, -mest) in good order; neat and tidy: *a ~ little garden*. □ *n* [U] trim state; readiness; fitness: *Everything was in good/proper ~*. □ *vi,vi* (-mm-) **1** make trim, esp by taking or cutting away uneven, irregular or unwanted parts: *~ one's beard*. **2** decorate or ornament (a dress, etc): *a hat ~med with fur*. **3** set (the sails of a boat) to suit the wind.

trim-ming *n* [C] (usually pl) something used for trimming (2): *lace ~mings*.

tri-nitro-tolu-ene /ˌtraɪˌnaɪtrəʊˈtɒljəɪn/ *n* [U] (usually **TNT**) powerful explosive.

trinity /ˈtrɪnəti/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) group of three. **the T~**, (in Christian teaching) union of three persons, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, one God.

trinket /ˈtrɪŋkɪt/ *n* [C] ornament or jewel of small value.

trio /ˈtri:əʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** group of three. **2** (musical composition for a) group of three singers or players.

trip /trɪp/ *vi, vt* (-pp-) **1** *trip over sth*, catch one's foot, etc in an obstacle and fall: *He ~ped over the root of a tree.* **trip (sb) up**, (a) (cause to) fall or make a false step: *He ~ped up and nearly fell.* (b) (fig) cause to make an error: *The barrister's next question ~ped the witness up.* **2** (poetic) walk, run or dance with quick, light steps: *She came ~ping down the garden path.* □ *n* [C] **1** journey, esp for pleasure: *a day ~ to the seaside.* **2** fall. **3** (informal) experience resulting from taking a hallucinatory drug.

trip-per, person making a (short) journey for pleasure: *weekend ~pers.*

tri-par-tite /ˌtraɪˈpɑ:təɪt/ *adj* **1** (of an agreement) in which three groups have a share. **2** having three parts.

tripe /traɪp/ *n* [U] **1** part of the wall of the stomach of an ox or cow used as food: *a dish of stewed ~ and onions.* **2** (sl) useless talk, writing, ideas, etc: *Stop talking ~!*

triple /ˈtrɪpl/ *adj* made up of three (parts or parties): *the ~ crown*, the Pope's tiara. □ *vi, vi* make, become, be, three times as much or many.

triple jump, athletic contest consisting of a hop, a step and then a jump.

trip-let /ˈtrɪplɪt/ *n* **1** (*pl*) three children born at one birth: *One of the ~s is ill.* **2** [C] set of three.

trip-li-cate /ˈtrɪplɪkət/ *adj* of which three copies are made. □ *n* [C] one of three like things, esp documents: *drawn up in ~*, one original and two copies. □ *vt* /ˈtrɪplɪkeɪt/ make in triplicate.

tri-pod /ˈtraɪpɒd/ *n* [C] three-legged support, eg for a camera.

trip-per /ˈtrɪpə(r)/ *n* ⇨ trip.

trite /traɪt/ *adj* (of remarks, ideas, opinions) ordinary (and so dull).

tri-umph /ˈtraɪʌmf/ *n* [C, U] (joy or satisfaction at a) success or victory: *return home in ~*; *shouts of ~*. □ *vi* win a victory (over); show joy because of success: *~ over a defeated enemy.*

tri-um-phal /ˈtraɪʌmfəl/ *adj* of, for, expressing, triumph: *a ~al arch*, one built in memory of a victory.

tri-um-phānt /ˈtraɪʌmfənt/ *adj* (celebrating at) having triumphed.

tri-um-phānt-ly *adv*

trivial /ˈtrɪviəl/ *adj* **1** of small value or importance: *a ~ offence.* **2** ordinary (and so dull): *a*

~ speech. **3** (of a person) superficial: *Dōn't marry a ~ young man.*

triv-ially /-iəli/ *adv*

triv-ial-ity /ˈtrɪvɪələti/ *n* [U] state of being trivial; [C] (*pl* -ies) trivial idea, event, etc: *talk/write ~ities.*

trod, trod-den /trɒd, ˈtrɒdn/ ⇨ tread.

trol-ley /ˈtrɒli/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** two- or four-wheeled handcart. **2** small, low truck running on rails, eg one used by workers on a railway.

3 small table on wheels, used for serving food.

trol-lop /ˈtrɒləp/ *n* [C] prostitute.

trom-bone /trɒmˈbəʊn/ *n* [C] large brass musical instrument with a sliding tube.

trom-bon-ist /-ɪst/, trombone player.

troop /tru:p/ *n* [C] **1** company of persons or animals, esp when moving: *a ~ of Scouts.* **2** (*pl*) soldiers. **3** unit of cavalry, armoured vehicles or artillery (under the command of a lieutenant). □ *vi, vt* come or go together in a group: *children ~ing out of school.* (Note: used with a *pl* subject.)

'troop-carrier, ship or large aircraft for transporting troops.

'troop-ship, ship for transporting troops.

trooper, soldier in a cavalry or armoured regiment. **swear like a trooper**, swear a great deal.

trophy /ˈtrɒfi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** something kept in memory of a victory or success (eg in hunting, sport, etc). **2** prize, eg for winning a tournament: *'tennis trophies.*

tropic /ˈtrɒpɪk/ *n* **1** [C] line of latitude 23°27' north (*T~ of Cancer*) or south (*T~ of Capricorn*) of the equator. **2** **the ~s**, the parts of the world between these two latitudes.

tropi-cal /-kl/ *adj* of, or as of, the tropics: *a ~al climate.*

tropi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

trot /trɒt/ *vi, vt* (-tt-) **1** (of horses, etc) go at a pace faster than a walk but not so fast as a gallop. **2** move with short steps. **3** **trot sth out**, say it without feeling or sincerity: *~ out an excuse.* **4** cause to: *~ a person off his legs*, take him walking, eg sight-seeing, until he is exhausted. □ *n* (sing only) **1** trotting pace: *go at a steady ~.* **on the trot**, (sl) one after the other: *five whiskies on the ~.* **2** period of trotting: *go for a ~.*

trot-ter, (a) horse bred and trained to trot. (b) pig's or sheep's foot eaten as food.

trouble /ˈtrʌbl/ *vi, vt* **1** cause worry, discomfort, anxiety or inconvenience to: *be ~d by bad news*; *~d with a nasty cough.* **2** ask a person to do something inconvenient: *May I ~ you for a match?* **3** (esp in the negative or in a question) inconvenience oneself: *Dōn't ~ to meet me at the station.* **4** (esp *pp*) disturb: *~d looks.* □ *n* **1** [C, U] worry; unhappiness; difficulty: *She's always making ~ for her friends.* *He has been through much ~/has had many ~s.* *The ~ is that...*, The difficulty is that... **in trouble**,

suffering, or likely to suffer, anxiety, punishment etc, eg because one has done wrong. **be asking/looking for trouble**, (informal) behave in such a way that trouble is likely: *It's asking for ~ to associate with criminals.* **get into trouble**, do something deserving punishment, etc. **get sb into trouble**, cause a person to be in trouble. **get a girl into trouble**, (informal) make her pregnant. **2** [C] nuisance: *I don't want to be any ~ to you.* **3** [U] (extra) work; inconvenience: *Did the work give you much ~?* **take the trouble (to)**, be willing to and do: *Thank you for all the ~ you've taken to help my son.* **4** [C, U] political or social unrest: *'Labour ~ (s) (eg strikes) cost the country enormous sums last year.* **5** [C, U] illness: *'liver ~.*

'trouble-maker, person who causes trouble (eg in industry).

'trouble-shooter, (informal) person employed to identify and solve an industrial problem.

'trouble spot, place where trouble often occurs.

trouble-some /-səm/ *adj* causing trouble: *a ~ some child/headache/problem.*

trough /trɒf/ *US: trɔ:f/* *n* [C] **1** long open box for animals to feed or drink from. **2** region of lower atmospheric pressure between two regions of higher pressure.

trounce /traʊns/ *vt* (dated) defeat heavily: *Our team was ~d on Saturday.*

troupe /tru:p/ *n* [C] company, esp of actors or of members of a circus.

trouper, member of a theatrical troupe: *He's a good ~, a loyal and uncomplaining colleague.*

trousers /'traʊzəz/ *n* *pl* **1** (also a pair of ~s) two-legged outer clothing reaching from the waist to the ankles. **2** (sing) (as an adjective) of or for trousers: *trouser pockets.*

trous-seau /'tru:səʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) outfit of clothing, etc for a bride.

trout /traʊt/ *n* [C] (*pl* unchanged) freshwater fish valued as food and for the sport of catching it.

trowel /'traʊəl/ *n* [C] **1** flat-bladed tool for spreading cement, etc. **2** tool with a curved blade for lifting plants, etc.

troy /trɔɪ/ *n* [U] British system of weights, used for gold and silver, in which one pound = 12 ounces.

tru-ant /'tru:ənt/ *n* [C] child who stays away from school without permission. **play tru-ant**, be a truant.

tru-ancy /'tru:ənsi/ *n* [C, U] (*pl* -ies) (instance of) playing truant.

truce /tru:s/ *n* [C] (agreement for the) stopping of fighting for a time.

truck¹ /trʌk/ *n* [C] **1** (GB) open railway wagon for heavy goods. **2** (esp US) lorry.

trudge /trʌdʒ/ *vi* walk wearily or heavily:

trudging through the deep snow. *□ n* [C] long, tiring walk.

true /tru:/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** according to, in agreement with, fact: *Is the news ~?* **come true**, (of a hope, dream) really happen, become fact.

2 loyal, faithful: *be ~ to one's word/promise*, do what one has promised to do. **3** in accordance with reason; genuine: *T~ friendship should last for ever.* **4 true to type**, being, behaving, etc as expected. **5** accurately fitted or placed: *Is the wheel ~?* **6** exact; accurate: *a ~ copy of a document.* *□ n* (only in) **out of true**, not in its exact or accurate position: *The door is out of ~.* *□ adv* (used with certain verbs) truly: *aim ~; tell me ~.*

'true-blue *n* [C], *adj* (a) (person who is) firmly loyal. (b) loyal Conservative or royalist.

'true-born *adj* legitimate.

'true-love, (expression of love to a) boyfriend or girlfriend.

tru-ism /'tru:ɪzəm/ *n* [C] statement that is obviously true and need not have been made: *It's a ~ to say that you are alive.*

truly /'tru:li/ *adv* **1** truthfully: *speak ~.* **2** sincerely: *feel ~ grateful.* **yours truly**, formula used at the end of a formal letter (US = ~ yours). **3** genuinely; certainly: *a ~ brave action.*

trump /trʌmp/ *n* [C] (in card-games such as whist, bridge) each card of a suit that has been declared as having higher value than the other three suits: *Hearts are ~s.* **turn up trumps**, (informal) (a) have a better result than was expected. (b) have a stroke of good luck. *□ vt, vi* **1** play a trump(1) on: *~ the ace of clubs.* **2** invent (an excuse, a lie, etc) in order to deceive: *He was arrested on a ~ed-up charge.*

trum-pet /'trʌmpɪt/ *n* [C] **1** brass musical instrument played by blowing into it. **2** sound (as) of a trumpet: *the ~ of an elephant.* **3** something like a trumpet in shape (eg a flower). *□ vt, vi* (esp of an elephant) make loud sounds.

trum-peter, trumpet player.

trun-cheon /'trʌntʃən/ *n* [C] short thick stick (as used by the police).

trunk /trʌŋk/ *n* [C] **1** main stem of a tree (contrasted with the branches). **2** body (not the head, arms or legs). **3** main part of any structure. **4** large box with a hinged lid, for clothes, etc while travelling. **5** long nose of an elephant. **6** (*pl*) man's, boy's, clothing covering the lower part of the trunk (2), worn for swimming. **7** (US) = boot (2).

'trunk call, telephone call to a distant place, with charges according to distance.

'trunk line, (a) main line of a railway. (b) long-distance telephone line.

'trunk road, main road.

truss /trʌs/ *n* [C] **1** (GB) bundle (of hay, straw). **2** framework supporting a roof, bridge, etc. **3** padded belt worn by a person

suffering from hernia. □ *vt* **1** tie or fasten up: ~ up a chicken, pin the wings to the body before boiling or roasting it. **2** support (a roof, bridge, etc) with a truss(2).

trust¹ /trʌst/ *n* **1** [U] confidence, strong belief, in the goodness, strength, reliability of a person or thing: *A child usually has perfect ~ in its mother.* **on trust**, (a) without proof: *You'll have to take my statement on ~.* (b) on credit. **2** [U] responsibility: *a position of great ~.* **3** [C] (legal) property held and managed by one or more persons (trustees) for the benefit of another or others; [U] the legal relation between the trustee(s) and the property: *By his will he created ~s for his children.* **4** [C] association of business firms for eg reducing competition, maintenance of prices.

trust-ful /-fl/, **trust-ing** *adj* ready to have trust in others; not suspicious.

trust-fully /-fəli/, **trust-ing-ly** *adv*

trust² /trʌst/ *vt, vi* **1** believe in the honesty and reliability of: *He's not the sort of man to be ~ed/not a man I would ~.* *I ~ her to pay the loan back on time.* **2** have confidence in: ~ your instincts. **3** allow (a person) to do or have something, go somewhere, etc knowing that he will act sensibly, etc: *Do you ~ your young daughters to go to discos with any man?* **4** allow credit to a customer: *I wonder whether the newsagent will ~ me.*

trustee /trə'sti:/ *n* [C] person who has charge of property in trust(3) or of the business affairs of an institution.

trust-ship /-ʃɪp/, position of a trustee.

trust-worthy /trʌstwɜːði/ *adj* dependable.

truth /truːθ/ *n* (pl ~s /truːðz/) **1** [U] quality or state of being true: *There's no ~/not a word of ~ in what he says.* **2** [U] that which is true: *tell the ~.* **to tell the truth...**, (formula used when making a confession): *To tell the ~, I forgot all about it.* ◇ **naked.** **3** [C] fact, belief, etc accepted as true: *scientific ~s.*

truth-ful /-fl/ *adj* (a) (of persons) in the habit of telling the truth. (b) (of statements) true.

truth-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

truth-ful-ness *n* [U]

try¹ /traɪ/ *vi, vt* (pt, pp tried) **1** make an attempt: *I don't think I can do it, but I'll ~.* *I've tried and tried (= tried a great deal) but it's no use.* *He's ~ing his hardest, making great efforts.* *T~ to/T~ and behave better.* **2** make an attempt to get or win (esp a position): ~ for a job overseas. **3** use or do something, as an experiment or test, to see whether it is satisfactory: *Have you tried sleeping on your back as a cure for snoring? Why not ~ this new glue.* **try sth on**, (a) put on (clothes, etc) to see whether it fits, looks well, etc. (b) (informal) make a bold or impudent attempt to discover whether something will be tolerated: *It's no use your ~ing it on with me, I shall not tolerate any nonsense from you.* **try sth out**, use it, experiment

with it, in order to test it: *The idea seems good but it needs to be tried out.* Hence, **'try-out** *n* [C], test of ability, qualification, etc, eg of an athlete. **try one's hand at sth**, ◇ **hand**¹(5). **4** inquire into (a case) in a court of law: *He was tried and found guilty of murder.* **5** cause to be tired, exhausted, out of patience, etc: *His courage was severely tried.*

try-ing *adj* (◇ **5** above) causing tiredness, exhaustion, impatience, etc: *have a ~ing day.*

try² /traɪ/ *n* [C] (pl tries) **1** attempt: *He had three tries and failed each time.* **2** (rugby) touching down the ball behind the opponents' goal-line.

tsetse /'tsets/ *n* [C] (also ~fly) blood-sucking fly (in tropical Africa) carrying and transmitting (often fatal) disease in cattle, horses, etc.

T-shirt /'tiːʃɜːt/ *n* ◇ T, t.

T-square /'tiːskweɪ(r)/ ◇ T, t.

tub /tʌb/ *n* [C] **1** large open vessel, used for washing clothes, holding liquids, growing plants in, etc. **2** = tubful. **3** (informal) bathtub.

'tub-ful /-fʊl/, as much as a tub can hold.

tuba /'tjuːbə/ *US*: 'tuː-/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) large musical instrument of brass playing deep notes.

tubby /'tʌbi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) fat and round: *a ~ little man.*

tube /tjuːb/ *US*: tuːb/ *n* [C] **1** long hollow cylinder of metal, glass or rubber, esp for holding or carrying air, liquids, etc: *the 'inner ~ of a bicycle/car tyre, of rubber, filled with air at pressure.* **2** soft metal container with a screw-cap, used for pastes, paints, etc: *a ~ of toothpaste.* **3** (in London) underground railway: *travel to the office by ~ every morning.* **4** hollow cylindrical organ in the body: *the bronchial ~s.*

tub-ing *n* [U] material in the form of a tube: *copper tubing.*

tube-less *adj* having no inner tube: ~less tyres.

tu-ber /'tjuːbə(r)/ *US*: 'tuː-/ *n* [C] enlarged part of an underground stem, eg a potato.

tu-ber-cu-lar /tjuː'bɜːkjʊlə(r)/ *US*: tuː-/ *adj* of, affected by, tuberculosis.

tu-ber-cu-lo-sis /tjuː'bɜːkjʊ'ləʊsɪs/ *US*: tuː-/ *n* [U] (common abbr **TB**) disease affecting various parts of the body's tissues, esp the lungs.

tu-bu-lar /'tjuːbjʊlə(r)/ *US*: 'tuː-/ *adj* having, consisting of, tubes or tubing: ~ furniture, with parts made of metal tubing.

tuck /tʌk/ *n* **1** [C] flat, stitched fold of material in cloth, for shortening or for ornament. **2** [U] (GB sl) food, esp the cakes, pastry, etc that children enjoy. □ *vi, vt* **1** draw together into a small space; put or push into a desired or convenient position: *Your shirt's hanging out; ~ it in to your trousers.* *He sat with his legs ~ed up*

under him. The map is ~ed away in a pocket at the end of the book. She ~ed him up in bed, pulled the bed-clothes up round him. **2** *tuck in*, (dated) eat a lot quickly.

tuck-shop, shop (esp at a school) where chocolate, fruit, etc is sold.

-tude /tju:d/ US: -tʊd/ suffix (used to form a noun) condition: *magnitude*.

Tues-day /'tʃu:zdi/ US: 'tu:-/ n third day of the week, next after Monday.

tuft /tʌft/ n [C] bunch of feathers, grass, etc growing or held together at the base.

tufted adj having, growing in, tufts.

tug /tʌg/ vt, vi (-gg-) pull hard (at): *We ~ged so hard that the rope broke.* □ n [C] **1** sudden hard pull: *I felt a ~ at my sleeve.* **2** (also ~boat), small powerful boat for towing ships.

tug of war, contest in which two teams pull against each other on a rope.

tuition /'tʃu:ʃn/ US: 'tu:-/ n [U] (fee for) teaching: *have private ~ in mathematics.*

tu-lip /'tʃu:li:p/ US: 'tu:-/ n [C] bulb plant with a large bell-shaped flower on a tall stem.

tumble /'tʌmbəl/ vi, vt **1** fall, esp quickly: *tumbling down the stairs/off a bicycle.* **2** move up and down, to and fro, in a restless or disorderly way: *The puppies were tumbling about on the floor.* **3** be in a weak state (as if ready to fall): *The old barn is tumbling down.* **4** cause to fall: *The accident ~d us all out of the bus and on to the road.* **5** *tumble to sth.* (informal) realize (an idea, etc): *At last he ~d to what I was hinting at.* □ n [C] **1** fall: *have a nasty ~.* **2** confused state: *Things were all in a ~.*

tumble-drier -dryer, machine for drying washing by turning it in warm air.

tum-bler /'tʌmbəl(r)/ n [C] drinking-glass without a handle or stem.

tu-mes-cent /'tʃu:mesnt/ US: 'tu:-/ adj (formal) swelling; swollen.

tummy /'tʌmi/ n [C] (pl -ies) (informal) (used by and to children) stomach; belly.

'tummy-ache, pain in the stomach.

tu-mour (US = **tu-mor**) /'tʃu:mə(r)/ US: 'tu:-/ n [C] diseased growth in some part of the body.

tu-mult /'tʃu:mʌlt/ US: 'tu:-/ n [C,U] **1** great disturbance: *the ~ of battle.* **2** confused and excited state of mind: *be in a ~.*

tu-mul-tu-ous /'tʃu:mʌltʃuəs/ US: 'tu:-/ adj (formal) noisy and energetic: *a ~ welcome.*

tu-mul-tu-ous-ly adv

tuna /'tʃu:nə/ US: 'tu:nə/ n [C] (pl with or without s) large seafish used as food.

tun-dra /'tʌndrə/ n [C] (pl ~s) wide, treeless plain of the arctic regions (of Russia, Siberia).

tune /tju:n/ US: 'tu:n/ n **1** [C] succession of notes forming a melody (of a song, etc). **2** [U] quality of having a strong melody: *music with very little ~ in it.* **3** [U] *in/out of tune*, at/not at the correct pitch: *sing/play in ~.* **4** [U] (fig) harmony: *be in/out of ~ with one's*

surroundings/companions. **change one's tune**, change one's way of speaking, behaviour, etc (eg from insolence or respect). **to the tune of**, to the amount of: *He was fined (eg for a motoring offence) to the ~ of £30.* □ vi, vi **1** adjust the strings, etc (of a musical instrument) to the right pitch: *~ a guitar.* **2** *tune in (to).* (a) adjust the controls of a radio to a particular frequency/station: *~ in to the BBC.* (b) (fig) be aware of what other people are saying, feeling, etc: *He's not very well ~d in to his surroundings.* **3** adjust or adapt the engine of a motor-vehicle so that it gives its best, or a special, performance.

tune-ful /-fl/ adj having a pleasing tune.

tune-fully /-fəli/ adv

'tuning-fork, steel instrument like a fork which produces a musical note when struck.

tuner /'tʃu:nə(r)/ US: 'tu:-/ n [C] **1** person who tunes musical instruments: *a piano-~.* **2** (part of) a radio, etc which receives the signals.

tu-nic /'tʃu:nɪk/ US: 'tu:-/ n [C] **1** close-fitting jacket as worn by policemen, soldiers, etc. **2** loose, pleated dress gathered at the waist with a belt.

tun-nel /'tʌnl/ n [C] underground passage (esp through a hill or mountain, for a road, railway, etc). □ vi, vt (-ll-, US also -l-) dig a tunnel (through/into something).

tunny /'tʌni/ n [C] (pl -ies or unchanged) = tuna.

tur-ban /'tʌ:bən/ n [C] **1** man's head-dress made by winding a length of cloth round the head (as worn in some Asian countries). **2** similar woman's close-fitting hat.

tur-bine /'tʌ:bain/ n [C] engine or motor whose driving-wheel is turned by a current of water, steam or gas.

turbo- /'tʌ:bəʊ/ prefix operated by a turbine: *a turbo-jet (engine)*, (aircraft with a) jet engine in which a gas turbine is used; *turbo-prop*, a gas turbine used to drive a propeller.

tur-bu-lence /'tʌ:bjuləns/ n [C] state of being turbulent.

tur-bu-lent /'tʌ:bjulənt/ adj violent; disorderly; uncontrolled: *~ waves/passions.*

tur-bu-lent-ly adv

turf /tɜ:f/ n (pl turves) **1** [U] soil with grass growing in it. **2** [C] piece of turf. **3** *the ~*, horse-racing as a sport. □ vt **1** cover or lay (a piece of land) with turf. **2** *turf sb/sth out*, (GB sl) throw out.

'turf-accountant, bookmaker.

tur-key /'tʌ:ki/ n [C] (pl ~s) large bird (fowl) eaten as food; [U] its flesh. **talk turkey**, (informal) be honest, realistic, frank.

Tur-kish bath /tʌ:kɪʃ 'bɑ:θ/ n [C] bath of hot air or steam, followed by a shower and massage.

tur-moil /'tʌ:mɔɪl/ n [C,U] (instance of) trouble, disturbance: *The town was in a ~ during the elections.*

turn¹ /tɜ:n/ n [C] **1** act of turning; turning movement: *a few ~s of the handle*. **done to a turn**, cooked just enough, neither underdone nor overdone. **2** change of direction: *sudden ~s in the road*. **at every turn**, (fig) very frequently: *I've been coming across old friends at every ~ at the dance*. **3** change in condition: *The sick man/My affairs took a ~ for the better/worse*. **4** occasion or opportunity for doing something, esp in one's proper order among others: *It's your ~ to read now, John*. **in turn**, (a) (of two persons) one after the other. (b) (of more than two persons) in succession: *The boys were asked in ~ to see the examiner*. **out of turn**, before or after the permitted time: *You mustn't speak out of ~*. **take turns at sth**, do it in succession: *Mary and Helen took ~s at babysitting*. **5** action regarded as affecting a person: *do her a good ~*, be helpful, etc. **6** natural tendency: *a boy with a mechanical ~*, interested in, clever at, mechanical things. **7** short period of activity: *I'll take a ~ at the wheel if you want a rest (from driving)*. **8** short performance on the stage.

turn² /tɜ:n/ vt, vi (For special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 5 below.) **1** (cause to) move round a point; (cause to) move so as to face in a different direction: *The earth ~s round the sun*. *He ~ed away from me*. *He ~ed to look at me*. *He ~ed (to the) left*. *When does the tide ~, begin to flow in/out?* **turn the corner**, ⇨ corner(1). **turn a deaf ear (to)**, ⇨ ear¹(1). **turn one's hand to sth**, (be able to) do (a task, etc): *He can ~ his hand to most jobs about the house*. **turn one's mind/thoughts/attention to sth**, direct one's mind, etc to: *Please ~ your attention to something more important*. **2** (cause to) change in nature, quality, condition, etc: *Frost ~s water into ice*. *Caterpillars ~ into (= become) butterflies*. *His hair has ~ed grey*. **turn sb's head**, make him vain: *The excessive praise the young actor received ~ed his head*. **3** reach and pass: *He has ~ed (= reach the age of) fifty*. *It has just ~ed two*, is just after two o'clock. **4** shape (something) on a lathe, etc: *~ a bowl on a potter's wheel*. **5** (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

turn (sb) against sb, (cause to) become hostile to: *He tried to ~ the children against their mother*.

turn (sb) away, (cause to) turn in a different direction so as not to be facing; refuse to look at, welcome, help, admit (to a place): *She ~ed away in disgust*. *We had to ~ away hundreds of fans, eg from a stadium, because all the seats were sold*.

turn (sb/sth) back, (cause to) return the way one has come: *It's getting dark—we'd better ~ back*. **turn the clock back**, return to an earlier condition, situation, etc.

turn (sth) down, (a) (cause to) fold down: *~ down one's coat collar*. (b) reduce (the brilliance of a light, flow of water,) by turning a wheel or tap. **turn sb/sth down**, refuse to consider (an offer, a proposal, or the person who makes it): *He asked Jane to marry him but she ~ed him down*.

turn in, (informal) go to bed. **turn sb in**, (informal) surrender him to the police. **turn (sth) in**, (cause to) fold or slant inwards: *His toes ~ in*.

turn (sth) inside out, (cause to) become inside out: *The wind ~ed my old umbrella inside out*.

turn off, change direction; leave (one road) for another: *Is this where we ~ off?* **turn sth off**, stop the flow of (liquid, gas, current) by turning a tap or other control: *~ off the water/lights/radio/TV*. **turn (sb) off**, (sl) (cause him to) lose interest, desire, etc: *He/This music really ~s me off!*

turn sth on, start the flow of (liquid, gas, current) by turning a tap, etc: *T ~ the lights/radio on*. **turn (sb) on**, have, give to him, great pleasure or excitement: *What kind of music ~s you on?* *Some psychedelic drugs ~ you on very quickly, change your mental or emotional state*. **turn on sth**, depend on: *The success of the debate ~s on the Liberal vote*. **turn on sb**, attack: *The dog ~ed on me and bit me in the leg*.

turn out (well, etc), prove to be; be in the end: *Everything ~ed out well/satisfactory*. *As it ~ed out...*, As it happened in the end...

turn (sth) out, (cause to) point outwards: *His toes ~ out*. **turn sth out**, (a) extinguish by turning a knob, etc: *Please ~ out the lights*. (b) empty (a drawer, one's pockets, a room, etc) when looking for something, etc: *~ out all the drawers in one's desk*. **turn sb out (of/from sth)**, expel by force, threats, etc: *~ a tenant out (= from his house) for not paying the rent*. **turn sb/sth out**, produce: *Our new factory is ~ing out large quantities of goods*. *The school has ~ed out some first-rate athletes*. **turn (sb) out**, (cause people to) assemble for some event, or for duty: *Not many men ~ed out to watch the match*. Hence, **turn-out**, (a) persons who have turned out (assembled): *There was a good ~-out at the meeting*. (b) occasion when one turns out a drawer, etc. (c) equipment; clothes and accessories: *in a smart ~-out*.

turn (sb/sth) over, (cause to) fall over, upset; change the position of: *He ~ed over in bed*. **turn sth over in one's mind**, think about it (before making a decision). **turn sth/sb over (to sb)**, give the control or conduct of it or him to: *I've ~ed over the management of my affairs to my brother*. *The thief was ~ed over to the police*. **turn sth over**, do business to the amount of: *Mr Smith/His business ~s*

over £500 a week. Hence, **'turn-over**, (a) amount of money made in business within a period of time or for a particular transaction: *a profit of £1000 on a ~over of £10000*. (b) rate of renewal: *There is a higher ~over of teachers in big cities*.

turn (sth/sb) round, (cause to) face another way, be in another direction: *T ~ round and let me see your new hairstyle*.

turn 'to, get busy: *The design staff ~ed to and produced a set of drawings in twenty-four hours*. **turn to sb**, go to: *The child ~ed to its mother for comfort*.

turn up, (a) make one's appearance; arrive: *He promised to come, but hasn't ~ed up yet*. (b) be found, esp by chance: *The book you've lost may ~ up one of these days*. (c) (of an opportunity, etc) happen: *He's still waiting for something (eg a job, a piece of good luck) to ~ up*. **turn (sth) up**, (a) (cause to) slope upwards: *~ (= roll) up one's shirt sleeves*. (b) expose; make visible: *He ~ed up some buried treasure on the beach*. **turn up one's nose at sth**, (fig) express a superior and critical attitude towards: *She ~ed up her nose at the suggestion*. Hence, **'turn-up**, (a) turned fold at the bottom of a trouser-leg. (b) surprising and unexpected event: *Fancy seeing you after all these years. What a ~-up for the book!* What a great surprise!

turn upon sb/sth, = turn on.

turn-coat /'tɜːnkəʊt/ n [C] person who deserts one group for another.

turner /'tɜːnə(r)/ n [C] person who works a lathe.

turn-ing /'tɜːnɪŋ/ n [C] place where a road turns, esp where one road branches off from another: *Take the first ~ on/to the right*.

'turning-point, (fig) point in place, time, development, etc which is critical: *reach a ~ point in history/in one's life*.

tur-nip /'tɜːnɪp/ n [C] (plant with a) large round root used as a vegetable and as food for cattle.

turn-stile /'tɜːnstɑɪl/ n [C] revolving gate that allows one person through at a time.

tur-quoise /'tɜːkwoɪz/ n [C,U] (colour of a) greenish-blue precious stone.

tur-ret /'tʌrɪt/ n [C] 1 small tower, esp at a corner of a building or defensive wall. 2 [C] steel structure protecting gunners.

turtle /'tɜːtl/ n [C] sea-animal with a soft body protected by a hard shell like a tortoise.

turves /'tɜːvz/ n pl ⇨ turf.

tusk /tʌsk/ n [C] long-pointed tooth, esp one coming out from the closed mouth, as in the elephant, walrus or wild boar.

tussle /'tʌsl/ n [C], vi (have a) difficult fight or struggle or (with).

tut /tʌt/, **tut-tut** /tʌt tʌt/ int (used to express impatience).

tu-te-lage /'tjuːtlɪdʒ/ US: /tuː-/ n [U] (formal)

guardianship.

tu-tor /'tjuːtə(r)/ US: /tuː-/ n [C] 1 private teacher of a single pupil or a very small class. 2 (GB) university teacher who advises a student and guides his general performance. ⇨ vt teach as a tutor.

tu-tor-ial /tjuː'tɔːriəl/ US: /tuː-/ adj of a tutor of his duties: ~ial classes. ⇨ n [C] teaching period for a small group of university students.

tux-edo /tʌk'siːdəʊ/ n [C] (pl ~s) (US) = dinner-jacket.

twaddle /'twɒdl/ n [U] foolish talk.

twang /twæŋ/ n [C] 1 sound of a tight string or wire being pulled and released: *the ~ of a guitar*. 2 harsh, nasal tone of voice: *speak with a ~*. ⇨ vt, vi (cause to) make this kind of sound: *He was ~ing a banjo*.

'twas /twɒz/ weak form: twɒz/ (old use) = it was.

tweak /twiːk/ vt pinch and twist: *~ a child's nose*. ⇨ n [C] act of tweaking.

tweed /twiːd/ n 1 [U] (often as an adjective) thick, soft, woollen cloth of mixed colours: *a ~ coat*. 2 (pl) (suit of) clothes made of tweed: *dressed in Scottish ~s*.

tweet /twiːt/ n [C], vi (of a bird) = chirp.

tweez-ers /'twiːzəz/ n pl (also a pair of ~) tiny pair of tongs for picking up or pulling out very small things, eg hairs.

twelfth /twelfθ/ n [C], adj (abbr 12th) (of) the next after the 11 or one of 12 equal parts.

'twelfth-night, eve of the festival of Epiphany, celebrated with festivities.

twelve /twelv/ n [C], adj (of) 12.

twen-ti-eth /'twentiəθ/ n [C], adj (abbr 20th) (of) the next after 19 or one of 20 equal parts.

twenty /'twenti/ n [C], adj (of) 20. **in the twenties**, (a) (of a person's age, temperature, speed, etc) between 19 and 30. (b) between '19 and '30 in a century.

twice /twais/ adv two times: *~ as much/as many*. *He's ~ the man he was*, healthier, stronger, more confident, more capable, etc. **think twice about doing sth**, hesitate, think carefully, before deciding to do it.

twiddle /'twɪdl/ vt, vi twist or turn idly: *~ one's thumbs; twiddling a ring on one's finger*.

twig /twɪg/ n [C] small shoot on or at the end of a branch (tree, bush or plant).

twig² /twɪg/ vt, vi (-gg-) (GB informal) notice; understand; realize: *I soon ~ged what he was up to*.

twi-light /'twɪlaɪt/ n [U] 1 faint light before sunrise or after sunset: *go for a walk in the ~*. 2 (fig) period about which little is known: *in the ~ of history*.

twin /twin/ n 1 [C] either of two children or animals born together of the same mother: (as an adjective) *~ brothers*. 2 (as an adjective) completely like, closely associated with, another: *~ beds*, two identical single beds; *~ towns*. ⇨ twinned..

'twin-set, woman's jumper and cardigan of the same colour and style.

twine /twaɪn/ *n* [U] thin string made by twisting two or more yarns together. □ *vt, vi* twist; wind: *vines twining round a tree.*

twinge /twɪndʒ/ *n* [C] sudden, sharp pain: *a ~ of toothache.* □ *vi* produce this pain.

twinkle /'twɪŋkl/ *vi* **1** shine with a light that gleams unsteadily: *stars that ~ in the sky.* **2** (of eyes) sparkle: *Her eyes ~ed with amusement/ mischief.* □ **n** **1** [U] twinkling light: *the ~ of the stars.* **2** sparkle: *There was a mischievous ~ in her eyes.*

twinkling /'twɪŋklɪŋ/, (*sing only*) *in a twinkling of an eye*, in an instant.

twinned /'twɪnd/ *adj* paired (with): *a town in England ~ with a town in France*, for cultural, educational, etc exchanges.

twirl /twɜːl/ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) turn round and round quickly: *He sat ~ing his thumbs.* **2** curl: *He ~ed his moustache (up).* □ *n* [C] quick circular motion.

twist /twɪst/ *vt, vi* **1** wind or turn (a number of threads, strands, etc) one around the other: *~ pieces of straw into a rope.* **2** make (a rope, a garland, etc) by doing this. **3** turn, esp by the use of force; turn the two ends of (something) in opposite directions: *~ the cap off a tube of toothpaste. He fell and ~ed his ankle.* **twist sb's arm**, (*fig*) put (friendly or unfriendly) pressure on him to do something. **twist sb round one's little finger**, (*informal*) get him to do what one wants him to do. **4** force (a person's words) out of their true meaning: *The police tried to ~ his words into a confession of guilt.* **5** give a spiral form to (a rod, column, etc); receive, have, move or grow in, a spiral form: *~ed columns*, as in architecture. **6** turn and curve in different directions; change position or direction: *The road ~s and turns up the side of the mountain.* **7** dance the twist, ⇨ **5** below. □ **n** **1** [C] turning or being turned: *Give the rope a few more ~s. There are many ~s in the road.* **2** [C] something made by twisting: *a rope full of ~s.* **3** [C,U] thread, string, rope, etc made by twisting together two or more strands. **4** peculiar type or tendency of mind or character: *He has a criminal ~ in him.* **5** dance (popular in the 1960's) with twisting of the arms and hips.

twister, difficult task, problem, etc.

'tongue-twister, word or phrase difficult to pronounce, eg 'three frightened thrushes'.

twit /twɪt/ *n* [C] (*sl*) foolish person.

twitch /twɪtʃ/ *n* [C] **1** sudden, quick, usually uncontrollable movement of a muscle. **2** sudden quick pull: *I felt a ~ at my sleeve.* □ *vi, vt* (cause to) move in a twitch (**1**): *The horse ~ed its ears.*

twit-ter /'twɪtə(r)/ *vi* **1** (of birds) make a succession of soft short sounds. **2** (of persons) talk rapidly through excitement, nervousness,

etc. □ *n* [C] chirping: *the ~ of sparrows.*

two /tuː/ *adj, n* [C] (of) **2.** **break/cut sth in two**, into two parts. **put two and two together**, infer something from what one sees, hears, learns, etc. ⇨ also *mind* **1** (**2**).

two-faced *adj* (*fig*) insincere.

two-fold *adj, adv* double, doubly.

two-piece, set of clothes of similar or matching material, eg skirt and jacket, trousers and jacket: (as an *adjective*) *a ~ piece bathing-suit.*

two-ply *adj* of two strands or thicknesses: *~ply wool/wood.*

two-seater, car, aircraft, etc with seats for two persons.

two-time, *vt, vi* (*sl*) deceive.

two-timing *adj* (*sl*) deceitful.

two-way *adj* (**a**) (of a switch) allowing current to be switched on or off from either of two points. (**b**) (of a road or street) in which traffic may move in both directions. (**c**) (of radio equipment, etc) for both sending and receiving.

tycoon /taɪ'kuːn/ *n* [C] (*modern informal*) wealthy and powerful business man or industrialist: *'oil ~s.*

ty-ing /'taɪŋ/ *present participle* of *tie* **2**.

type ¹ /taɪp/ *n* **1** [C] person, thing, event, etc considered as an example of a class or group: *Pele was a fine ~ of football player.* **2** [C] class or group considered to have common characteristics: *men of this ~.* **true to type**, ⇨ *true* (**4**). **3** [U] letters, etc cast in blocks of metal for use in printing; [C] one of these blocks.

'type-script, typewritten copy (prepared for printing, etc).

'type-writer, machine with which a person prints letters on paper, using the fingers on a keyboard.

'type-written *adj* typed (**1**).

type ² /taɪp/ *vt, vi* **1** use, write with, a typewriter: *~ a letter. She ~s well.* **2** determine the type (**2**) of something: *~ a virus.*

typ-ing *n* [C] act, job, of using a typewriter.

ty-pist /'taɪpɪst/, person who types (**1**).

type-cast /'taɪpkɑːst/ *US*: -kæst/ *vt* (*pt, pp* typecast) cast (a person) for a part in a play, etc which seems to fit his/her own personality. □ *adj* (of a person) very suited to what he is doing.

ty-phoid /'taɪfɔɪd/ *n* [U] (also ~ *fever*) infectious disease which attacks the intestines.

ty-phoon /'taɪfuːn/ *n* [C] violent hurricane.

ty-phus /'taɪfəs/ *n* [U] infectious disease with fever and purple spots on the body.

typi-cal /'tɪpɪkl/ *adj* serving as a type; representative or characteristic.

typi-cally /-kli/ *adv*

typ-ify /'tɪpɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) be a symbol of; be representative of.

ty-pist /'taɪpɪst/ *n* [C] ⇨ *type* **2**.

ty-ran-ni-cal /tɪ'rænikl/ *adj* of, like, a tyrant; acting like a tyrant.

tyr-an-nize (also **-ise**) /tɪ'rənəɪz/ *vi, vt* rule cruelly and unjustly: ~ *the weak*.

tyr-an-nous /tɪ'rənəs/ *adj* = tyrannical.

tyr-anny /tɪ'rəni/ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] cruel or unjust use of power; [C] instance of this. **2** [C, U] (instance of, country with, the) kind of government existing when a ruler has complete power, esp power obtained by force and used unjustly: *live under a ~*.

ty-rant /tɪ'rənt/ *n* [C] cruel or unjust ruler, esp one who has obtained complete power by force.

tyre (*US* = **tire**) /tɪə(r)/ *n* [C] band of rubber on the rim of a wheel, esp (*pneumatic ~*) the kind on bicycle and motor-car wheels.

tzetze /tsets/ *n* [C] = tsetse.

Uu

U, u /ju:/ (*pl* U's, u's /ju:z/) the 21st letter of the English alphabet.

U-turn, one of 180°: *No U-turns!* (as a traffic notice on motorways).

ubi-qui-tous /ju:'bɪkwɪtəs/ *adj* (*formal*) present everywhere or in several places at the same time.

ud-der /'ʌdə(r)/ *n* [C] part of a cow, goat or other animal, from which milk comes.

ugh /ʒ: *made with an expression of disgust* | *int* (used to show disgust).

ugly /'ʌɡli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** unpleasant to look at: ~ *men/furniture*. **2** threatening; unpleasant: *The situation looks ~*.

ug-li-ness *n* [U]

uku-lele /ju:kə'leli/ *n* [C] Hawaiian four-stringed guitar.

ul-cer /'ʌlsə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** open sore forming poisonous matter (on the outside or inside surface of the body). **2** (*fig*) corrupting influence or condition.

ul-cer-ate /-eɪt/ *vt, vi* form, convert into, an ulcer.

ul-cer-ous /-əs/ *adj*

ulna /'ʌlnə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~e /-ni:/) (*anat*) inner of the two bones of the forearm.

ul-ter-ior /ʌl'tɪəriə(r)/ *adj* beyond what is first seen or said.

ul-terior 'motive, motive other than what is expressed or admitted.

ul-ti-mate /'ʌltɪmət/ *adj* last, furthest, basic: ~ *principles/truths*; the ~ *deterrent* (used of nuclear weapons).

ul-ti-mate-ly *adv* finally; in the end.

ul-ti-ma-tum /ʌl'tɪ'metəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or -ta /-tə/) final statement of conditions to be

agreed without discussion, eg one sent to a student threatening expulsion.

ultra- /'ʌltrə-/ *prefix* beyond, to excess: *ultra-violent*; *ultra-modern*.

ultra-sonic /'ʌltrə'sonɪk/ *adj* of sound waves above normal human hearing.

ultra-vio-let /'ʌltrə'vaɪələt/ *adj* of the invisible part of the spectrum beyond the violet.

um-bili-cal /ʌm'bɪlɪk/ *adj* (also ~ *cord*) cord connecting a foetus at the navel with the placenta.

um-brella /ʌm'brelə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** folding frame covered with cotton, etc used to shelter the person holding it from rain. **2** (*fig*) protection: *under the ~ of the UNO*.

um-laut /'ʊmlaut/ *n* [C] (in Germanic languages) vowel change shown by two dots over the vowel (as in the German plural *Männer* of *Mann*).

um-pire /'ʌmpaɪə(r)/ *n* [C] person chosen to act as a judge in a dispute, to see that the rules are obeyed in cricket, baseball, tennis and other games. (*Note: referee* for football and boxing.) □ *vt, vi* act as an umpire: ~ *a cricket match*.

ump-teen /'ʌmp'ti:n/ *adj* (*sl*) many: *I've warned you ~ times*.

ump-teenth /'ʌmp'ti:nθ/ *adj*: *for the ~th time*, for I don't know how many times.

un- /ʌn-/ *prefix* **1** (used with an *adjective* or *noun*) not: *unable*; *untruth*. **2** (used with a *verb*) negative, reverse, opposite of: *uncover*; *unpack*; *undress*.

un-abated /'ʌnə'beɪtɪd/ *adj* (of a storm, etc) (continuing) as strong, violent, etc as before.

un-able /'ʌn'eɪbl/ *adj* **unable to do sth**, not able to.

un-accom-pan-ied /'ʌnə'kʌmpənɪd/ *adj* **1** without a companion: ~ *luggage*, sent separately. **2** (*music*) performed without an accompaniment.

un-ac-count-able /'ʌnə'kauntəbl/ *adj* in a way that cannot be accounted for or explained.

un-ac-count-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

un-ac-cus-tomed /'ʌnə'kʌstəmd/ *adj* **1** not accustomed to: ~ *as I am to speaking in public*. **2** not usual: *his ~ silence*.

un-ad-vised /'ʌnəd'vaɪzɪd/ *adj* (esp) not discreet or wise.

un-ad-vised-ly /'ʌnəd'vaɪzɪdli/ *adv* rashly.

un-af-fec-ted /'ʌnə'fektɪd/ *adj* **1** sincere. **2** not affected.

un-alien-able /'ʌn'eɪlɪənəbl/ *adj* that cannot be taken away or separated: ~ *rights*.

un-al-ter-ably /'ʌn'ɔ:l-tɜ:rəbli/ *adv* in a way that cannot be changed.

una-nim-ity /ju:'nə'nɪməti/ *n* [U] complete agreement or unity.

unani-mous /ju:'nænɪməs/ *adj* in, showing, complete agreement: *He was elected by a ~ vote* | *with ~ approval*.

unani-mous-ly *adv*
un-an-nounced /ʌnə'naʊnst/ *adj* without having been announced.
un-an-swer-able /ʌn'ɑ:nsərəbl *US*: -'æn-/ *adj* (esp) against which no good argument can be brought: *His case is ~.*
un-an-swered /ʌn'ɑ:nsəd *US*: -'æn-/ *adj* not replied to: ~ *letters.*
un-ap-proach-able /ʌnə'prəʊtʃəbl/ *adj* (esp, of a person) difficult to approach (because too stiff or formal).
un-armed /ʌn'ɑ:md/ *adj* without weapons or means of defence.
un-asked /ʌn'ɑ:skt *US*: -'æskt/ *adj* (esp) without being requested: *helping ~.*
un-as-sum-ing /ʌnə'sju:mɪŋ *US*: -'su:-/ *adj* not drawing attention to oneself; modest.
un-as-sum-ing-ly *adv*
un-at-tached /ʌnə'tætʃt/ *adj* 1 not connected or associated with a particular person, group, organization, etc; independent. 2 not married or engaged to be married.
un-at-tended /ʌnə'tendɪd/ *adj* not attended to; with no one to give care or attention to: *Would you leave small children at home ~ while you went to the cinema?*
un-auth-or-ized (also **-ised**) /ʌn'ɔ:θəraɪzd/ *adj* not authorized; illegal.
un-avail-ing /ʌnə'veɪlɪŋ/ *adj* without effect or success.
un-avoid-able /ʌnə'vɔɪdəbl/ *adj* that cannot be avoided.
un-a-void-ably /-əvli/ *adv*: *He was unavoidably absent.*
un-aware /ʌnə'weə(r)/ *adj* not knowing; not aware.
un-awares /-ˈweəz/ *adv* ⇨ take¹ (2).
un-bal-anced /ʌn'bælənst/ *adj* (esp of a person, the mind) not sane or normal.
un-bear-able /ʌn'beərəbl/ *adj* that cannot be borne or tolerated: *I find his rudeness ~.*
un-bear-ably /-əvli/ *adv* in a way that cannot be endured: *unbearably hot/rude.*
un-beat-able /ʌn'bi:təbl/ *adj* that cannot be improved on: ~ *prices.*
un-beaten /ʌn'bi:tɪn/ *adj* (esp) not having been defeated or surpassed: *an ~ record for the 1000 metres race.*
un-be-com-ing /ʌnbrɪ'kæmɪŋ/ *adj* not appropriate.
un-be-liever /ʌnbrɪ'li:və(r)/ *n* [C] (esp) person who does not believe in God.
un-bend /ʌn'bend/ *vi, vt* (pt, pp unbent /-bent/) 1 behave in a way free from strain or formality: *'After teaching I ~.* 2 relax: ~ *one's mind.*
un-bend-ing *adj* (esp) determined.
un-bi-as-sed (also **-biased**) /ʌn'baɪəst/ *adj* impartial.
un-block /ʌn'blɒk/ *vt* remove obstruction from.
un-born /ʌn'bɔ:n/ *adj* not yet born; future: ~

generations.

un-break-able /ʌn'breɪkəbl/ *adj* that cannot be broken.
un-bro-ken /ʌn'brəʊkn/ *adj* (esp) 1 (eg of a horse) not tamed. 2 not interrupted: *six hours of ~ sleep.* 3 (of records, etc) not beaten.
un-buckle /ʌn'bʌkl/ *vt* undo the buckle(s) of.
un-built /ʌn'bɪlt/ *adj* not (yet) built.
un-bur-den /ʌn'bɜ:dn/ *vi* relieve of a burden: ~ *one's conscience*, eg by making a confession.
un-called-for /ʌn'kɔ:ld fɔ:(r)/ *adj* not justified, desirable or necessary: *Such rude comments are ~.*
un-canny /ʌn'kæni/ *adj* not natural, mysterious: *an ~ ability to predict disaster.*
un-cared-for /ʌn'kæəd fɔ:(r)/ *adj* neglected: ~ *children.*
un-ceas-ing /ʌn'si:sɪŋ/ *adj* going on, continuing, all the time.
un-ceas-ing-ly *adv*
un-cer-emo-ni-ous /ʌn,serɪ'məʊniəs/ *adj* 1 informal. 2 lacking in courtesy.
un-cer-emo-ni-ous-ly *adv*
un-cer-tain /ʌn'sɜ:tn/ *adj* 1 not reliable: ~ *weather*; *a man with an ~ temper.* 2 not certainly knowing or known: *be/feel ~ (about) what to do next*; ~ *of/about/as to one's plans for the future.*
un-cer-tain-ly *adv*
un-cer-tain-ty /ʌn'sɜ:tnɪ/ *n* (pl -ies) 1 [U] state of being uncertain. 2 [C] something which is uncertain: *the uncertainties of employment in many countries.*
un-changed /ʌn'tʃeɪndʒd/ *adj* staying, having stayed, the same: ~ *weather.*
un-chari-table /ʌn'tʃərɪtəbl/ *adj* (esp) severe or harsh (in making judgements of the conduct of others).
un-checked /ʌn'tʃekt/ *adj* not kept under control: ~ *anger.*
un-christian /ʌn'krɪstʃən/ *adj* not Christian; contrary to Christian principles.
un-civil /ʌn'sɪvl/ *adj* impolite (the usual word).
un-civil-ized (also **-ised**) /ʌn'sɪvəlaɪzd/ *adj* 1 not (yet) civilized. 2 (informal) (of behaviour) bad, thoughtless.
un-claimed /ʌn'kleɪmd/ *adj* that has or have not been claimed: ~ *letters/parcels.*
uncle /'ʌŋkl/ *n* [C] 1 brother of one's father or mother. 2 husband of one's aunt.
un-clouded /ʌn'klaʊdɪd/ *adj* (fig) free from care: *a life of ~ happiness.* ⇨ *cloudless.*
un-coloured (*US* = **-colored**) /ʌn'kɔləd/ *adj* (fig) not exaggerated: *an ~ description of events.*
un-com-fort-able /ʌn'kɒmfətəbl/ *adj* not comfortable.
un-com-mit-ted /ʌn'kɒmɪtɪd/ *adj* not committed; free, independent.
un-com-mon /ʌn'kɒmən/ *adj* unusual (and

so remarkable).

un-com-mon-ly *adv* (esp) exceptionally: *a ~ly intelligent boy*.

un-com-pro-mis-ing /ʌn'kɒmpɹəmaɪzɪŋ/ *adj* not prepared to make any compromise; firm: *an ~ member of the committee*.

un-con-cerned /ʌn'kɒn'sɜːnd/ *adj* **1** not involved (*in*); not (emotionally) concerned (*with*). **2** free from anxiety.

un-con-cern-ed-ly /ʌn'kɒn'sɜːnɪli/ *adv*

un-con-di-tional /ʌn'kɒn'dɪʃnəl/ *adj* absolute; not subject to conditions: *We demanded ~ surrender*.

un-con-di-tion-ally /-nəli/ *adv*

un-con-di-tioned /ʌn'kɒn'dɪʃnd/ *adj* (esp): *~ reflex*, instinctive response.

un-con-sci-ous /ʌn'kɒnʃəs/ *adj* not conscious (all senses). □ *n* the ~, (*psychology*) that part of one's mental activity of which one is unaware, but which can be detected and understood through the skilled analysis of dreams, behaviour, etc.

un-con-sci-ous-ly *adv*

un-con-sid-ered /ʌn'kɒn'sɪdəd/ *adj* **1** (of words, remarks) spoken, made, thoughtlessly. **2** disregarded (as if of little value or worth).

un-con-trol-lable /ʌn'kɒn'trəʊləbl/ *adj* unable to be controlled: *~ laughter/children*.

un-cork /ʌn'kɔːk/ *vt* take the cork from (a bottle).

un-count-able /ʌn'kaʊntəbl/ *adj* that cannot be counted.

uncountable noun, one that may be used with *some*, *enough*, *a lot of*, etc and that has no plural form (marked [U] in this dictionary).

un-couple /ʌn'kʌpl/ *vt* unfasten: *~ a locomotive from a train*.

un-couth /ʌn'kuːθ/ *adj* (of persons, their behaviour) rough, awkward, uncultured.

un-couth-ly *adv*

un-cover /ʌn'kʌvə(r)/ *vt* **1** remove a cover or covering from. **2** (*fig*) make known: *The police ~ed a plot against the President*.

un-cros-sed /ʌn'krɒst/ *US*: -'krɔːst/ *adj* (esp, of a cheque) not crossed.

un-daunted /ʌn'dɔːntɪd/ *adj* fearless.

un-de-cided /ʌn'dɪ'saɪdɪd/ *adj* not yet having made up one's mind.

un-de-fended /ʌn'dɛfendɪd/ *adj* (esp of a lawsuit) in which no defence is offered.

un-de-mon-strative /ʌn'dɛmɒnstrətɪv/ *adj* not showing feelings of affection, interest, etc.

un-de-ni-able /ʌn'dɛnɪəbl/ *adj* undoubted-ly true: *of ~ value*.

un-de-ni-ably /-əbli/ *adv*: *undeniably true*.

un-der¹ /'ʌndə(r)/ *adv* in or to a lower place, position, etc: *The ship went ~, sank*. **down under**, (*GB informal*) in Australia and New Zealand.

un-der² /'ʌndə(r)/ *prep* **1** in or to a position lower than: *The cat was ~ the table*. **There's**

nothing new under the sun, (*proverb*), nothing unknown anywhere. **2** in and covered by: *He hid ~ the bedclothes*. **3** less than; lower (in rank) than: *children ~ fourteen years of age*; *incomes ~ £2000*; *run a hundred metres in ~ ten seconds*; *no one ~ (the rank of) a captain*.

(*Note*: opposites are *above* or *over*.) **under age**, ⇨ *age*. **4** (showing various conditions): *road ~ repair*, being repaired; *~ discussion*, being discussed; *be ~ the impression that*, have the idea or belief that.

under- /ʌndə(r)/ *prefix* **1** located beneath: *undergrowth*. **2** not enough: *undersized*. **3** lower in rank or importance: *understudy*.

under-act /'ʌndə'rækt/ *vt, vi* act with too little energy, enthusiasm.

under-arm /'ʌndə'rɑːm/ *adj, adv* (hitting or throwing a ball) with the hand kept below the level of the elbow.

under-bid /'ʌndə'bid/ *vt* (*pt, pp* underbid) **1** make a lower bid than (another person). **2** (in card-games) bid less on (a hand of cards) than its strength demands.

under-car-riage /'ʌndə'kærɪdʒ/ *n* [C] (usually with *the*) landing gear of an aircraft.

under-charge /'ʌndə'tʃɑːdʒ/ *vt* charge too little for or to. □ *n* [C] /'ʌndə'tʃɑːdʒ/ charge that is too small.

under-clothes /'ʌndə'kləʊðz/ *US*: -kləʊz/ *n pl* clothing worn next to the skin.

under-cloth-ing /'ʌndə'kləʊðɪŋ/ *n* [U] = underclothes.

under-cover /'ʌndə'kʌvə(r)/ *adj* secret: *an ~ agent*, person who associates with suspected criminals, etc to get evidence against them.

under-cur-rent /'ʌndə'kʌrənt/ *US*: -kərənt/ *n* [U] **1** current of water flowing beneath the surface. **2** (*fig*) tendency (of thought or feeling) lying below what is apparent: *an ~ of hatred*.

under-cut /'ʌndə'kʌt/ *vt* (*pt, pp* undercut) (-tt-) offer (goods, services) at a lower price than competitors.

under-de-vel-oped /'ʌndədɪ'veləpt/ *adj* not yet fully developed: *~ muscles/countries*.

under-dog /'ʌndədɒg/ *US*: -dɒg/ *n* [C] (usually with *the*) (*fig*) person who is considered the poorest, weakest, the probable loser in a competition, etc.

under-done /'ʌndə'dʌn/ *adj* (esp of meat) not completely cooked throughout.

under-es-ti-mate /'ʌndər'estɪmənt/ *vt* form too low an estimate or opinion of: *~ the enemy's strength*. □ *n* /-mət/ [C] estimate which is too low.

under-fed /'ʌndə'fed/ *adj* having had too little food.

under-foot /'ʌndə'fʊt/ *adv* under one's feet: *It is very stony ~*.

under-go /'ʌndə'gəʊ/ *vt* (*pt* -went /-went/, *pp* -gone /-gɒn/ *US*: -gɔːn/) experience: *The explorers had to ~ much suffering*.

under-graduate /ˌʌndəˈɡrædʒuət/ *n* [C] university student working for a bachelor's degree.

under-ground /ˌʌndəˈgraʊnd/ *adj* **1** under the surface of the ground: ~ passages/caves. **2** secret (esp of political movement or one for resisting enemy forces in occupation of another country): ~ workers. **3** ~ music, kinds of experimental pop music. □ *adv* (also) /ˌʌndəˈgraʊnd/ (in the senses of the *adj*): He went ~ (= into hiding) when he heard the police were after him. □ *n* **1** the U~, London's underground railway system. **2** (in war, etc) resistance movement: men of the French ~.

under-growth /ˌʌndəˈɡrəʊθ/ *n* [U] shrubs, bushes, low trees, growing among taller trees.

under-hand /ˌʌndəˈhænd/ *adj, adv* deceitful(-ly).

under-lay /ˌʌndəˈleɪ/ *n* [U] material (felt, rubber, etc) laid under a carpet.

under-lie /ˌʌndəˈlaɪ/ *vt* form the basis of (a theory, of conduct, behaviour, doctrine).

under-line /ˌʌndəˈlaɪn/ *vt* **1** draw a line under (a word, etc). **2** (fig) emphasize. □ *n* /ˌʌndəˈlaɪn/ [C] line drawn under a word or words.

under-ling /ˌʌndəˈlɪŋ/ *n* [C] person in an unimportant position compared to others.

under-man-ned /ˌʌndəˈmænd/ *adj* not having enough men to do the work.

under-men-tioned /ˌʌndəˈmenʃnd/ *adj* mentioned below or later (in an article, etc).

under-mine /ˌʌndəˈmaɪn/ *vt* **1** make a hollow or tunnel under: cliffs ~d by the sea. **2** weaken gradually: His health was ~d by drink.

under-neath /ˌʌndəˈniːθ/ *adv, prep* beneath; below; at or to a lower place.

under-nour-ished /ˌʌndəˈnaʊrɪʃt/ *US: -ˈnærɪʃt/ adj* not provided with sufficient food for good health and normal growth.

under-pants /ˌʌndəˈpænts/ *n* *pl* male underwear covering the lower part of the body.

under-pass /ˌʌndəˈpɑːs/ *US: -pæs/ n* [C] section of a road that goes under another road or railway.

under-pay /ˌʌndəˈpeɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -paid /-ˈpeɪd/) pay (workmen, etc) inadequately.

under-pay-ment *n* [C, U]

under-pin /ˌʌndəˈpɪn/ *vt* (-nn-) **1** place a support of stone, etc under (a wall, etc). **2** (fig) support, form the basis for, (an argument, etc).

under-privi-leged /ˌʌndəˈprɪvɪlɪdʒd/ *adj* not having had the educational and social advantages enjoyed by more fortunate people, social classes, nations, etc.

under-rate /ˌʌndəˈreɪt/ *vt* place too low a value or estimate on: ~ an opponent, fail to realize his abilities, strength, etc.

under-sec-retary /ˌʌndəˈsekrətəri/ *US: -terɪ/ n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (esp) (Parliamentary U~) member of the Civil Service and head of a

Government Department.

under-sell /ˌʌndəˈsel/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -sold /-ˈsəʊld/) sell (goods) at a lower price than (competitors).

under-signed /ˌʌndəˈsaɪnd/ *pp: We, the ~ed..., We whose signatures appear below...*

under-sized /ˌʌndəˈsaɪzd/ *adj* of less than the usual size.

under-skirt /ˌʌndəˈskɜːt/ *n* [C] petticoat.

under-staffed /ˌʌndəˈstɑːft/ *US: -stɑːft/ adj* having too small a staff.

under-stand /ˌʌndəˈstænd/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -stood /-ˈstʊd/) **1** know the meaning, nature, explanation, of (something): ~ him/French/a problem. He didn't ~ me/what I said. **2** learn (from information received): I ~ that you are now married.

under-stand-able /-əbl/ *adj* that can be understood: His refusal to agree is ~able.

under-stand-ing *adj* (good at) realizing other persons' feelings or points of view: with an ~ing smile. □ *n* (a) [U] power of clear thought, for seeing something from another's point of view, etc. (b) (often with a, an, but rarely *pl*) agreement; realization of another's views or feelings towards oneself: reach/come to an ~ing with the bank-manager. **on the under-stand-ing that...** on condition that...

under-state /ˌʌndəˈsteɪt/ *vt* fail to state fully or adequately: They exaggerated the enemy's losses and ~d their own.

under-state-ment /ˌʌndəˈsteɪtmənt/ *n* [C, U]

under-stock /ˌʌndəˈstɒk/ *vt* equip with less stock than is necessary.

under-study /ˌʌndəˈstʌdi/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) person learning to, able to, take the place of another (esp an actor). □ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) study (a part in a play) for this purpose; act as an understudy to (an actor): He is ~ing Olivier.

under-take /ˌʌndəˈteɪk/ *vt* (*pt* -took /-ˈtʊk/, *pp* -taken /-ˈteɪkən/) **1** make oneself responsible for; agree, promise, (to do something): He undertook to finish the job by Friday. **2** start (a piece of work).

under-tak-ing /ˌʌndəˈteɪkɪŋ/ *n* [C] (a) work that one has promised or agreed to do. (b) promise; guarantee.

under-taker /ˌʌndəˈteɪkə(r)/ *n* [C] person whose business is to prepare the dead for burial or cremation and manage funerals.

under-tone /ˌʌndəˈtəʊn/ *n* [C] (formal) **1** low, quiet tone: talk in ~s, talk quietly. **2** underlying quality: an ~ of sadness.

under-took /ˌʌndəˈtʊk/ *pt* of undertake.

under-value /ˌʌndəˈvæljuː/ *vt* value at less than the true worth.

under-water /ˌʌndəˈwɔːtə(r)/ *adj* below the surface of the water: ~ swimming.

under-wear /ˌʌndəˈweə(r)/ *n* [U] underclothes.

under-went /ˌʌndəˈwent/ *pt* of undergo.

under-world /ˌʌndəˈwɜːld/ *n* [C] **1** (Greek

myth, etc) place of the departed spirits of the dead. **2** part of society that lives by vice and crime.

under-write /ˌʌndə'raɪt/ *vt* (*pt* -wrote /-rəʊt/, *pp* -written /-rɪtn/) undertake to take responsibility for all or part of possible loss (by signing an agreement about insurance, esp of ships).

under-writer, person who underwrites policies of (esp marine) insurance.

un-de-sir-able /ˌʌndɪ'zəɪərəbl/ *adj* (esp of persons) of a kind not to be welcomed in society. □ *n* [C] undesirable person.

un-de-ter-red /ˌʌndɪ'tɜːd/ *adj* not discouraged: ~ *by the weather/by failure*.

un-de-vel-oped /ˌʌndɪ'veləpt/ *adj* not developed: ~ *land*, not yet used (for farming, etc).

un-did /ˌʌndɪd/ *pt* of *undo*.

un-dies /ˌʌndɪz/ *n pl* (informal) women's underclothes.

un-dis-charged /ˌʌndɪs'tʃɑːdʒd/ *adj* **1** (of a cargo) not unloaded. **2** (of a debt) not paid.

undo /ˌʌnduː/ *vt* (*pt* undid /ˌʌndɪd/, *pp* undone /ˌʌndʌn/) **1** untie, unfasten, loosen (knots, buttons, etc): *My shoelace has come undone*. **2** bring back the state of affairs that existed before: *He has undone the good work of his predecessor*.

un-do-ing, (cause of) ruin: *Drink was his ~ing*.

un-done *adj* not finished: *leave one's work undone*.

un-dom-es-ti-cated /ˌʌndə'mestɪkeɪtɪd/ *adj* not trained or interested in household affairs: *His wife/Her husband is ~*.

un-doubted /ˌʌndəʊtɪd/ *adj* certain; accepted as true: *show an ~ improvement in health*.

un-doubted-ly *adv*

un-dreamt-of /ˌʌnd'reɪmt əv/ not thought of or imagined: ~ *wealth*.

un-dress /ˌʌndres/ *vt, vi* **1** remove the clothes of: *Jane ~ed her doll*. **2** take off one's clothes: ~ *and get into bed/get ~ed and go to bed*. □ *n* [U] *in a state of undress*, naked.

un-due /ˌʌnddjuː/ *US*: -'duː/ *adj* improper: *with ~ haste*.

un-duly /ˌʌnddjuːli/ *US*: -'duːli/ *adv* too: *unduly pessimistic*.

un-du-late /ˌʌndjʊleɪt/ *US*: -dʒʊ-/ *vi* (of surfaces) have a wave-like motion or look: *undulating land*, that rises and falls in gentle slopes.

un-du-la-tion /ˌʌndʒʊleɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

un-dy-ing /ˌʌndɪɪŋ/ *adj* everlasting: ~ *love*.

un-earned /ˌʌnzɜːnd/ *adj* **1** not gained by work or service: ~ *income*, eg inherited. **2** not deserved: ~ *praise*.

un-earth /ˌʌnzɜːθ/ *vt* discover and bring to light: ~ *new evidence*.

un-earth-ly /ˌʌnzɜːθli/ *adj* **1** supernatural. **2** mysterious; ghostly: ~ *screams*. **3** (informal) unreasonable: *Why do you wake me up at this ~ hour?*

un-easy /ˌʌn'iːzi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) uncomfortable in body or mind: *have an ~ conscience*.

un-easi-ness *n* [U]

un-eaten /ˌʌn'iːtn/ *adj* not (yet) eaten.

un-edu-cated /ˌʌn'edʒʊkeɪtɪd/ *adj* (suggesting a person is) not educated: *an ~ mind/voice*.

un-em-ploy-able /ˌʌnɪm'plɔɪəbl/ *adj* that, who, cannot be employed.

un-em-ployed /ˌʌnɪm'plɔɪd/ *adj* **1** not working, not able to get work: ~ *men*. **2** not being used: ~ *capital*. □ *n* **the** ~, those who are without jobs.

un-em-ploy-ment /ˌʌnɪm'plɔɪmənt/ *n* **1** [U] state of being unemployed: *U~ is a serious social evil*. **2** amount of unused labour: *There is more ~ now than there was six months ago*.

unemployment pay/benefit, money paid to a worker who cannot get employment.

un-end-ing /ˌʌn'endɪŋ/ *adj* everlasting; continuous.

un-en-light-ened /ˌʌnɪn'laɪtnd/ *adj* uneducated; not well-informed.

un-equal /ˌʌn'ɪkwəl/ *adj* **1** not equal. **2** (esp of work such as writing) variable in quality. **3** not capable, strong, etc enough: *I feel ~ to the task*.

un-equally /-kwəli/ *adv*

un-equal-led /ˌʌn'ɪkwəld/ *adj* unrivalled.

un-equivo-cal /ˌʌn'ɪkwɪvəkl/ *adj* (formal) having one only possible meaning.

un-err-ing /ˌʌn'ɜːrɪŋ/ *adj* (formal) accurate: *fire with ~ aim*.

un-even /ˌʌn'iːvn/ *adj* **1** not similar in size, quality, etc: *an ~ contest between a small boy and a youth*. **2** (of surface) not level, not smooth: *an ~ road surface*. **3** (of light, etc) not constant.

un-even-ly *adv*

un-event-ful /ˌʌnɪ'ventfl/ *adj* ordinary; with no surprises: *an ~ journey*.

un-ex-cep-tion-able /ˌʌnɪk'sepʃənəbl/ *adj* (formal) beyond criticism.

un-ex-cep-tional /ˌʌnɪk'sepʃənəl/ *adj* usual, ordinary: *an ~ student*.

un-ex-pected /ˌʌnɪkspektɪd/ *adj* surprising because not expected.

un-fail-ing /ˌʌn'feɪlɪŋ/ *adj* never coming to an end: ~ *trust/support*.

un-fail-ing-ly *adv* at all times: ~ *ly honest*.

un-fair /ˌʌn'feə(r)/ *adj* unjust: ~ *remarks/competition*.

un-fair-ly *adv*

un-fair-ness *n* [U]

un-faith-ful /ˌʌn'feɪθfl/ *adj* **1** not true to one's duty, a promise, etc. **2** committing adultery: *Her husband is ~ to her*.

un-faith-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

un-faith-ful-ness *n* [U]

un-fal-ter-ing /ˌʌn'fɜːltərɪŋ/ *adj* not hesitating: *with ~ courage*.

un-fam-il-i-ar /ˌʌnfə'mɪlə(r)/ *adj* **1** not well known: *That face is not ~ to me*, I feel that I

know it. **2** not acquainted with: *He is still ~ with this district.*

un-fath-om-able /ʌn'fæðəməbl/ *adj* **1** so deep that the bottom cannot be reached. **2** (*fig*) too strange or difficult to be understood.

un-fav-our-able /ʌn'feɪvəbl/ *adj* not favourable: ~ *weather*

un-fit /ʌn'fɪt/ *adj* not fit or suitable: *He is ~ for driving/ ~ to be a doctor/medically ~.*

in-flap-pable /ʌn'flæpəbl/ *adj* not becoming excited or nervous during a crisis.

un-flinch-ing /ʌn'flɪntʃɪŋ/ *adj* (of a person's character) not avoiding danger or difficulty.

un-fold /ʌn'fəʊld/ *vt, vi* **1** (of something folded) open out: ~ *a newspaper*. **2** reveal, make known; become known or visible: *as the story ~s (itself).*

un-for-get-table /ʌn'fə'getəbl/ *adj* that cannot be forgotten: *an ~ experience.*

un-for-tu-nate /ʌn'fɔ:tʃənət/ *adj* **1** unlucky: *an ~ expedition*. **2** regrettable: *an ~ remark.*

un-for-tu-nate-ly *adv* (used to say or write something unwelcome: *U ~ I can't come with you tomorrow*, eg because of unexpected obligations).

un-founded /ʌn'faʊndɪd/ *adj* without proof: ~ *rumours.*

un-freeze /ʌn'fri:z/ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) thaw. **2** remove (government) restrictions on wages, prices, etc.

un-fre-quent-ed /ʌn'fri'kwentɪd/ *adj* visited rarely.

un-friend-ly /ʌn'frendli/ *adj* not friendly.

un-frock /ʌn'frɒk/ *vt* (of a priest guilty of bad conduct) dismiss from the priesthood.

un-fruit-ful /ʌn'fru:tfl/ *adj* **1** not bearing fruit. **2** (*fig*) without results or success: ~ *discussions.*

un-furl /ʌn'fɜ:l/ *vt, vi* unroll, spread out: ~ *a flag/the sails.*

un-fur-nished /ʌn'fɜ:nɪʃt/ *adj* (esp) without furniture: *a house to let ~.*

un-gain-ly /ʌn'geɪnli/ *adj* clumsy; awkward.

un-gen-er-ous /ʌn'dʒenərəs/ *adj* not generous.

un-god-ly /ʌn'gɒdli/ *adj* **1** not religious. **2** (*informal*) unreasonable: *Why did you phone me at this ~ hour?*

un-gov-ern-able /ʌn'gʌvənəbl/ *adj* that cannot be controlled: *an ~ temper.*

un-grate-ful /ʌn'greɪtfl/ *adj* not showing gratitude.

un-guarded /ʌn'gɑ:dɪd/ *adj* (esp of a person and what he says) careless; indiscreet.

un-happy /ʌn'hæpi/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) not happy.

un-healthy /ʌn'helθi/ *adj* harmful to bodily or mental health.

un-heard /ʌn'hɜ:d/ *adj* **1** not heard. **2** not allowed a hearing. *go unheard*, (esp) have no-one willing to listen: *Her request for help*

went ~.

un-heard-of /ʌn'hɜ:d əv/ *adj* without an equal: ~ *of wealth.*

un-hinged /ʌn'hɪŋdʒd/ *adj* (*informal*) stupid; silly.

un-hook /ʌn'hʊk/ *vt* undo the hooks of (a dress, etc): *Please ~ my dress.*

un-hoped-for /ʌn'həʊpt fɔ:r/ *adj* unexpected: ~ *luck.*

uni- /ju:nɪ-/ *prefix* one, the same: *uniform.*

uni-corn /'ju:nɪkɔ:n/ *n* [C] (in old stories) animal like a horse with one long horn.

un-iden-ti-fied /'ʌnaɪ'dentɪfaɪd/ *adj* which cannot be identified: *The victim is still ~.*

uni,identified,flying object, (abbr **UFO**) object seen in the sky and (claimed to have been) sent from another planet.

uni-form /'ju:nɪfɔ:m/ *adj* not varying in form, quality, etc: ~ *temperature*. □ *n* [C,U] (style of) dress worn by all members of an organization, eg the police, the armed forces. *in uniform*, wearing such dress: *He looks smart in (his) ~.*

uni-form-ly *adv* without varying in quality, timing, etc.

uni-form-ity /'ju:nɪfɔ:mətɪ/ *n* [U] condition of being the same throughout.

unify /'ju:nɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** form into one; unite. **2** make uniform.

uni-fi-ca-tion /'ju:nɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U]

uni-lat-eral /'ju:nɪ'lætərəl/ *adj* of, on, affecting, done by, one side or party only: *a ~ declaration of independence*, (abbr **UDI**); ~ *repudiation of a treaty*, by one of the parties that signed it, without the consent of the other party or parties.

uni-lat-er-ally /-rəli/ *adv*

un-im-agin-ative /'ʌnɪ'mædʒɪnətɪv/ *adj* (*formal*) not having, using, imagination.

un-im-peach-able /'ʌnɪm'pi:tʃəbl/ *adj* that cannot be questioned or doubted: *news from an ~ source.*

un-in-formed /'ʌnɪn'fɔ:md/ *adj* (esp) not having, made without, adequate information: ~ *criticism.*

un-in-hib-ited /'ʌnɪn'hɪbɪtɪd/ *adj* without inhibitions; unconventional.

un-in-spired /'ʌnɪn'spaɪəd/ *adj* dull: ~ *singing.*

un-in-ter-ested /'ʌnɪn'trɪstɪd/ *adj* **1** having, showing no interest. **2** having no personal concern in something.

union /'ju:nɪən/ *n* **1** [U] uniting or being united; joining or being joined; [C] instance of this: *the ~ of the three towns into one*. **2** [U] state of being in agreement or harmony; [C] instance of this: *a happy ~*, eg a happy marriage. **3** [C] association formed by the uniting of persons, groups, etc. **4** [C] (often **the ~s**) = trade-union.

the Union 'Jack, the British national flag.

unique /'ju:nɪk/ *adj* having no like or equal; being the only one of its sort.

unique-ly *adv*

uni-sex /'ju:niseks/ *adj* (of clothes) of a style designed for, or to be worn by, both sexes.

uni-son /'ju:nisn/ *n* [U] **in unison**, together; in the same pitch: *sing in ~*

unit /'ju:nit/ *n* [C] **1** single person, thing or group regarded as complete. **2** quantity or amount used as a standard of measurement: *The metre is a ~ of length.* **3** the number 1.

Uni-tar-ian /'ju:nitərian/ *n* [C] member of a Christian church which rejects the doctrine of the Trinity and believes that God is one person. □ *adj* of the Unitarians: *the U~ Church.*

unite /'ju:nait/ *vt, vi* **1** make or become one; join: *the interests that ~ our two countries*, that bring them together. **2** act or work together: *Let's ~ to fight for human rights.*

united *adj* (a) joined eg by love and sympathy: *a ~d family.* (b) resulting from association for a common purpose: *make a ~d effort.* (c) joined politically: *the U~d Kingdom.*

the United Kingdom, Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

United Nations, (since 1945) international organization for peace and mutual aid.

United States (of America), nation in North America.

united-ly *adv*

unity /'ju:nəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [C,U] the state of being united; (an) arrangement of parts to form a complete or balanced whole: *The figure on the left spoils the ~ of the painting.* **2** [U] agreement (of aims, feelings, etc): *political ~.*

uni-ver-sal /'ju:nivə:sl/ *adj* of, belonging to, done by, affecting, all: *War causes ~ misery.*

uni-ver-sally /-səli/ *adv*

uni-verse /'ju:nivə:s/ *n* **the U~**, (a) everything that exists everywhere; all the stars, planets, their satellites, etc. (b) the whole creation and the Creator; mankind.

uni-ver-sity /'ju:nivə:səti/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) **1** (colleges, buildings, etc of an) institution for advanced teaching, conferring degrees and engaging in academic research. **2** members of such an institution collectively. **3** (as an adjective): *a ~ student.*

un-kempt /ʌn'kempt/ *adj* = untidy (the usual word).

un-kind /ʌn'kaɪnd/ *adj* not showing, kindness: *an ~ remark.*

un-kind-ly *adv* in an unkind manner.

un-know-ing /ʌn'nəʊɪŋ/ *adj* unaware.

un-know-ing-ly *adv* unawares.

un-known /ʌn'nəʊn/ *adj* not known or identified: *U~ at this address*, as written on a letter sent to a wrong address. ⇨ also quantity (4).

un-leash /ʌn'li:ʃ/ *vt* (fig) set free (to attack): *~ one's temper.*

un-leav-ened /ʌn'levnd/ *adj* (of bread) made without yeast.

un-less /ʌn'les/ *conj* if not: *You will fail ~ you*

work harder. U~ you work harder, you will fail.

un-like /ʌn'laɪk/ *adj, prep* not like; different from.

un-like-ly /ʌn'laɪkli/ *adj* not likely to happen or be true: *an ~ event/story.*

un-listed /ʌn'listɪd/ *adj* (of a telephone number) not in the directory; ex-directory.

un-load /ʌn'ləʊd/ *vt, vi* **1** remove a load, cargo from: *~ a ship. The ship is ~ing.* **2** get rid of (somebody, something not wanted): *Don't try to ~ all your boring girlfriends on me!*

un-lock /ʌn'lɒk/ *vt* use a key to open a lock.

un-looked-for /ʌn'lʊkt fɔ:(r)/ *adj* unexpected.

un-loose /ʌn'lʊ:s/ *vt* let loose; make free.

un-lucky /ʌn'lʌki/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) not lucky.

un-luck-ily /-ɪli/ *adv* unfortunately.

un-man-ly /ʌn'mænli/ *adj* **1** weak; cowardly. **2** effeminate.

un-man-ned /ʌn'mænd/ *adj* having no crew: *send an ~ spacecraft to Mars.*

un-mask /ʌn'mɑ:sk/ *US: -mæsk/ vt, vi* **1** remove a mask (from). **2** (fig) show the true character or intentions of: *~ a traitor.*

un-matched /ʌn'mætʃt/ *adj* without an equal.

un-men-tion-able /ʌn'men'nəbl/ *adj* so bad, etc that it must not be spoken of.

un-mind-ful /ʌn'maɪndfʊl/ *adj* forgetful; oblivious: *~ of the time.*

un-mis-tak-able /ʌnmɪ'steɪkəbl/ *adj* about which no mistake or doubt is possible: *Are black clouds an ~ sign of rain?*

un-mis-tak-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

un-miti-gated /ʌn'mɪtɪgeɪtɪd/ *adj* (formal) complete; absolute: *an ~ rascal.*

un-moved /ʌn'mu:vɪd/ *adj* (esp) indifferent.

un-natu-ral /ʌn'nætʃərəl/ *adj* not natural or normal.

un-nec-ess-ary /ʌn'nesəsəri/ *US: -seri/ adj* not necessary.

un-nec-ess-ar-ily /ʌn'nesəsəri/ *adv*

un-nerve /ʌn'nɜ:v/ *vt* cause to lose self-control, power of decision, courage.

un-not-iced /ʌn'nəʊtɪst/ *adj* not observed or noticed: *Her sadness went ~.*

un-num-bered /ʌn'nʌmbəd/ *adj* **1** more than can be counted. **2** having no number(s): *~ tickets.*

un-ob-tru-sive /ʌnəb'tru:sɪv/ *adj* not too obvious or easily noticeable.

un-of-ficial /ʌnə'fɪʃl/ *adj* not official: *an ~ strike*, not authorized by the union.

un-or-tho-dox /ʌn'ɔ:θədɒks/ *adj* not in accordance with what is orthodox, conventional, traditional: *~ teaching methods.*

un-pack /ʌn'pæk/ *vt, vi* take out (things packed): *~ one's clothes/a suitcase.*

un-par-al-lel /ʌn'pærələld/ *adj* having no equal: *an ~ disaster.*

un-pleas-ant /ʌn'plezənt/ *adj* not pleasant.

un-pleasant-ness *n* [U] unpleasant feeling (between persons); [C] quarrel.

un-prece-dented /ʌn'presidentɪd/ *adj* never done or known before.

un-preju-diced /ʌn'predʒʊdɪst/ *adj* free from prejudice.

un-pre-tentious /ʌn'pri'tenʃəs/ *adj* modest; not trying to seem important.

un-prin-cipled /ʌn'prɪnsəpld/ *adj* without moral principles; dishonest.

un-pro-fessional /ʌn'prə'feʃənl/ *adj* (esp of conduct) contrary to the rules or customs of a profession.

un-prompted /ʌn'prɒmptɪd/ *adj* (of an answer, action) not said, done, etc as the result of a hint, suggestion, etc.

un-pro-vo-ked /ʌn'prə'vəʊkt/ *adj* without provocation: ~ aggression/attacks.

un-quali-fied /ʌn'kwɒlɪfaɪd/ *adj* 1 not limited or restricted; absolute: ~ praise. 2 not qualified: ~ to speak on the subject.

un-ques-tion-able /ʌn'kwɛstʃənəbl/ *adj* beyond doubt; certain.

un-ques-tion-ably /-əblɪ/ *adv*

un-quote /ʌn'kwəʊt/ (v, imperative only) (in a telegram, a telephoned message, etc) end the quotation: *The rebel leader said (quote) 'We shall never surrender' (~).*

un-ravel /ʌn'rævl/ *vt, vi* (-ll-; US -l-) 1 separate the threads of; pull or become separate: *The cat has ~led the knitting.* 2 solve: ~ a mystery.

un-real /ʌn'riəl/ *adj* imaginary; not real.

un-reas-on-able /ʌn'ri:zənəbl/ *adj* not reasonable.

un-re-lent-ing /ʌn'ri'lentɪŋ/ *adj* not becoming less in intensity, etc: ~ pressure/attacks.

un-re-li-able /ʌn'ri'laɪəbl/ *adj* that cannot be relied on; not to be trusted.

un-re-mit-ting /ʌn'ri'mɪtɪŋ/ *adj* (formal) unceasing: ~ efforts.

un-re-quit-ed /ʌn'ri'kwatɪd/ *adj* not returned or rewarded: ~ love.

un-re-serv-ed-ly /ʌn'ri:zə'vɪdlɪ/ *adv* without reservation or restriction: *speak ~.*

un-rest /ʌn'rest/ *n* [U] (esp) disturbed condition(s): *political ~.*

un-re-strained /ʌn'ri'streɪnd/ *adj* not kept under control: ~ hatred/laughter.

un-re-stricted /ʌn'ri'strɪktɪd/ *adj* without restriction(s); (esp of a road) not having a speed limit for traffic.

un-ri-valled (US = -ri-valed) /ʌn'raɪvld/ *adj* having no rival: ~ in courage.

un-ruffled /ʌn'raʃld/ *adj* calm; not upset or agitated: *He was ~ by all the criticisms.*

un-ruly /ʌn'ru:lɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) not easily controlled; naughty: *an ~ child.*

un-said /ʌn'sed/ *adj* not expressed: *Some things (eg opinions) are better left ~.*

un-sa-voury (US = -sa-vory) /ʌn'seɪvəri/ *adj* (esp) nasty; disgusting: ~ stories/scandals.

un-scathed /ʌn'skeɪðd/ *adj* unharmed; unhurt.

un-sci-en-ti-fic /ʌn'saɪən'tɪfɪk/ *adj* not following or using the principles or rules of science.

un-scramble /ʌn'skræmbl/ *vt* restore from a confused, mixed or coded state: ~ a coded telephone conversation.

un-scru-pu-lous /ʌn'skrʊ:pjʊləs/ *adj* not guided by conscience (not to do wrong).

un-scru-pu-lous-ly *adv*

un-sea-soned /ʌn'si:znd/ *adj* 1 (of wood) not matured. 2 (of food) not flavoured with seasoning.

un-seat /ʌn'si:t/ *vt* 1 remove from office: *Mr Green was ~ed at the General Election*, lost his seat in the House of Commons. 2 throw (the rider) from a horse.

un-seem-ly /ʌn'si:mli/ *adj* (of behaviour, etc) not proper.

un-seen /ʌn'si:n/ *adj* not seen; invisible.

un-settle /ʌn'setl/ *vt* make troubled, anxious or uncertain: ~d weather, weather that often changes.

un-sight-ly /ʌn'saɪthl/ *adj* unpleasant to look at: ~ litter.

un-skilled /ʌn'skɪld/ *adj* 1 (of work) not needing special skill. 2 (of workers) not having special skill or special training.

un-soph-is-ti-cated /ʌnsə'fɪstɪkətɪd/ *adj* not sophisticated; inexperienced.

un-sound /ʌn'saʊnd/ *adj* 1 unsatisfactory: *an ~ argument/building.* 2 of unsound mind, mentally disturbed.

un-spar-ing /ʌn'speərɪŋ/ *adj* liberal; holding nothing back: *be ~ in one's efforts*; ~ of praise.

un-speak-able /ʌn'spi:kəbl/ *adj* that cannot be expressed or described in words: ~ joy/sadness.

un-steady /ʌn'stedi/ *adj* 1 (of a person's movement, position) unbalanced; not secure: *an ~ walk*, eg because of age, illness, alcohol. 2 (of behaviour) inconsistent. 3 (of prices, etc) changing often.

un-stuck /ʌn'stʌk/ *adj* 1 not stuck or fastened: *The flap of the envelope has come ~.* 2 fail to work according to plan: *Our plan has come ~.*

un-suit-able /ʌn'su:təbl/ *adj* not suitable.

un-sung /ʌn'sʌŋ/ *adj* not celebrated (in poetry or song). **go unsung**, (informal) (of a person, his actions) be unknown, not thanked, praised.

un-sure /ʌn'ʃʊə(r)/ *adj* 1 not infident: *I feel ~ about appointing her.* 2 not certain or reliable: *The hotel arrangements are still ~.*

un-swerv-ing /ʌn'swə:vɪŋ/ *adj* (esp of aims, purposes) not changing: ~ loyalty.

un-think-able /ʌn'θɪŋkəbl/ *adj* not to be considered: *Such a possibility is ~!*

un-thought-of /ʌn'θɔ:t əv/ *adj* unexpected.

un-tidy /ʌn'taɪdɪ/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (of a room, desk, person etc) not tidy.

un-tie /ʌn'taɪ/ *vt* (present participle *untying*, *pt,pp* *untied*) unfasten a knot, etc.

un-til /ʌn'tɪl/ *prep, conj* ⇨ *till*¹.

un-time-ly /ʌn'taɪmlɪ/ *adj* happening before the expected time; premature: *her ~ death*, eg when she was still young.

un-tir-ing /ʌn'taɪərɪŋ/ *adj* continuing to work without getting tired or causing tiredness: *his ~ efforts*.

un-told /ʌn'təʊld/ *adj* (esp) too many or too much to be measured, etc: *~ wealth*.

un-true /ʌn'truː/ *adj* 1 false: *an ~ story*. 2 disloyal: *be ~ to one's mother*.

un-truth /ʌn'truːθ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s /-truːðz/) lie.

un-truth-ful /-fɪl/ *adv*

un-truth-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

un-used¹ /ʌn'juːzd/ *adj* never having been used.

un-used² /ʌn'juːst/ *adj* **unused to**, not accustomed to: *~ to city life*.

un-usual /ʌn'juːʒuəl/ *adj* not usual; strange.

un-usu-ally *adv*: *~ly hot*.

un-veil /ʌn'veɪl/ *vt, vi* 1 remove a veil (from). 2 reveal.

un-wel-come /ʌn'welkəm/ *adj* 1 (of persons) not welcome. 2 (of weather, criticism, behaviour) not liked because bad, inappropriate, etc.

un-wieldy /ʌn'wiːldi/ *adj* awkward to move or control because of shape, size or weight.

un-wind /ʌn'waɪnd/ *vt, vi* (*pt,pp* *-wound* /-waʊnd/) 1 untwist (a ball of wool, etc); loosen (a spring, etc). 2 (*informal*) relax after a period of tension, exhausting work, etc. ⇨ *wind*³(6).

un-wrap /ʌn'ræp/ *vt, vi* (-pp-) remove the wrapping or cover.

un-zip /ʌn'zɪp/ *vt* (-pp-) unfasten or open by pulling a zip-fastener.

up /ʌp/ *adverbial particle* (contrasted with *down*) (for special uses with verbs, eg *throw up*, ⇨ the verb entries.) 1 to or in an erect or vertical position (esp as suggesting readiness for activity): *He's already ~, out of bed. It's time to get ~, out of bed. Stand ~!* 2 **up and about**, out of bed and active (esp of a person recently ill). 3 to or in a high(er) place, position, degree, etc: *Lift your head ~. Prices are still going ~, rising.* 4 to a place, town, of importance; to a place in or to the north: *He has gone ~ to London for the day. We're going ~ to Edinburgh.* 5 (used vaguely, in a way similar to the use of *down*, *round*, *over*, *across*) to the place in question, or in which the speaker is, was, will be: *He came ~ (to me) and asked the time.* 6 (used to show completeness, finality): *The stream has dried ~, has become completely dry. We've eaten everything ~. Lock/Tie/Fasten/Chain/Nail it ~. Make it fast, secure, safe, etc by locking, tying, etc.* 6 (used to show

an increase in intensity, etc): *Speak/Sing ~! ie with more force.* 7 **up against (it)**, faced with (difficulties, obstacles, etc). **be up before**, appear in court (before a magistrate, etc). **up and down**. (a) forward and back: *walking ~ and down the station platform.* (b) so as to rise and fall: *The boat bobbed ~ and down on the water.* **up for**, (a) being tried (for an offence, etc): *~ for exceeding the speed limit.* (b) being considered for; on offer: *The house is ~ for sale.* **up to**, (a) occupied or busy with: *What's he ~ to? He's ~ to no good.* (b) capable of: *I don't feel ~ to going to work.* (c) as far as: *~ to now/then.* ⇨ *get up to*. (d) required, looked on as necessary: *It's ~ to us (= It is our duty) to give them all the help we can.* ⇨ *prep* (in the senses of the adverb): *climb ~ a mountain; walk ~ the stairs.*

up-and-coming *adj* (of a person) making good progress, likely to succeed, in his profession, career, etc: *an ~ and-coming doctor.*

ups and downs, (fig) good and bad fortune.

up- /ʌp-/ *prefix* to a higher or better state: *uphill; upgrade.*

up-bring-ing /'ʌpbɪŋɪŋ/ *n* [U] training and education during childhood: *a good ~.*

up-coun-try /ʌp'kʌntri/ *adj, adv* (esp in a large thinly populated country) towards the interior; inland.

up-date /ʌp'deɪt/ *vt* bring up to date: *~ a dictionary.*

up-grade /ʌp'greɪd/ *vt* raise to a higher grade. ⇨ *n* /'ʌpgreɪd/ (esp) **on the upgrade**, making progress.

up-heaval /ʌp'hiːvl/ *n* [C] great and sudden change: *political/social ~s.*

up-held /ʌp'held/ *pt,pp* of uphold.

up-hill /ʌp'hɪl/ *adj* 1 sloping upward; ascending: *an ~ road.* 2 (fig) difficult; needing effort: *an ~ task.* ⇨ *adv* up a slope: *walk ~.*

up-hold /ʌp'həʊld/ *vt* (*pt,pp* *upheld* /-held/) 1 support or approve (a person, his conduct, a practice, etc): *I cannot ~ such conduct.* 2 confirm (a decision, a verdict).

up-hol-ster /ʌp'həʊlsta(r)/ *vt* provide (seats, etc) with padding, springs, covering material, etc.

up-hol-sterer, person who upholsters.

up-hol-stery /-stri/ *n* [U] (materials used in, business of) upholstering.

up-keep /'ʌpkɪp/ *n* [U] (cost of) keeping something in good order and repair: *I can't afford the ~ of this large garden.*

up-land /'ʌplənd/ *n* (often *pl*) higher part(s) of a region or country.

up-lift /ʌp'lɪft/ *vt* raise (spiritually or emotionally): *His soul was ~ed by Bach's cantata.* ⇨ *n* /'ʌplɪft/ [U] moral or mental inspiration.

up-market /ʌp'mɑːkɪt/ *adj* (of goods, an address, shops, etc) superior; of a high standard.

up-most /'ʌpməʊst/ *adj* = uppermost.

upon /ə'pɒn/ *prep* = *on*¹ (which is more usual and considered less formal).

up-per /'ʌpə(r)/ *adj* (contrasted with *lower*) higher in place; situated above: *the ~ lip*; *the ~ arm*. **have/get the upper hand (of sb)**, have/get an advantage or control of. □ *n* [C] part of a shoe or boot over the sole.

'upper case, capital letter(s).

the 'upper class, top levels of society.

the Upper 'House, (in Parliament) the House of Lords.

'up-per-most /-məʊst/ *adj* highest: *Thoughts of the holidays were ~most in their minds*. □ *adv* on, to, at, the top or surface: *say whatever comes ~most*, whatever one thinks first.

up-pity /'ʌpɪt/ *adj* (informal) snobbish.

up-right /'ʌpraɪt/ *adj* **1** erect; placed vertically (at an angle of 90° to the ground): *an ~ post*. **2** honourable; straightforward in behaviour: *an ~ man/judge*. □ *n* [C] upright support in a structure.

upright piano, ♪ piano.

up-ris-ing /ʌp'raɪzɪŋ/ *n* [C] revolt; rebellion.

up-roar /'ʌprɔ:(r)/ *n* [U] (also with *a*, *an*) (outburst of) noise and excitement: *The meeting ended in (an) ~*.

up-roari-ous /ʌp'rɔ:riəs/ *adj* very noisy, esp with loud laughter and great good humour: *~ious laughter*.

up-roari-ous-ly *adv*

up-root /ʌp'ru:t/ *vi* pull up with the roots: *The gale ~ed numerous trees*.

up-set /ʌp'set/ *vt, vi* (pt, pp ~) (-tt-) **1** tip over; overturn: *Don't ~ the boat*. **2** trouble; cause (a person or thing) to be disturbed: *~ the enemy's plan*; *~ one's stomach by eating too much rich food*. *She is easily ~ emotionally*. □ *n* /'ʌpset/ [C] **1** upsetting or being upset: *have a 'stomach ~*. **2** (sport) unexpected result.

up-shot /'ʌpʃɒt/ *n* **the ~**, outcome; result: *What will be the ~ of it all?*

up-side-down /'ʌpsaɪd 'daʊn/ *adv* **1** with the upper side underneath or at the bottom. **2** (fig) in disorder: *The house was turned ~ by the burglars*.

up-stairs /ʌp'steəz/ *adv* **1** to or on a higher floor: *go/walk ~*. **2** (as an adjective) belonging to, situated on, an upper floor: *an ~ room*.

up-stand-ing /ʌp'stændɪŋ/ *adj* **1** standing erect; strong and healthy: *fine ~ children*. **2** honest.

up-start /'ʌpstɑ:t/ *n* [C] person who has suddenly risen to wealth, power or higher social position, esp one who is arrogant.

up-stream /ʌp'stri:m/ *adv* up a river; in the opposite direction to the stream or current.

up-surge /'ʌpsɜ:dʒ/ *n* [C] growth (of emotion): *an ~ of anger/indignation*.

up-tight /ʌp'taɪt/ *adj* (sl) extremely tense or nervous: *~ about an interview*.

up-to-date /ʌp tə 'deɪt/ *adj* of the present time; of the newest sort: *~ methods*.

up-to-the-minute /'ʌp tə də 'mɪnɪt/ *adj* very modern; latest: *~ information*.

up-turn /'ʌptɜ:n/ *n* [C] **1** upward turn. **2** change for the better: *an ~ in profits*.

up-ward /ʌpwəd/ *adj* moving or directed up: *an ~ glance*. □ *adv* (often **up-wards**) towards a higher place, level, etc.

ura-nium /'ju'reɪniəm/ *n* [U] heavy white metal (symbol **U**) with radioactive properties, a source of atomic energy.

Ura-nus /'ju'reɪnəs/ *n* (astron) planet seventh in order from the sun.

ur-ban /'ɜ:bən/ *adj* of or in a town: *~ renewal*, redevelopment of poor areas of a town.

'urban guer'rilla, member of a small armed group fighting (political) opposition in towns.

ur-bane /'ɜ:beɪn/ *adj* (formal) polite; refined in manners.

ur-bane-ly *adv*

ur-chin /'ɜ:tʃɪn/ *n* [C] **1** mischievous small boy. **2** poor destitute child.

urge /ɜ:dʒ/ *vt* **1** push or drive on: *The crowd was urging the tennis star on to win*. **2** request earnestly; try to persuade: *'Buy it now,' he ~d*. *'Prices will soon rise.'* **3** stress (the importance of) requests and arguments: *He ~d on his pupils the importance of hard work*. □ *n* [C] (rarely pl) strong desire: *He has/feels an ~ to travel*.

ur-gency /'ɜ:dʒənsɪ/ *n* [U] importance of, need for, haste or prompt action: *a matter of great ~*.

ur-gent /'ɜ:dʒənt/ *adj* **1** needing prompt decision or action: *It is most ~ that the patient should get to hospital*. **2** (of a person, his voice, etc) showing that something is urgent.

ur-gent-ly *adv*

uri-nary /'juəriəri/ *US*: -nerɪ/ *adj* of urine: *~ infection*.

uri-nate /'juərineɪt/ *vi* discharge urine.

urine /'juəri:n/ *n* [U] waste liquid which collects in the bladder and is discharged from the body.

urn /ɜ:n/ *n* [C] **1** vase with a stem as used for holding the ashes of a person whose body has been cremated. **2** large metal container in which a drink such as tea or coffee is made or kept hot, eg in canteens.

us /əs/ *strong form*: /s/ *pron* (object form of *we*): *We hope you will visit ~ soon*.

usage /'ju:zɪdʒ/ *US*: 'ju:s-/ *n* **1** [U] way of using something; treatment: *Machines soon wear out under rough ~*. **2** [C, U] conventions governing the use of a language (esp those not governed by grammatical rules): *Such ~s are not characteristic of educated speakers*.

use¹ /ju:s/ *n* **1** [U] using or being used; condition of being used: *the ~ of electricity for cooking*. **in use**, being used. **come into use**, begin to be used: *When did the words 'silicon chip' come into common ~?* **2** [C, U] purpose for which a person or thing is or may be employed; work that a person or thing is able

to do: *a tool with many ~s; find a ~ for it; have no further ~ for it.* **3** [U] value; advantage: *Is this paper of any ~ to you?* **4** [U] power of using: *lose the ~ of one's legs, become unable to walk.* **5** [U] right to use: *You can have the ~ of my car.*

use-ful /'ju:sl/ *adj* helpful; producing good results: *Are you a ~ful member of society?*

use-fully /-fəli/ *adv*: ~ly employed.

use-ful-ness *n* [U]

use-less *adj* (a) of no use; worthless: *A car is ~less without petrol.* (b) without result; unrewarding: *It's ~less to argue with them.*

use-less-ly *adv*

use² /ju:z/ *vt* (pt, pp ~d /ju:zd/) **1** cause to act or serve for a purpose: *You ~ your legs when you walk. May I ~ (= quote) your name as a reference, eg in an application for a job?* **2** have the use of (until nothing is left): *How much coal did we ~ last winter? He has ~d up all his strength.* **3** behave towards: *U ~ others as you would like them to ~ you.*

used /ju:zd/ *adj* no longer new: ~d cars.

user, person or thing that uses: *There are more ~telephone ~rs in the USA than in any other country.*

used /ju:st/ *anomalous finite* (irregular *pt* and *pp* of *use*) (indicating a constant or frequent practice in the past, or, in the construction *there used to be*, the existence of something in the past): *That's where I ~ to live when I was a child. Life isn't so easy here as it ~ to be.*

used to /'ju:st tə before vowel sounds/ *tu:/* *adj* having become familiar to by habit or custom: *You will soon be/get ~ it.*

usher /'ʌʃə(r)/ *n* [C] person who shows people to their seats in theatres, cinemas, etc. □ *vt* **1** lead, conduct: *The girl ~ed me to my seat (in a cinema).* **2** produce: *The change of government ~ed in a period of prosperity.*

usher-ette /'ʌʃə'ret/, girl or woman usher.

usual /'ju:ʒuəl/ *adj* happening often; ordinary, expected: *He arrived later than ~.* □ *per.*

usu-ally /'ju:ʒəli/ *adv* in the ordinary way: *What do you ~ly do on Sundays?*

usurer /'ju:ʒərə(r)/ *n* [C] person whose business is lending money for profit.

usurp /ju:'zɜ:p/ *vt* wrongfully take (a person's power, authority, position): ~ the chairman's authority.

usurper, person who does this.

usury /'ju:ʒəri/ *n* [U] (practice of) lending money, esp at a high rate of interest.

uten-sil /ju:'tensl/ *n* [C] instrument, tool, etc, esp for use in the house: 'household ~s, eg pots, pans, brushes.

uterus /'ju:tərəs/ *n* [C] (pl ~es) (anat) = womb.

utili-tar-ian /ju:'tɪl'itəriən/ *adj* characterized by usefulness rather than by beauty, truth, goodness.

util-ity /ju:'tɪləti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] quality of being useful: (as an *adjective*) ~ ~ van, one that can be used for various purposes. **2** [C] public service such as the supply of water or a bus service.

util-ize (also -ise) /'ju:tɪlaɪz/ *vt* make use of; find a use for.

util-iz-ation (also -isation) /ju:tɪlaɪ'zeɪʃn/ *US*: -lɪ'z-/ *n* [U]

ut-most /'ʌtməʊst/ *adj* most extreme; greatest: *with the ~ care.* □ *n* (sing only) the most that is possible: *I shall do my ~ to see that justice is done.*

ut-ter¹ /'ʌtə(r)/ *adj* complete; total: ~ darkness/disbelief.

ut-ter-ly *adv* completely: *She's ~ly bored with him.*

ut-ter² /'ʌtə(r)/ *vt* **1** make (a sound or sounds) with the mouth: ~ a sigh/a cry of pain. **2** say: *the last words he ~ed.* **3** put (counterfeit money, etc) into circulation.

ut-ter-ance /'ʌtərəns/ *n* **1** (sing only) (formal) way of speaking: *a clear ~.* **2** [C] spoken word or words. **3** [U] **give utterance to** (one's feelings), express in words.

ut-ter-most /'ʌtməʊst/ *adj*, *n* = utmost.

Vv

V, v /vi:/ *n* (pl V's, v's) **1** the 22nd letter of the English alphabet. **2** the Roman numeral 5.

vac /væk/ *n* [C] (informal) = vacation.

va-cancy /'veɪkənsɪ/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] condition of being empty or unoccupied. **2** [C] unoccupied space. **3** [U] lack of ideas, intelligence or concentration. **4** [C] position in business, etc for which a person is needed: *good vacancies for typists.*

va-cant /'veɪkənt/ *adj* **1** empty: *gaze into ~ space.* **2** not occupied by anyone: *a ~ room, eg in a hotel; apply for a ~ position, eg in an office.* **3** (of time) not filled with any activity. **4** (of the mind) without thought; (of the eyes) showing no signs of thought or interest: *a ~ expression.*

va-cant-ly *adv*

va-cate /veɪ'keɪt/ *US*: 'veɪ'keɪt/ *vt* **1** give up living in: ~ a house. **2** leave unoccupied: ~ one's seat.

va-ca-tion /və'keɪʃn/ *US*: veɪ-/ *n* **1** [C] weeks during which universities and law courts stop work: *the summer ~.* **2** [C] (esp US) = holiday.

vac-ci-nate /'væksɪneɪt/ *vt* protect (a person) (against smallpox, etc) by injecting vaccine.

vac-ci-na-tion /'væksɪ'neɪʃn/ *n* [C, U] (in-

stance of) vaccinating.

vac-cine /'væksɪn US: væk'sɪn/ *n* [C,U] substance from the blood of a cow, used to protect persons from smallpox by causing them to have a slight, but not dangerous, form of the disease.

vac-il-late /'væsɪleɪt/ *vi* hesitate; be uncertain (in opinion, etc): ~ *between hope and fear*.

vac-il-la-tion /'væsɪleɪʃn/ *n* [C,U]

vac-u-um /'vækjuəm/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s or, in science, vacuua /-juə/) **1** space completely empty of substance or gas(es). **2** space in a container from which the air has been pumped out.

'vacuum cleaner, apparatus which takes up dust, dirt, etc by suction.

'vacuum flask, one having a vacuum between its inner and outer walls, keeping the contents at an unchanging temperature.

'vacuum-packed *adj* (of food, etc) seal in air-tight packets or tins to maintain freshness.

vaga-bond /'vægəbɒnd/ *adj* having no fixed living-place: *live a ~ life*. □ *n* [C] vagabond person.

va-gary /'veɪgəri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) (formal) strange, unusual act or idea, esp one for which there seems to be no good reason: *the vagaries of fashion*.

va-gina /və'dʒaɪnə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) (anat) passage (in a female mammal) from the external genital organs to the womb.

vag-inal /və'dʒaɪnəl/ *adj*

va-grancy /'veɪgrænsɪ/ *n* [C,U] (instance of) being a vagrant.

va-grant /'veɪgrænt/ *adj* leading a wandering life: ~ *tribes*. □ *n* [C] vagrant person.

vague /veɪg/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** not clear or distinct: *I haven't the ~st idea what they want*. **2** (of persons, their looks, behaviour) uncertain, suggesting uncertainty (about needs, intentions, etc).

vague-ly *adv*

vague-ness *n* [U]

vain /veɪn/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** without use, value, meaning or result: *a ~ attempt*; ~ *hopes*. **2** *in vain*, (a) not having the desired result: *All our work was in ~*. (b) without due honour or respect. ⇨ *name*'(1). **3** having too high an opinion of one's looks, abilities, etc: *as ~ as a peacock*, very vain.

vain-ly *adv*

vale /veɪl/ *n* [C] (literary) = valley.

val-en-tine /'væləntaɪn/ *n* [C] (letter, card, etc, sent on St Valentine's Day, 14 Feb, to a sweetheart).

valet /'væleɪt/ *n* [C] member of (hotel) staff employed to dry-clean or press clothes. □ *vi* act as valet to.

val-iant /'væliənt/ *adj* brave (the usual word).

val-iant-ly *adv*

valid /'vælɪd/ *adj* **1** (legal) real, acceptable, because made or done with the correct formal-

ties: *a ~ claim/marriage*. **2** (of contracts, etc, having force in law: *a ticket ~ for three months*. **3** (of arguments, reasons, etc) well based; acceptable: *raise ~ objections to a suggestion*.

va-lid-ly *adv*

va-lid-ity /və'lɪdɪti/ *n* [U] state of being valid.

vali-date /'vælɪdeɪt/ *vi* make valid: ~ *a claim*.

va-lise /və'liːz US: və'liːs/ *n* [C] small leather bag for clothes, etc during a journey.

val-ley /'væli/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) low land between hills or mountains, often with a river flowing through it.

val-our (US = valor) /'vælə(r)/ *n* [U] (formal) bravery, esp in war.

valu-able /'væljuəbəl/ *adj* of great value, worth or use: *a ~ discovery*. □ *n* (usually *pl*) something of much value, eg jewels.

valu-ation /'væljuəʃn/ *n* **1** [U] process of deciding the value of a person or thing. **2** [C] the value that is decided on: *The surveyors arrived at widely different ~s*.

value /'væljuː/ *n* **1** [U] quality of being useful or desirable: *the ~ of walking as an exercise*. **2** [U] worth of something when compared with something else: *This book will be of great/little/some/no ~ to him in his studies*. **3** [C,U] worth of something in terms of money or other goods for which it can be exchanged: *Is the ~ of the American dollar likely to decline?*

4 [U] what something is considered to be worth (contrasted with the price obtainable): *I've been offered £350 for my old car but its ~ is much higher*. **5** (music) full time indicated by a note: *Give the note its full ~*. **6** (*pl*) standards: *moral/ethical ~s*. □ *vi* **1** estimate the money value of: *He ~d the house for me at £37500*. **2** have a high opinion of: *Do you ~ her as a secretary?*

value-added-tax, (abbr VAT) tax paid by the buyer on the difference between the cost of an article's production and the pretax selling price.

value-less *adj* worthless.

valuer, person whose profession is to estimate the money value of property, land, etc.

valve /vælv/ *n* [C] **1** (sorts of) mechanical device for controlling the flow of air, liquid, gas, etc in one direction only. **2** structure in the heart or in a blood-vessel allowing the blood to flow in one direction only. **3** vacuum tube used in a radio, allowing the flow of electrons in one direction. **4** device in musical wind instruments, eg a cornet, for changing the pitch by changing the length of the column of air.

val-vu-lar /'vælvjələ(r)/ *adj* of valves (2).

vam-pire /'væmpaɪə(r)/ *n* [C] (in stories, etc) corpse that comes to life at night and sucks the blood of sleeping persons.

'vampire bat, sort of blood-sucking bat.

van /væn/ *n* [C] **1** roofed motor-vehicle for carrying and delivering goods: *a 'furniture ~*.

2 (GB) roofed railway carriage for goods: *the 'luggage' ~*.

van² /væn/ *n* [C] **1** front or leading part of an army or fleet in battle. **2** those persons who lead a procession or (fig) a movement: *in the ~ of scientific progress*.

'van-guard, advance party of an army, etc as a guard against surprise attack.

van-dal /'vændl/ *n* [C] person who deliberately destroys works of art or public and private property.

van-dal-ism /-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] destruction by vandals.

vane /veɪn/ *n* [C] **1** arrow or pointer on the top of a building, turning to show the direction of the wind. **2** blade of a propeller, or other flat surface acted on by wind or water.

van-guard /'væŋɡɑ:d/ *n* ⇨ **van**².

va-nilla /və'nɪlə/ *n* **1** [C] (pods or beans of) plant with sweet-smelling flowers. **2** [U] substance from vanilla beans or synthetic product used for flavouring: *two ~ ices*.

van-ish /'vænɪʃ/ *vi* suddenly disappear; fade away gradually; go out of existence: *The thief ran into the crowd and ~ed*.

van-ity /'vænəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] having too high an opinion of one's looks, abilities, etc: *do something out of ~*. **2** [U] quality of being unsatisfying, without true value: *the ~ of pleasure*; [C] vain, worthless thing or act: *the vanities of life*.

van-quish /'væŋkwɪʃ/ *vt* defeat (the usual word).

va-por-ize (also -ise) /'veɪpəraɪz/ *vt, vi* change, be changed, into vapour.

va-pour (US = **va-por**) /'veɪpə(r)/ *n* [U] steam; mist; gas to which certain substances may be reduced by heat: *'water ~*.

vari-able /'veəriəbl/ *adj* varying; changeable: *~ winds*; *~ standards*. □ *n* [C] variable thing or quantity; factor which may vary, eg in an experiment.

vari-abil-ity /'veəriəbɪləti/ *n* [U]

vari-ably /-əbli/ *adv*

vari-ant /'veəriənt/ *adj* different or alternative: *~ spellings of a word* (eg 'programme' and 'program'). □ *n* [C] variant form (eg of spelling): *American English ~s*.

vari-ation /'veəri'eɪʃn/ *n* **1** [C,U] (degree of) varying or being variant: *~(s) of temperature*. **2** [C] (music) simple melody repeated in a different form: *~s on a theme by Mozart*. **3** [U] (biology) change in bodily structure or form caused by new conditions, environment, etc; [C] instance of such change.

vari-cose vein /'væriəkəʊs 'veɪn/ *adj* vein that has become permanently swollen or enlarged.

var-ied /'veəriəd/ *adj* **1** of different sorts: *the ~ scenes of life*. **2** full of changes or variety: *a ~ career*.

var-iegated /'veəriɡeɪtɪd/ *adj* marked ir-

regularly with differently coloured patches: *The flowers of pansies are often ~*.

var-iegation /'veəri'geɪʃn/ *n* [U]

var-iet-y /və'raɪəti/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** [U] quality of not being the same, or not being the same at all times: *a life full of ~*. **2** (sing only) number or range of different things: *for a ~ of reasons*. **3** [C] (biology) subdivision of a species. **4** [C] kind or sort which differs from others of the larger group of which it is a part: *rare varieties of early postage stamps*. **5** [U] kind of entertainment consisting of singing, dancing, comedy, etc: *a ~ act*.

vari-ous /'veəriəs/ *adj* different; of a number of different sorts: *for ~ reasons*; *at ~ times*.

vari-ous-ly *adv*

var-nish /'vɑ:nɪʃ/ *n* [C,U] (particular kind of) (liquid used to give a) hard, shiny, transparent coating on a surface. □ *vt* put a coating of varnish on: *Some women ~ their toe-nails*.

vars-ity /'vɑ:səti/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) (GB informal) = university.

vary /'veəri/ *vi, vt* (pt, pp -ied) be, become, cause to become, different: *They ~ in weight from 3 to 5 kilos*.

vas-cu-lar /'væskjələ(r)/ *adj* (anat) of, made up of, containing, vessels or ducts through which blood, lymph, flows: *~ tissue*.

vase /vɑ:z US: veɪs/ *n* [C] vessel of glass, pottery, etc for cut flowers, or as an ornament.

va-sec-tomy /və'sektəmi/ *n* [C,U] (pl -ies) surgical operation to make a man sterile.

vast /vɑ:st US: væst/ *adj* immense; extensive: *~ sums of money*; *a ~ expanse of desert*.

vast-ly *adv*: *~ly* (= greatly) *improved*.

vast-ness *n* [U]

vat /væt/ *n* [C] large vessel for holding liquids, esp in brewing, dyeing.

vault¹ /vɔ:lt/ *n* [C] **1** arched roof; series of arches forming a roof. **2** underground room or cellar (with or without an arched roof) as a place of storage ('wine-~s), or for burials (eg under a church), or for keeping valuables safe: *keep one's jewels in a 'bank ~*.

vault² /vɔ:lt/ *vi, vt* jump in a single movement, with the hand(s) resting on something, or with the help of a pole: *~ (over) a fence*. □ *n* [C] jump made in this way. ⇨ **pole-vault**.

'vault-ing-horse, apparatus for practice in vaulting.

vaulter, person who vaults: *a 'pole-~er*.

veal /vi:l/ *n* [U] flesh of a calf eaten as food.

veer /viə(r)/ *vi* change direction: *The wind ~ed round to the north*. *Opinion ~ed in our favour*.

veg-et-able /'vedʒɪəbl/ *adj* of, from, relating to, plants or plant life: *~ oils*. □ *n* [C] plant, esp one used for food, eg potatoes, cabbages, carrots.

vegetable kingdom, all plant life. ⇨ **king-dom**(3).

veg-etar-ian /'vedʒɪ'teəriən/ *n* [C] person

who eats no meat: (as an *adjective*) *a ~ diet*.

veg-etate /'vedʒɪteɪ/ *vi* lead a dull life with little activity, thought or interest.

veg-eta-tion /'vedʒɪ'teɪʃn/ *n* [U] plants generally and collectively: *a desert with no sign of ~ anywhere*.

ve-he-ment /'vi:əmənt/ *adj* (formal) **1** (of feelings) strong, eager. **2** (of persons, their speech, behaviour, etc) filled with, showing, strong or eager feeling: *~ passions*.

ve-he-ment-ly *adv*

ve-hicle /'vi:kl/ *n* [C] **1** carriage (car, lorry, van, bus, etc) (usually wheeled) for moving goods or passengers on land (and in space). **2** means by which thought, feeling, etc can be carried: *Art can be used as a ~ for/of propaganda*.

ve-hicu-lar /vi:'hɪkjʊlə(r)/ *adj* (a) related to, consisting of, carried by, vehicles: *The road is closed to vehicular traffic*. (b) vehicular language, one used as a means of communication between people with different languages, eg English in Nigeria.

veil /veɪl/ *n* [C] **1** covering of fine net or other material to protect or hide a woman's face: *She lowered her ~*. **2** (fig) something that hides or disguises: *a ~ of mist*. □ *vt* **1** put a veil over: *Not all Muslim women are ~ed*. **2** (fig) hide: *He could not ~ his distrust*.

veil-ing, light material used for veils.

vein /veɪn/ *n* [C] **1** blood-vessel along which blood flows from all parts of the body to the heart. **2** one of the lines in some leaves or in the wings of some insects. **3** coloured line or streak in some kinds of stone, eg marble. **4** (fig) characteristic: *There is a ~ of madness in him*. **5** crack in rock, filled with mineral or ore: *a ~ of gold*. **6** mood; way of thinking: *in an imaginative ~*.

vel-oc-ity /vɪ'lɒsəti/ *n* (formal) = speed.

ve-lours, **ve-lour** /və'lʊə(r)/ *n* [U] fabric like velvet.

vel-vet /'velvɪt/ *n* [U] cloth wholly or partly made of silk with a thick soft pile on one side.

vel-vety *adj* smooth and soft like velvet.

ve-nal /'vi:nəl/ *adj* **1** (of persons) ready to do something dishonest (eg using influence or position) for money: *~ politicians*. **2** (of conduct) influenced by, done for, (possible) payment: *~ practices*.

ve-nally /-nəli/ *adv*

ve-neer /'vi:nə(r)/ *n* [C,U] (thin layer of) fine quality wood glued to the surface of cheaper wood (for furniture, etc). **2** (fig) surface appearance (of politeness, etc) covering the true nature: *a ~ of kindness*. □ *vt* put a veneer on: *~ a desk*.

ven-er-able /'venərəbl/ *adj* **1** deserving respect because of age, character, associations, etc: *a ~ abbot*. **2** (C of E) title of an archdeacon. **3** (RC Church) title of a person who is in the process of being canonized.

ven-er-ate /'venərəɪt/ *vt* regard with deep respect: *They ~ the old man's memory*.

ven-er-ation /'venərəɪʃn/ *n* [U]

ve-nereal /vɪ'nɪəriəl/ *adj* of, communicated by, sexual intercourse: *~ diseases*.

ven-geance /'vendʒəns/ *n* [U] **1** revenge; the return of injury for injury: *take ~ on an enemy*. **2** (informal) to a greater degree than is normal, expected or desired: *The rain came down with a ~*.

venge-ful /'vendʒfl/ *adj* showing a desire for revenge.

ve-nial /'vi:nɪəl/ *adj* (of a sin, error, fault) excusable.

ven-ison /'venɪsn/ *n* [U] flesh of a deer eaten as food.

venom /'venəm/ *n* [U] **1** poisonous fluid of certain snakes. **2** (fig) hate; spite.

ven-om-ous /'venəməs/ *adj* deadly; spiteful: *~ous snakes/criticism*.

ven-om-ous-ly *adv*

ve-nous /'vi:nəs/ *adj* **1** (anat) of the veins: *~ blood*. **2** (botany) having veins: *a ~ leaf*.

vent /vent/ *n* [C] **1** hole serving as an inlet or outlet for air, gas, liquid, etc, eg a hole in the top of a barrel for air to enter as liquid is drawn out. **2** means of escape: *The floods found a ~ through the dykes*. **3** (sing only) outlet for one's feelings. **give vent to**, give free expression to: *He gave ~ to his feelings in an impassioned speech*. □ *vt* find or provide an outlet for: *He ~ed his anger on his long-suffering wife*.

ven-ti-late /'ventɪleɪt/ *vt* cause (air) to move in and out freely: *~ a room*.

ven-ti-la-tor /'ventɪleɪtə(r)/ device for ventilating.

ven-ti-la-tion /'ventɪleɪʃn/ *n* [U]

ven-ture /'ventʃə(r)/ *n* [C,U] undertaking in which there is risk: *a ~ business*. □ *vt, vi* **1** take the risk of, expose to, danger or loss: *~ too near the edge of a cliff*. **2** go so far as, dare: *~ (to put forward) an opinion; ~ a guess*.

Venus /'vi:nəs/ *n* (astron) planet second in order from the sun.

ve-ran-dah, **ve-randa** /və'rændə/ *n* [C] roofed and floored open space along the side(s) of a house, sports pavilion, etc.

verb /vɜ:b/ *n* [C] word showing what a person or thing does, what state he or it is in, what is becoming of him or it. ⇨ phrasal verb; intransitive, transitive. (Note: abbr *vt, vi* used in this dictionary.)

ver-bal /'vɜ:bl/ *adj* **1** of or in words: *have a good ~ memory*, be able to remember well the exact words of a statement, etc. **2** spoken, not written: *a ~ statement*. **3** word for word, literal: *a ~ translation*. **4** of verbs: *a ~ noun* (eg swimming in the sentence 'Swimming is a good exercise').

ver-bally /'vɜ:bəli/ *adv* in spoken words, not in writing.

ver-bal-ize (also **-ise**) /'vɜːbəlaɪz/ *vt* put into words.

ver-ba-tim /vɜː'beɪtɪm/ *adv* exactly as spoken or written: *report a speech ~*.

ver-bi-age /'vɜːbɪdʒ/ *n* [U] (use of) unnecessary words for the expression of an idea, etc.

ver-bose /vɜː'bəʊs/ *adj* using, containing, more words than are needed: *a ~ speech/speaker*.

ver-bose-ly *adv*

ver-bos-ity /vɜː'bdʌsəti/ *n* [U]

ver-dict /'vɜːdɪkt/ *n* [C] **1** decision reached by a jury on a question of fact in a law case: *The jury brought in a ~ of guilty/not guilty*. ⇨ open verdict. **2** decision or opinion given after testing, examining or experiencing something: *The popular ~ (= The opinion of people in general) was against the strike*.

verge /vɜːdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** edge; border (eg strip of grass at the side of a road). **2** *be on the verge of*, be very close to, on the border of: *The country is on the ~ of disaster*. □ *vi* approach closely, border (on): *Such ideas ~ on stupidity*.

verger /'vɜːdʒə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (C of E) official with various duties (eg opening pews for worshippers). **2** officer who carries a staff before a bishop in a cathedral, a vice-chancellor in a university, etc.

ver-ify /'vɜːrɪfaɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) **1** test the truth or accuracy of: *~ a report/statement*. **2** (of an event, etc) show the truth of: *Subsequent events verified my suspicions*.

veri-fi-able /'vɜːrɪfaɪəbl/ *adj* that can be verified.

veri-fi-ca-tion /'vɜːrɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U]

veri-table /'vɜːrɪtəbl/ *adj* rightly named: *a ~ liar*.

ver-mil-ion /vɜː'mɪlɪən/ *adj*, *n* [U] bright red (colour).

ver-min /'vɜːmɪn/ *n* [U] (used with a *pl verb*, but not with numerals) **1** wild animals (eg rats, weasels, foxes) harmful to plants, birds and other animals. **2** parasitic insects (eg lice) sometimes found on the bodies of human beings and other animals. **3** (fig) human beings who are harmful to society.

ver-min-ous /'vɜːmɪnəs/ *adj*

ver-nacu-lar /vɜː'nækjʊlə(r)/ *adj* (of a word, a language) of the country mentioned: *a ~ language*, native language. □ *n* [C] language or dialect of a country or district.

ver-sa-tile /'vɜːsətɪl/ *US*: -tl/ *adj* interested in and clever at many different things; having various uses: *a ~ mind/invention*.

ver-sa-til-ity /vɜːsə'tɪləti/ *n* [U]

verse /vɜːs/ *n* **1** [U] (form of) writing arranged in lines, each conforming to a pattern of accented and unaccented syllables: *prose and ~*. ⇨ blank verse. **2** [C] group of lines of this kind forming a unit in a rhyme scheme: *a poem/hymn of five ~s*. **3** [C] one line of verse

with a definite number of accented syllables: *a few ~s from Tennyson*. **4** one of the short numbered divisions of a chapter in the Bible.

versed /vɜːst/ *adj* **versed in**, skilled or experienced in: *well ~ in mathematics/the arts*.

ver-sion /'vɜːʃn/ *US*: 'vɜːʒn/ *n* [C] **1** account of an event, etc from the point of view of one person: *There were three ~s of what happened/of what the Prime Minister said*. **2** translation into another language: *a new ~ of the Bible*.

ver-sus /'vɜːsəs/ *prep* (Latin) (in law and sport; often shortened to *v* in print) against: *Robinson v Brown*; *England v Brazil*.

ver-te-bra /'vɜːtɪbrə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~e/-bri/) any one of the sections of the backbone.

ver-te-brate /'vɜːtɪbrət/ *n* [C], *adj* (animal, bird, etc) having a backbone.

ver-ti-cal /'vɜːtɪkl/ *adj* (of a line or plane) at a right angle to the earth's surface or to another line or surface. □ *n* [C] vertical line. ⇨ horizontal.

ver-ti-cally /-kl/ *adv*

verve /vɜːv/ *n* [U] enthusiasm, spirit, vigour (esp in artistic or literary work).

very¹ /'vɜːrɪ/ *adj* **1** itself and no other; truly such: *At that ~ moment the phone rang*. *You're the ~ man I want to see*. **2** extreme: *at the ~ end/beginning*; *the letter at the ~ top of the pile*.

very² /'vɜːrɪ/ *adv* **1** (used to show intensity with adverbs, adjectives): *~ quickly/little*. **very well**, (often used to show agreement after persuasion or argument, or obedience to a command, request, etc): *V ~ well, doctor, I'll give up smoking*. **2** (with a superlative) in the highest possible degree: *at the ~ latest*.

vessel /'vesl/ *n* [C] **1** hollow receptacle, esp for a liquid, eg a bucket, bowl, bottle, cup. **2** ship or large boat. ⇨ blood-vessel.

vest¹ /vest/ *n* [C] **1** (GB) underwear worn on the upper part of the body next to the skin. (*US* = undershirt). **2** (*US*) waistcoat.

vest² /vest/ *vt* furnish or give as a fixed right: *~ a man with authority/rights in an estate*.

ves-tige /'vestɪdʒ/ *n* [C] **1** trace or sign; small remaining bit of evidence of what once existed: *There is not a ~ of truth in the report*. **2** (anat) organ, or part of one, which is a survival of something that once existed: *A human being has the ~ of a tail*.

ves-tigial /ve'stɪdʒiəl/ *adj* surviving (in reduced size, etc) from an earlier form: *the vestigial legs on some snakes*.

vest-ment /'vestmənt/ *n* [C] ceremonial robe as worn by a priest in church.

ves-try /'vestri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** part of a church where vestments are kept. **2** room in a non-conformist church used for Sunday School, prayer meetings, etc.

vet¹ /vet/ *n* [C] (informal) (abbr for) veterinary surgeon.

vet² /vet/ vt (-tt-) (informal) **1** give (a person) a medical examination. **2** (GB) examine closely and critically, eg qualifications, etc: *He must be thoroughly ~ed before he's given the job.*

vet-eran /'vetərən/ n [C] **1** person who has had much or long experience, eg as a soldier: *a ~ teacher.* **2** (of cars) of the years before 1916: *a ~ Rolls Royce.* **3** (US) any ex-service man.

vet-er-in-ary /'vetərɪnəri/ US: -nerɪ/ adj of or concerned with the diseases and injuries of (esp farm and domestic) animals: *a ~ surgeon/college.*

veto /'vi:təʊ/ n [C] (pl ~es) constitutional right of a sovereign, president, legislative assembly or other body, or a member of the United Nations Security Council, to reject or forbid something; statement that rejects or prohibits something: *exercise a power of ~.* □ vt put a veto on: *The police ~ed the demonstration that the workers wanted.*

vex /veks/ vt (formal) annoy; distress: *He was ~ed at his failure.*

vex-ation /vek'seɪʃn/ n [U] state of being vexed; [C] something that vexes.

via /'vi:ə/ prep (Latin) by way of: *travel from London to Paris ~ Dover.*

vi-able /'vi:əbl/ adj capable of existing, developing and surviving.

vi-abil-ity /,vi:ə'bɪləti/ n [U]

vi-duct /'vi:ədʌkt/ n [C] long bridge (usually with many arches) carrying a road, railway or canal across a valley.

vial /'vi:əl/ n [C] small bottle (for medicine).

vi-brant /'vaɪbrənt/ adj vibrating: *the ~ notes of a cello.*

vi-brate /'vaɪbreɪt/ US: 'vaɪbreɪt/ vi, vt **1** (cause to) move quickly and continuously backwards and forwards: *The house ~s whenever a heavy lorry passes.* **2** (of stretched strings, the voice) throb; quiver: *The strings of a piano ~ when the keys are struck.*

vi-bra-tion /'vaɪbreɪʃn/ n [C,U] **1** vibrating movement: *We felt ~s as the train passed.* **2** (pl) (informal) sensation, influence: *good ~s from a new house/a handsome colleague.*

vicar /'vɪkə(r)/ n [C] **1** (C of E) clergyman in charge of a parish. **2** (RC Church) deputy; representative: *the ~ of Christ, the Pope.*

vicar-age /'vɪkərɪdʒ/ n [C] vicar's residence.

vi-cari-ous /'vɪkəriəs/ US: 'vaɪk-/ adj (formal) done, experienced, by one person for another or others: *the ~ sufferings of Jesus.*

vi-cari-ous-ly adv

vice¹ /vaɪs/ n [C,U] (any particular kind of) evil conduct or practice: *Torture is a ~.*

vice² (US = vise) /vaɪs/ n [C] apparatus with strong clamps in which things can be held tightly while being worked on.

vice- /vaɪs-/ prefix person who is next in rank to and may act for another: *vice-president.*

vice versa /,vaɪsə 'vɜ:sə/ adj (Latin) the other way round; with the terms or conditions

reversed: *We gossip about them and ~, and they gossip about us.*

vi-cin-ity /'vɪsɪnəti/ n (pl -ies) **1** [U] nearness; closeness of relationship: *in close ~ to the church.* **2** [C] neighbourhood: *There isn't a good school in the ~.*

vi-cious /'vɪʃəs/ adj **1** evil (the usual word): *a ~ life.* **2** given or done with evil intent: *a ~ kick/look.*

vi-cious 'circle, state of affairs in which a cause produces an effect which itself produces the original cause.

vi-cious-ly adv

vic-tim /'vɪktɪm/ n [C] **1** living creature killed and offered as a religious sacrifice. **2** person, animal, etc suffering injury, pain, loss, etc because of circumstances, an event, war, an accident, etc: *the ~s of the earthquake.*

vic-tim-ize (also -ise) /-aɪz/ vt select for ill-treatment because of real or alleged misconduct, etc: *Trade union leaders claimed that some of their members had been ~ed, eg by being dismissed.*

vic-tim-iz-ation (also -isation) /'vɪktɪmaɪz'eɪʃn/ US: -mɪ'z-/ n [U]

vic-tor /'vɪktə(r)/ n [C] person who conquers or wins.

vic-tori-ous /vɪk'tɔ:riəs/ adj having gained the victory.

vic-tori-ous-ly adv

vic-tory /'vɪktəri/ n [C,U] (pl -ies) (instance, occasion, of) success (in war, a contest, game, etc): *gain/win a ~ over the enemy; lead the troops to ~; (as an adjective) a ~ march.*

video /'vɪdiəʊ/ [C,U] prefix recording and reproducing vision: *~o cassettes.*

'video recorder, for using video tape.

'video tape, magnetic tape for recording sound and vision, eg of television programmes.

vie /vaɪ/ vi **vie with sb/for sth**, compete (the usual word): *The two boys ~d with one another for the first place.*

view¹ /vju:/ n **1** [U] state of seeing or being seen; field of vision: *The speaker stood in full ~ of the crowd, could see them and could be seen by them.* **in view of**, considering, taking into account: *In ~ of the facts, it seems useless to continue.* **on view**, being shown or exhibited: *The latest summer fashions are now on ~ in the big shops.* **come into view**, become visible: *As we came round the corner the lake came into ~.* **2** [C] (picture, photograph, etc of) natural scenery, landscape, etc: *a house with a fine ~ of the mountains.* **3** [C] opportunity to see or inspect something: *a private ~, eg of paintings, before public exhibition.* **4** [C] personal opinion; mental attitude; thought or observation (on a topic, subject): *She had ~ expressed strong ~s on the subject of equal pay for men and women.* ⇨ point¹(4).

5 aim; intention; purpose. **with a/the view to/of**, with the in-

tention or hope: *with a ~ to saving trouble.*

'view-finder, device in a camera showing the area, etc that will be photographed.

'view-point, = point of view.

view² /vju:/ *vt* look at; examine; consider: *The subject may be ~ed in various ways. How do you ~ the situation? What do you think about it?*

viewer /'vju:ə(r)/, (esp) (television) ~er, person watching a television programme.

vigil /'vidʒl/ *n* **1** [U] staying awake to keep watch or to pray: *keep ~ over a sick child.* **2** (pl) instances of this: *tired out by her long ~s.* **3** [C] eve of a religious festival, esp when observed with prayer and fasting.

vigilance /'vidʒləns/ *n* [U] watchfulness; keeping watch: *use ~.*

vigilant /'vidʒlənt/ *adj* watchful.

vigour (US = **vigor**) /'vɪɡə(r)/ *n* [U] mental or physical strength; energy; forcefulness (of language).

vig-our-ous /'vɪɡərəs/ *adj* strong; energetic.

vig-our-ous-ly *adv*

vile /vɪl/ *adj* (-r, -st) **1** shameful and disgusting: *~ habits/language.* **2** (informal) very bad: *~ weather.*

vile-ly /'vaɪli/ *adv*

vil-ify /'vɪlaɪf/ *vt* (pt, pp -ied) say evil things about (a person).

vil-ifi-ca-tion /'vɪlɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [U]

villa /'vɪlə/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) **1** (GB) detached or semi-detached house, esp one on the outskirts of a town: *No 13 Laburnum Villas.* **2** country house with a large garden, esp in Italy or S France.

vil-lage /'vɪlɪdʒ/ *n* [C] place smaller than a town, where there are houses and shops, and usually a church and school: (as an *adjective*) *the ~ post office.*

vil-lager /'vɪlɪdʒə(r)/, person who lives in a village.

vil-lain /'vɪlən/ *n* [C] (esp in drama) wicked person.

vil-lain-ous /'vɪlənəs/ *adj* evil: ~ous acts.

vil-lainy *n* [U] wicked behaviour, action.

vin-di-cate /'vɪndɪkeɪt/ *vt* show or prove the truth, justice, validity, etc (of something that has been attacked or disputed): *~ a claim.* *Events have ~d his judgement/actions.*

vin-di-ca-tion /'vɪndɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

vin-dic-tive /'vɪndɪktɪv/ *adj* having or showing a desire for revenge.

vin-dic-tive-ly *adv*

vine /vaɪn/ *n* [C] **1** climbing plant whose fruit is the grape. **2** any plant with slender stems that trails or climbs (eg melons, peas).

vin-ery /'vaɪnəri/, greenhouse for vines.

vine-yard /'vɪnjəd/, area of land planted with grape-vines.

vin-egar /'vɪnɪɡə(r)/ *n* [C] acid liquor (made from malt, wine, cider, etc) used in flavouring food and for pickling.

vin-egary /'vɪnɪɡəri/ *adj* like vinegar.

vin-tage /'vɪntɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [C] (rarely pl) (period or season of) grape harvesting: *The ~ was later than usual last year.* **2** [C, U] (wine from) grapes of a particular year: *of the ~ of 1973; a ~ year*, one in which good wine was made. **3** (as an *adjective*) of a period in the past and having a reputation for high quality: *a ~ car*, one built between 1916 and 1930.

vint-ner /'vɪntnə(r)/ *n* [C] wine-merchant.

vi-nyl /'vaɪnl/ *n* [C, U] (kinds of) tough, flexible plastic, used for coverings, clothing, etc.

vi-ola /'vɪəʊlə/ *n* [C] tenor violin, of larger size than the ordinary violin.

vi-ol-ate /'vɪəleɪt/ *vt* **1** break (an oath, a treaty, etc); act contrary to (what one's conscience tells one to do, etc). **2** act towards without proper respect: *~ a person's privacy.* **3** commit rape.

vi-ol-ation /'vɪəleɪʃn/ *n* [C, U]

vi-ol-ence /'vɪələns/ *n* [U] state of being violent; violent conduct: *robbery with ~.*

vi-ol-ent /'vɪələnt/ *adj* **1** using, showing, accompanied by, great force: *a ~ wind/attack/temper.* **2** caused by a cruel attack: *meet a ~ death.* **3** severe: *~ toothache.*

vi-ol-ent-ly *adv*

vi-olet /'vɪəleɪt/ *n* **1** [C] small wild or garden plant with sweet-smelling flowers. **2** [U] bluish-purple colour (of wild violets).

vi-olin /'vɪə'lɪn/ *n* [C] four-stringed musical instrument played with a bow.

vi-olin-ist /-ɪst/, player of a violin.

vi-olon-cello /'vɪələn'tʃeləʊ/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) (abbr **cello** /'tʃeləʊ/) large bass violin held between the player's knees.

vi-per /'vaɪpə(r)/ *n* [C] kinds of poisonous snake, esp the common ~, the adder.

vir-gin /'vɜ:dʒɪn/ *n* [C] girl or woman who has not experienced sexual union. **adj** **1** pure and chaste. **2** pure and untouched: *~ snow.* **3** in the original condition; unused: *~ soil*, soil never before used for crops.

vir-gin-ity /'vɜ:dʒɪnətɪ/ *n* [U] state of being a virgin.

vir-ginal /'vɜ:dʒɪnl/ *adj* of, suitable for, a virgin.

Virgo /'vɜ:gəʊ/ *n* the Virgin, sixth sign of the zodiac.

vir-ile /'vɪraɪl/ *adj* **1** having or showing strength, energy, manly qualities: *a ~ style (of writing).* **2** (of men) able to have sexual intercourse.

vir-il-ity /'vɪrɪlətɪ/ *n* [U] masculine strength and vigour; sexual power.

vir-tual /'vɜ:tʃʊəl/ *adj* being in fact, acting as, what is described, but not accepted openly or in name as such: *a ~ defeat/confession.*

vir-tu-ally /-tʃʊəl/ *adv*

vir-tue /'vɜ:tʃu:/ *n* **1** [C, U] (any particular kind of) goodness or excellence: *Patience is a ~.* **2** [U] chastity, esp of women: *a woman of*

easy ~, one who is promiscuous. **3** [U] ability to produce a definite result: *Have you any faith in the ~ of herbs to heal sickness?* **4** advantage: *The great ~ of the scheme is that it costs very little.* **5** *by/in virtue of*, by reason of; because of: *He claims a pension by ~ of his age.*

vir-tu-ous /'vɜ:tʃʊəs/ *adj* having, showing, virtue(1).

vir-tu-ous-ly *adv*

vir-tu-os-ity /'vɜ:tʃʊəsəti/ *n* [U] special artistic skill.

viru-lent /'vɪrjələnt/ *adj* **1** (of poison) strong; deadly. **2** (of ill-feeling, hatred) very strong. **3** (of words, etc) full of hatred. **4** (of diseases, etc) very dangerous; malignant.

viru-lent-ly *adv*

vi-rus /'vaɪərəs/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es) any of various poisonous elements, smaller than bacteria, causing the spread of infectious disease.

visa /'vi:zə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) stamp or signature put on a passport to show that it has been examined and approved by the officials of a foreign country which the owner intends to visit ('entrance or 'entry ~) or leave ('exit ~). □ *vt* put a visa in: *get one's passport ~ed* /'vɪzəd/ before going to Poland.

vis-count /'vaɪkəʊnt/ *n* [C] nobleman higher in rank than a baron, lower than an earl.

vis-count-ess /-ɪs/ *n* [C] wife of a viscount; female viscount.

vis-ible /'vɪzəbl/ *adj* that can be seen; that is in sight: *The eclipse will be ~ to observers in western Europe.*

vis-ibly /-əblɪ/ *adv* in a way that is obvious: *She was visibly annoyed.*

vis-ibil-ity /'vɪzə'bɪləti/ *n* [U] (esp) condition of the atmosphere for seeing things at a distance: *The aircraft returned because of poor visibility.*

vi-sion /'vɪʒn/ *n* **1** [U] power of seeing or imagining, looking ahead, grasping the truth: *the field of ~*, all that can be seen from a certain point; *a man of ~*. **2** [C] something seen or imagined, dreamt, etc: *Have you ever had ~s of great wealth?*

vi-sion-ary /'vɪʒnəri/ *US*: -nerɪ/ *adj* **1** existing only in a vision or the imagination; impractical: ~ schemes. **2** (of persons) having grand ideas; dreamy. □ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) visionary person.

visit /'vɪzɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** go to see (a person); go to (a place) for a time: ~ a friend; ~ Rome. **2** go to in order to inspect or examine officially: *Restaurant and hotel kitchens are ~ed regularly by officers of public health.* □ *n* [C] act, time, of visiting: *pay a ~ on a friend/a patient; a ~ of several hours.*

vis-it-ing *n* [U] paying visits: ~ing hours at a hospital.

visi-tor /'vɪzɪtə(r)/ *n* [C] person who visits; person who stays at a place: *summer ~s*, eg at a holiday resort.

visi-ta-tion /'vɪzɪ'teɪʃn/ *n* [C] **1** official visit, eg one made by a bishop or priest. **2** disaster considered as a punishment from God: *The famine was a ~ of God for their sins.*

vi-sor /'vaɪzə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** (in former times) movable part of a helmet, covering the face. **2** peak of a cap or similar part of a crash-helmet.

vista /'vɪstə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** long, narrow view: *a ~ of the church at the end of an avenue of trees.* **2** (fig) series of scenes, events, etc which one can look back on or forward to: *new ~s of scientific discoveries.*

vis-ual /'vɪʒʊəl/ *adj* concerned with, used in, seeing: *She has a ~ memory*, is able to remember well things she sees.

visual 'aids, (eg in teaching) pictures, filmstrips, films, etc.

visual dis-play unit (computers) device, like a television screen and usually with a keyboard that can show data stored in a computer.

vis-ually /'vɪʒʊəli/ *adv*

vis-ual-ize (also -ise) /'vɪ:ʒʊəlaɪz/ *vt* imagine (as a picture): *I remember meeting the man two years ago but can't ~ him*, remember what he looked like.

vi-tal /'vaɪtl/ *adj* **1** of, connected with, necessary for, living: *Air is ~ for all animals.* **2** supreme; indispensable: *of ~ importance.*

vital statistics, (a) figures relating to the duration of life, and to births, marriages and deaths. (b) (modern informal) woman's measurements at bust, waist and hips.

vi-tally /'vaɪtəli/ *adv*: ~ly important.

vi-tal-ity /'vaɪtələti/ *n* [U] **1** capacity to endure, survive, perform functions: *Can an artificial language have any ~?* **2** energy, liveliness: *the ~ of young children.*

vi-tal-ize (also -ise) /'vaɪtəlaɪz/ *vt* put energy, strength into.

vit-amin /'vɪtəmin/ *US*: 'vaɪt-/ *n* [C] any of a number of organic substances which are present in certain foods and are essential to the health of man and other animals.

vit-reous /'vɪtrɪəs/ *adj* of or like glass: ~ rocks.

vit-riolic /'vɪtrɪ'ɒlɪk/ *adj* (of words, feelings) full of abuse.

vi-va-cious /'vɪveɪʃəs/ *adj* lively; high-spirited: *a ~ girl.*

vi-va-cious-ly *adv*

vi-vac-ity /'vɪvæsəti/ *n* [U]

vivid /'vɪvɪd/ *adj* **1** (of colours, etc) intense; bright: *a ~ flash of lightning.* **2** lively; active: *a ~ imagination.* **3** clear and distinct: *have ~ recollections of a holiday in Italy.*

vivid-ly *adv*

viv-ify /'vɪvɪfaɪ/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -ied) (formal) give life to; animate.

vivi-sect /'vɪvɪ'sekt/ *vt* operate or experiment on (living animals) for scientific research.

vivi-sec-tion /ˌvɪvɪˈsekʃn/ *n* [C,U]

vivi-sec-tion-ist /-ɪst/, person who vivisects or considers vivisection justifiable.

vixen /ˈvɪksn/ *n* [C] **1** female fox. **2** bad-tempered woman.

vo-cabu-lary /vəˈkæbjʊləri *US*: -ləri/ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) **1** total number of words which (with rules for combining them) make up a language: *No dictionary could list the total ~ of a language.* **2** [C,U] (range of) words known to, or used by, a person, in a profession, etc: *a writer with a large ~.* **3** [C] book containing a list of words; list of words used in a book, etc, usually with definitions or translations.

vo-cal /ˈvəʊkl/ *adj* of, for, with or using, the voice: *the ~ organs*, lips, tongue, etc.

vo-cally /-əlɪ/ *adv*

vo-cal-ist /ˈvəʊkəlɪst/ *n* [C] singer.

vo-cal-ize (also **-ise**) /-aɪz/ *vt* say or sing.

vo-ca-tion /vəˈkeɪʃn/ *n* **1** (*sing* only) feeling that one is called to (and qualified for) a certain kind of work (esp social or religious): *Nursing, said Florence Nightingale, is a ~ as well as a profession.* **2** [U] special ability (*for*): *He has little or no ~ for teaching.* **3** [C] person's trade or profession.

vo-ca-tional /-ʃənəl/ *adj* of or for a vocation(3): *~al courses*, eg at a polytechnic.

vodka /ˈvɒdkə/ *n* [C,U] (portion of) strong alcoholic drink distilled from rye, etc.

vogue /vəʊg/ *n* [C but usually *sing*] **1** current fashion; something currently being done or used: *Are maxi-skirts still the ~?* **2** popularity; popular use or acceptance: *The Beatles had a great ~ many years ago.* **be in/come into vogue**; **be/go out of vogue**, be/become (un)fashionable, (un)popular: *When did the mini-skirt come into/go out of ~?*

voice /voɪs/ *n* **1** [U] sounds made when speaking or singing: *He is not in good ~*, not speaking or singing as well as usual. **2** [C] power of making such sounds: *He has lost his ~*, cannot speak or sing properly, eg because of a bad cold. **3** [C,U] sounds made by a person, esp considered in relation to their quality: *in a loud/soft ~.* *They gave ~ to their indignation.* **raise one's voice**, shout. **shout at the top of one's voice**, shout as loudly as one can. **4** [U] **have/demand a voice in sth**, a right to express an opinion on: *I have no ~ in the matter.* **5** [C] anything which may be compared or likened to the human voice as expressing ideas, feelings, etc: *the ~ of nature/reason.* **6** [U] (*gram*) the contrast between active and passive as shown in the sentences: *The dog ate the meat and The meat was eaten by the dog.* □ *vt* put into words: *The spokesman ~d the feelings of the crowd.*

void /vɔɪd/ *adj* **1** empty; vacant. **2 void of**, without: *a subject ~ of interest.* **3 null and void**, (legal) without force; invalid: *The agreement, not having been signed, was null and*

~. □ *n* [C] space: *There was an aching ~ in his heart*, (fig) a feeling of sadness. □ *vt* (legal) make void(3).

vol-at-ile /ˈvɒlətaɪl *US*: -tl/ *adj* **1** (of a liquid) that easily changes into gas or vapour. **2** (of a person, his mood) changing quickly or easily from one mood or interest to another.

vol-at-il-ity /ˌvɒləˈtɪləti/ *n* [U]

vol-cano /vɒlˈkeɪnəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es or ~s) hill or mountain with openings (⇨ crater) through which gases, lava, ashes, etc come up from below the earth's crust (in an active ~), or may come up after an interval (in a dormant ~), or have long stopped coming up (in an extinct ~).

vol-canic /vɒlˈkænɪk/ *adj* of, from, like, a volcano.

vole /vəʊl/ *n* [C] animal like a mouse or rat, esp a 'water-~, large water-rat.

vo-li-tion /vəˈlɪʃn *US*: vɔʊ-/ *n* [U] act, power, of using one's own will, of choosing, making a decision, etc: *do something of one's own ~.*

vol-ley /ˈvɒli/ *n* [C] **1** throwing or shooting of a number of stones, arrows, bullets, etc together. **2** succession of oaths, curses, questions. **3** (tennis) stroke which returns the ball to the sender before it touches the ground. □ *vt,vi* **1** (of guns) sound together. **2** return a tennis-ball across the net before it touches the ground.

'volley-ball, game in which players on each side of a high net try to keep a ball in motion by hitting it with their hands back and forth over the net without letting it touch the ground.

volt /vəʊlt/ *n* [C] (abbr **v**) unit of electrical force.

volt-age /ˈvɒltɪdʒ/ *n* [C,U] electrical force measured in volts.

vol-uble /ˈvɒljʊbl/ *adj* talking, able to talk, very quickly and easily; (of speech) fluent.

vol-ubly /-jʊbli/ *adv*

vol-ubil-ity /ˌvɒljʊˈbɪləti/ *n* [U]

vol-ume /ˈvɒljʊm *US*: -jəm/ *n* [C] **1** book, esp one of a set of books; number of sheets, papers, periodicals, etc bound together: *an encyclopedia in 20 ~s.* **2** [U] amount of space (expressed in cubic metres, etc) occupied by a substance, liquid or gas: *the ~ of wine in a magnum bottle.* **3** [C] large mass, amount or quantity: *the ~ of business/work.* **4** [C] (esp *pl*) masses of steam or smoke: *~s of black smoke.* **5** [U] (of sound) power; strength: *Your radio has a ~ control.*

vol-umi-nous /vəˈluːmɪnəs/ *adj* (formal) **1** (of writing) great in quantity: *a ~ work/history.* **2** (of an author) producing many books. **3** occupying much space: *~ skirts.*

vol-un-tary /ˈvɒləntəri *US*: -teri/ *adj* **1** doing or ready to do things, willingly, without being forced; (something) done in this manner: *~ work/helpers*; *a ~ confession.* **2** carried on,

supported by, voluntary work and gifts. **3** (opposite = *involuntary*) (of bodily, muscular, movements) controlled by the will.

vol-un-tar-ily /'vɒləntərɪ/ *US*: /'vɒləntərəl/ *adv*

vol-un-tee /'vɒləntiə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** person who offers to do something, esp unpleasant or dangerous. **2** soldier who is not conscripted: (as an *adjective*) a ~ corps. □ *vt, vi* come forward as a volunteer: He ~ed some information/~ed to get some information.

vo-lup-tu-ous /və'lʌptʃʊəs/ *adj* of, for, causing or expressing, sensuous or sensual pleasures: ~ beauty.

vo-lup-tu-ous-ly *adv*

vomit /'vɒmɪt/ *vt, vi* **1** bring back from the stomach through the mouth: He ~ed everything he had eaten. He was ~ing blood. **2** send out in large quantities: factory chimneys ~ing smoke. □ *n* [U] food that has been vomited.

voo-doo /'vu:du:/ *n* [U] form of religion, with sorcery and witchcraft, practised by some Negroes in the West Indies, esp Haiti.

vo-ra-cious /və'reɪʃəs/ *adj* (formal) very hungry or greedy: a ~ appetite; a ~ reader, one who reads many books.

vo-ra-cious-ly *adv* in a voracious manner.

vo-racity /və'reɪsəti/ *n* [U]

vor-tex /'vɔ:tɪks/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~es or vortices /-tɪsɪz/) **1** mass of whirling fluid or wind, esp a whirlpool. **2** (fig) whirl of activity; system, pursuit, viewed as something that tends to absorb people or things: the ~ of politics/war.

vote /vəʊt/ *n* [C] **1** (right to give an) expression of opinion or will by persons for or against a person or thing, esp by ballot or by putting up of hands: I'm going to the polling-booth to record/cast my ~. **vote of thanks**, ⇨ thank. **2** total numbers of votes (to be) given (eg at a political election): Will the Labour ~ increase or decrease at the next election? **3** money granted, by votes, for a certain purpose: the Army ~. □ *vi, vt* **1** **vote for/against sb/sth**, support/oppose by voting. **vote on sth**, express an opinion by voting. **2** grant money (to): voting a sum of money for Education. **3** (informal) declare, by general opinion: He was ~d a fine teacher. The children gave this as their opinion. **4** suggest, propose: I ~ (that) we avoid him in future.

voter, person who (by right) votes.

vouch /vaʊtʃ/ *vi* **vouch for sb/sth**, be responsible for, express confidence in (a person, his honesty, etc): ~ for him/his ability.

voucher /'vaʊtʃə(r)/ *n* [C] receipt or document showing payment of money, correctness of accounts, etc. ⇨ gift voucher.

vouch-safe /vaʊtʃ'seɪf/ *vt* (formal) be kind enough to give, to do (something): He ~d to help.

vow /vaʊ/ *n* [C] solemn promise or undertaking: 'marriage ~s; a ~ of chastity; break a ~,

not do what one promised. □ *vt* make a vow; promise or declare solemnly: He ~ed to avenge/that he would avenge the insult.

vowel /'vaʊəl/ *n* [C] **1** vocal sound made without audible stopping of the breath. **2** letter or symbol used to represent such a sound (eg the letters *a, e, i, o, u*; the phonetic symbols /i:/, *ɪ*, *e*, *æ*, *ɑ:*, *ɒ*, *ɔ:*, *ʊ*, *u*, *ɜ:*, *ə*/).

voy-age /'vɔɪdʒ/ *n* [C] journey by water, esp a long one in a ship: a ~ from London to Australia; during the ~ out/home; on the outward/homeward ~. □ *vi* go on a voyage: ~ through the South Seas.

voy-ager /'vɔɪdʒə(r)/ *n* [C] person who makes a voyage (esp of those who, in former times, explored unknown seas).

vul-gar /'vʌlgə(r)/ *adj* **1** rude; showing bad manners: ~ language/behaviour/ideas; a ~ person. **2** showing the absence of taste¹(5): ~ patterns on the carpets.

vulgar 'fraction, one written in the usual way (eg $\frac{1}{2}$), contrasted with a decimal fraction.

vul-gar-ity /'vʌlgærəti/ *n* (*pl* -ies) (a) [U] vulgar behaviour or taste¹(5). (b) (*pl*) vulgar acts, words, etc.

vul-gar-ly *adv*

vul-ner-able /'vʌlnərəbl/ *adj* that is capable of being damaged; not protected against attack: a position ~ to attack; people who are ~ to criticism.

vul-ner-abil-ity /'vʌlnərə'bɪləti/ *n* [U]

vul-ture /'vʌltʃə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** kinds of large bird that live on the flesh of dead animals. **2** (fig) greedy person who profits from the misfortunes of others.

vy-ing /'vaɪŋ/ ⇨ vie.

Ww

W, w /'dʌbəlju:/ (*pl* W's, w's) the 23rd letter of the English alphabet.

wad /wɒd/ *n* [C] **1** lump of soft material for keeping things apart or in place, or to stop up a hole: ~s of cotton-wool. **2** collection of banknotes, documents, etc folded or rolled together. □ *vt* (-dd-) stop up, hold in place, with a wad.

waddle /'wɒdl/ *vi* walk with slow steps as a duck does: The baby ~d across the room. □ *n* (sing only) this kind of walk.

wade /weɪd/ *vi, vt* **1** walk with an effort (through water, mud or anything that makes progress difficult); walk across (something) in this way: He ~d across the stream. **2** **wade in**, make a strong attack. **wade into sth**, attack it with force.

wading bird, long-legged water-bird that wades (opposite to web-footed birds that swim).

wader, = wading bird.

wa-fer /'weɪfə(r)/ *n* [C] **1** thin flat biscuit (as eaten with ice-cream). **2** small round piece of bread used in Holy Communion.

waffle ¹ /'wɒfl/ *n* [C] small cake made of batter baked in a special apparatus with two parts hinged together.

waffle ² /'wɒfl/ *vi* (GB informal) talk vaguely, unnecessarily, and without much result: *What's she waffling about now?* □ *n* [U] talk or writing which (even when it sounds impressive) means little or nothing.

waft /wɒft/ *US*: wæft/ *vi* carry lightly and smoothly through the air or over water: *The scent of the flowers was ~ed to us by the breeze.* □ *n* [C] light breeze, smell: *~s of fresh air through the window.*

wag /wæg/ *vt, vi* (-gg-) (cause to) move from side to side or up and down: *The dog ~ged its tail.* □ *n* [C] wagging movement: *with a ~ of the tail.*

wage ¹ /weɪdʒ/ *n* [C] payment made or received for work or services: *His ~s are £50 a week. The postal workers have asked for a ~ increase/rise of £25 a week. (Note: usually *pl* except when *wage* is used as an adjective: a ~freeze.)* ⇨ fee(1), pay¹, salary.

wage-earner, person who works for wages (contrasted with the salaried classes).

wage-freeze, official control of wage increases.

wage ² /weɪdʒ/ *vt* engage in (war, etc).

wa-ger /'weɪdʒə(r)/ *n* [C], *vt, vi* bet (the usual word).

waggle /'wægl/ *vt, vi* = wag¹.

wag-gon (US usually **wagon**) /'wæɡən/ *n* [C] **1** four-wheeled vehicle for carrying goods, pulled by horses or oxen. ⇨ cart. **2** (US = freight car) open railway truck (eg for coal). ⇨ station-wagon.

wa-gon-lit /'wæɡən 'li: *US*: 'wæɡən/ *n* [C] (*pl* wagons-lit) sleeping-car (as on European railways).

waif /weɪf/ *n* [C] homeless child: *~s and strays*, homeless and abandoned children.

wail /weɪl/ *vi, vt* **1** cry or complain in a loud voice: *a ~ing child.* **2** make a similar sound (eg of a siren): *an ambulance racing through the streets with sirens ~ing.* **3** (of the wind) make similar sounds. □ *n* [C] wailing cry: *the ~s of a newborn child.*

wain-scot /'weɪnskɒt/ *n* [C] wooden paneling (on the lower half of the walls of a room).

waist /weɪst/ *n* [C] **1** part of the body between the ribs and the hips: *measure 60 centimetres round the ~.* **2** that part of clothing that goes round the waist. **3** middle and narrow part: *the ~ of a violin.*

waist-coat /'weɪskəʊt *US*: 'weskat/, close-

fitting sleeveless clothing worn under a coat or jacket, buttoned down the front (US = vest).

waist-band, part of a skirt, etc that fits round the waist.

waist-deep *adj, adv* up to the waist: *~deep in the mud.*

waist-high *adj, adv* high enough to reach the waist: *The wheat was ~high.*

waist-line, part of the body, a dress, etc at the smallest part of the waist: *a dress with a narrow ~line.*

wait ¹ /'weɪt/ *n* [C] **1** act or time of waiting: *We had a long ~ for the bus.* **2** [U] *lie in wait for*, be in hiding in order to attack, etc: *The cat lay in ~ for the bird to fly down.*

wait ² /'weɪt/ *vi, vt* **1** stay where one is, delay acting, until a person or thing comes or until something happens: *Please ~ a minute. How long have you been ~ing? We are ~ing for better weather. We ~ed (in order) to see what would happen. wait up (for sb)*, delay going to bed. **keep sb waiting**, fail to meet him or be ready at the appointed time: *His wife never keeps him ~ing.* **2** (= await the usual word): *He is ~ing his opportunity.* **3 wait on sb**, fetch and carry things for. **wait on sb hand and foot**, ⇨ hand¹(1). **4 wait at**, act as a waiter etc: *~ at table.*

wait-ing list, list of persons who will be served, treated, etc later, if possible: *Put me on a ~ing list for two concert tickets.*

wait-ing room, (a) room in a railway-station, etc used by people who are waiting for trains. (b) room (eg in a doctor's or dentist's house or office) where people wait until they can be attended to.

waiter, man who serves food, etc in a restaurant, hotel dining-room, etc.

wait-ress /'weɪtrɪs/, female waiter.

waive /weɪv/ *vt* (say that one will) not insist on (a right or claim): *~ the age-limit.*

waiver /'weɪvə(r)/, (legal) (written statement) waiving (a right, etc): *sign a ~ of claims against a person.*

wake ¹ /weɪk/ *vi, vt* (*pt* woke /wəʊk/, *pp* woken /'wəʊkən/) **1** stop sleeping: *What time do you usually ~ (up)? He woke up with a start, suddenly.* **2** cause to stop sleeping: *Don't ~ the baby. The noise woke me (up).* **3** stir up from inactivity, inattention, etc: *He needs someone to ~ him up*, make him active, energetic.

wake-ing *adj* being awake: *waking or sleeping*, while awake or asleep.

waken /'weɪkən/ *vt, vi* (cause to) wake.

wake ² /weɪk/ *n* [C] **1** (usually *pl*; often 'W~s Week) annual holiday in N England, esp in the manufacturing towns of Lancashire. **2** (in Ireland) all-night watch with a corpse before burial, with grieving and drinking of alcoholic liquor.

wake ³ /weɪk/ *n* [C] track left by a ship on

smooth water, eg as made by propellers. **in the wake of**, after; following: *Traders arrived in the ~ of the explorers.*

walk¹ /wɔ:k/ *n* [C] **1** journey on foot, esp for pleasure or exercise: *go for a ~. The station is ten minutes' ~ from my house.* **2** manner or style of walking: *I recognized him at once by his ~.* **3** path or route for walking: *my favourite ~s in the neighbourhood.* **4** **walk of life**, profession, occupation: *They interviewed people from all ~s of life.*

walk² /wɔ:k/ *vi, vt* (for uses with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 5 below.) **1** (of persons) move by putting forward each foot in turn, not having both feet off the ground at once; (of animals) move at the slowest pace: *We ~ed five miles. He was ~ing up and down the station platform.* **2** cause to walk: *He ~ed his horse up the hill.* **walk sb off his feet/legs**, tire him out by making him walk far. **3** go over on foot: *I have ~ed this district for miles round.* **4** (used with various nouns). **walk the plank**, ⇨ plank. **walk the streets**, be a prostitute. Hence, **'street-walker** *n* [C].

5 (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

walk about, walk in various directions, eg as a tourist. **'walk-about** *n* [C] a walk among spectators in the streets (as a politician, etc does).

walk away with sth, win (a competition) easily: *The Russian team ~ed away with the gymnastics competition.*

walk off with sth, take (either on purpose or unintentionally): *Someone has ~ed off with my umbrella.*

walk in, enter.

walk into, meet with accidentally: *~ into an ambush.*

walk out, go on strike: *The workers ~ed out yesterday.* Hence, **'walk-out** *n* [C]. **walk out on sb**, (informal) desert him (at a time when he is expecting help, etc).

walk over sb, (informal) defeat him easily: *She ~ed all over the other competitors.* Hence, **'walk-over** *n* [C] easy victory.

walk up, (a) (imperative) (used as on invitation to enter (a circus, show, etc). (b) walk along: *~ up the High Street.* (c) walk upstairs. (d) approach: *A stranger ~ed up (to me) and asked me the time.*

wall /wɔ:l/ *n* [C] **1** continuous, usually vertical, solid structure of stone, brick, concrete, wood, etc forming one of the sides of a building or room, or used to enclose, divide or protect something (including land): *Hang the picture on that ~. Some old towns have ~s right round them.* **have/with one's back to the wall**, ⇨ back²(1). **be/go up the wall**, (sl) be/become very angry. **go to the wall**, be defeated, especially financially. **2**

(fig) something like a wall: *a ~ of fire; the abdominal ~.* □ **vt 1** (usually *pp*) surround with walls: *a ~ed garden.* **2** **wall sth up/off**, fill or close up with bricks, etc: *~ up a window.*

'wall-flower, (a) common garden plant with sweet-smelling flowers. (b) woman who does not dance because not asked.

'wall-paper, paper with a coloured design, for covering the walls of rooms.

wal-laby /'wɒləbi/ *n* [C] (*pl -ies*) sorts of small kangaroo.

wal-let /'wɒlɪt/ *n* [C] folding case of leather, etc for banknotes, credit-cards, etc.

wal-lop /'wɒləp/ *vt* (sl) beat severely; hit hard. □ *n* [C] heavy blow; crash: *Down he went with a ~!*

wal-low /'wɒləʊ/ *vi 1* roll about (in mud, dirty water, etc): *pigs ~ing in the mud.* **2** (fig) take great delight in: *~ing in success.* □ *n* [C] place to which animals (eg buffaloes) go regularly to wallow.

wal-nut /'wɒlnʌt/ *n 1* [C] (tree producing a) nut with a kernel that can be eaten. **2** [U] the wood, used for making furniture.

wal-rus /'wɒlərs/ *n* [C] (*pl ~es*) large sea-animal of the arctic regions with two long tusks.

waltz /wɔ:ls *US*: wɔ:ltz/ *n* [C] (music for a) slow ballroom dance. □ *vi, vt* (cause to) dance a waltz: *She ~s divinely.*

wan /wɒn/ *adj* (-nn-) **1** (of a person, his looks, etc) looking ill, sad, tired, anxious: *a ~ smile.* **2** (of light, the sky) pale; not bright.

wan-ly *adv*

wand /wɒnd/ *n* [C] slender stick or rod as used by a conjurer, fairy or magician.

wan-der /'wɒndə(r)/ *vi, vt 1* go from place to place without any special purpose or destination: *~ up and down the road; ~ (through/over) the world.* **2** leave the right path or direction: *Some of the sheep have ~ed away, are lost.* *We ~ed (for) miles and miles in the mist.* **3** allow the thoughts to go from subject to subject: *Don't ~ from the subject/point.* *His mind is ~ing.*

wan-derer, person or animal that wanders.

wan-der-ings *n pl* (a) long travels; journeys: *tell the story of one's ~ings.* (b) confused speech during illness (esp high fever).

wan-der-lust /'wɒndəlst/ *n* [U] strong desire to travel.

wane /weɪn/ *vi 1* (of the moon) show a decreasing bright area after full moon. ⇨ wax². **2** become less or weaker: *His strength/reputation is waning.* □ *n* esp **on the wane**, waning.

wangle /'wæŋgl/ *vt* (sl) get, arrange something, by using improper influence, by trickery, persuasion, etc: *~ an extra week's holiday.* □ *n* [C] act of wangling.

want¹ /wɒnt/ *n 1* [U] scarcity; state of being absent: *The plants died from ~ of water.* *Your*

work shows ~ of thought/care. **2** [U] need; absence of some necessary thing: *The house is in ~ of repair.* **3** [C] (usually pl) desire for something as necessary to life, happiness, etc; thing to be desired: *We can supply all your ~s.*

want² /wɒnt/ vt, vi **1** be in need of: *That man ~s a wife to look after him, needs to marry a woman who will look after him. I don't ~ (= I object to having) women meddling in my affairs.* **2** wish for; have a desire for: *She ~s to go to Italy. She ~s me to go with her. He is ~ed by the police,* ie because he is suspected of having done wrong. (Note: *want* is used for something possible to get, *wish* is used for something impossible or unlikely.) **3** need, ought (as in the notes to the examples): *Your hair ~s cutting, needs to be cut. You ~ (= ought) to talk to your teacher about that problem.* **4** (progressive tenses only) **be wanting (in sth)**, (of a person's character) be without: *He's ~ing in politeness,* is impolite. **be found wanting: *He was put to the test and found ~ing,* inadequate. **5 want for nothing,** have all one needs.**

wan-ton /'wɒntən/ adj **1** playful; irresponsible: *in a ~ mood.* **2** wild: *a ~ growth* (of weeds, etc). **3** deliberate: *~ destruction/damage.* **4** immoral: *a ~ woman.*

wanton-ly adv in a wanton manner.

war /wɔ:(r)/ n **1** [C,U] (state created by) the use of armed forces between countries or ('civil war') rival groups in a nation: *We have had two world ~s in this century.* **at war**, in a state of war. **declare war (on)**, announce that a state of war exists (with another state). **go to war (against)**, start fighting. **have been in the wars**, (informal) have suffered injury, misfortune, etc. **2** [U] science or art of fighting, using weapons, etc: *the art of ~, strategy and tactics.* **3** (fig) any kind of struggle or conflict: *the ~ against poverty; a ~ of nerves/words.* □ vi (-rr-) fight; make war.

'war-cry, word or cry shouted as a signal in battle.

'war-dance, one by tribal warriors before going into battle, to celebrate a victory, or (in peace) to represent fighting.

'war-fare /'wɔ:fə(r)/, making war; condition of being at war; fighting: *the horrors of modern ~fare.*

'war-god, god (eg Mars) worshipped as giving victory in war.

'war-head, (of a torpedo, shell, etc) explosive head.

'war-like adj (a) ready for, suggesting, war: *~like preparations.* (b) fond of war: *a cruel, ~like people.*

'war-monger, person who encourages war.

'war-path, (only in) **on the warpath**, ready for, engaged in, a fight or quarrel.

'war-ship, ship for use in war.

'war-time, time when there is war: (used as

an adjective) ~time regulations.

'war-torn adj exhausted by, worn out in, war.

'war-widow, woman whose husband has been killed in war.

warble /'wɔ:bl/ vi, vt (esp of birds) sing with a gentle trilling note: *a blackbird warbling in a tree.* □ n [C] warbling.

'war-bler /'wɔ:blə(r)/, (kinds of) bird that warbles.

ward /wɔ:d/ n **1** [C] division of, separate room in, a building, esp a hospital: *the children's ~.*

2 [C] division of a local government area, each division being represented by one Councillor.

3 [U] state of being in custody or under the control of a guardian: *a child in ~.* **4** [C] person under the guardianship of an older person or of law authorities. □ vt **ward sth off**, keep away, avoid: *~ off a blow/danger.*

-ward(s) /-wəd(z)/ suffix in the direction of: *backward(s).*

'war-den /'wɔ:dən/ n [C] **1** person having control or authority: *the ~ of a youth hostel.* ♠ traffic warden. **2** (US) = warder.

'war-der /'wɔ:də(r)/ n [C] (GB) person acting as guard in a prison.

'ward-ress /'wɔ:drɪs/, woman warder.

'ward-robe /'wɔ:drəʊb/ n [C] **1** cupboard with pegs, shelves, etc for clothes. **2** stock of clothes: *My ~ needs to be renewed,* I must buy some new clothes. **3** stock of costumes of a theatrical company.

ware /weə(r)/ n **1** (as a suffix) manufactured goods: *'silver~; 'iron~; 'hard~.* **2** (pl) articles offered for sale: *advertise one's ~s.*

'ware-house /'weəhaʊs/ n [C] building for storing goods before distribution to retailers.

□ vt /-haʊz/ store in a warehouse.

'war-fare /'wɔ:fə(r)/ ♠ war.

'warm¹ /wɔ:m/ adj (-er, -est) **1** having a medium degree of heat (between *cool* and *hot*): *Come and get ~ by the fire.* **2** (of clothing) serving to keep the body warm: *Put your ~est coat on.* **3** (of colours) bright; suggesting heat: *Red and yellow are ~ colours.* **4** enthusiastic, hearty: *give a speaker a ~ welcome.* **5** sympathetic; affectionate: *He has a ~ heart.*

'warm-blooded, (a) (of animals) having warm blood. (b) (of a person) showing feelings, passion.

'warm-hearted, kind and affectionate.

'warm-ly adv in a warm manner: *~ly dressed; thank them ~ly.*

'warm² /wɔ:m/ vt, vi make or become warm or warmer: *~ oneself/one's hands by the fire.*

Please ~ (up) this milk. **warm to one's work/task, etc**, become more interested and involved. □ n (usually sing with a) act of warming: *Come near the fire and have a ~.*

'warmth /wɔ:mθ/ n [U] state of being warm: *He was pleased with the ~ of his welcome.*

warn /wɔ:n/ vt inform (a person) of possible

danger or unpleasant consequences; inform in advance of what may happen: *He was ~ed of the danger. He often ~ed me that there were pickpockets in the crowd* | ~ed me against pickpockets.

warning /'wɔːnɪŋ/ *adj* that warns: *They fired some ~ shots.* □ **n** 1 [C] that which warns or serves to warn: *Let this be a ~ to you*, let this punishment, accident, misfortune, etc teach you to be careful in future. 2 [U] action of warning; state of being warned: *The speaker sounded a note of ~*, spoke of possible danger.

warped /wɔːp/ *vt, vi* 1 (cause to) become bent or twisted from the usual or natural shape: *Some metals ~ in very hot weather.* 2 (fig) make evil; twist: *His judgement is ~ed*, biased because of possible advantage for himself. *He has a ~ed sense of humour*, eg that is cruel, evil, abnormal, etc. □ **n** [C] 1 twisted or bent condition in timber, etc caused by shrinking or expansion. 2 threads over and under which other threads (the *wefr*) are passed when cloth is woven.

warrant /'wɒrənt/ *US: 'wɔːr-/ n* 1 [U] justification or authority: *He had no ~ for saying so* | *for what he did.* 2 [C] written order giving official authority: *a ~ to arrest a suspected criminal* | *for his arrest.* □ *vt* 1 be a warrant (1) for: *His interference was certainly not ~ed.* 2 guarantee (the more usual word). 3 (usually *pp*) justified: *His anger is not ~ed.*

warrantee /'wɒrən'tiː/ *US: 'wɔːr-/*, person to whom a warranty is made.

warrantor /'wɒrəntɔː(r)/ *US: 'wɔːr-/*, person who makes a warranty.

warranty /'wɒrənti/ *US: 'wɔːr-/*, (written or printed) guarantee (eg to repair or replace defective goods): *The car is still under ~y.*

warren /'wɒrən/ *US: 'wɔːrən/ n* [C] 1 area of land in which there are many burrows in which rabbits live and breed. 2 (fig) building or district in which it is difficult to find one's way about: *lose oneself in a ~ of narrow streets.*

warrior /'wɒrɪə(r)/ *US: 'wɔːr-/ n* [C] (literary) soldier; fighter: (as an adjective) *a ~ tribe.*

wart /wɔːt/ *n* [C] small, hard, dry growth on the skin.

wart-hog /'wɔːthɒg/ *n* [C] kinds of African pig with two large tusks and growths like warts on the face.

wary /'weəri/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) in the habit of being careful about possible danger or trouble: *be ~ of giving offence* | *of strangers.*

warily /-əli/ *adv*

was /wɔːz/ *strong form: wɒz US: wɔːz/* ⇨ be¹.

wash¹ /wɒʃ/ *US: wɔːʃ/ n* 1 (sing only, usually with *a*, *an*) act of washing; being washed: *Will you give the car a ~, please.* 2 (sing only) clothing, sheets, etc (to be) washed or being washed: *When does the ~ come back from the laundry?* 3 (sing with *the*) movement or flow of

water; sound made by moving water: *the ~ of the waves.* ⇨ also *eyewash*, *whitewash*.

wash² /wɒʃ/ *US: wɔːʃ/ vt, vi* (for use with adverbial particles and prepositions, ⇨ 7 below.) 1 make clean with or in water or other liquid: *~ one's hands* | *clothes. He never ~es* (ie washes himself) *in cold water.* **wash one's hands of**, ⇨ *hand*¹ (1). 2 (of materials) be capable of being washed without damage or loss of colour: *Does this material ~ well?* 3 (fig) be acceptable, bear examination: *That argument/excuse will not ~.* 4 (of the sea or a river) flow past or against: *The sea ~es the base of the cliffs.* 5 (of moving liquid) carry away, or in a specified direction: *He was ~ed overboard by a huge wave.* 6 go flowing, sweeping or splashing (along, out, in, into, over, etc): *We heard the waves ~ing against the sides of our boat. Huge waves ~ed over the deck.* 7 (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

wash sth away, remove by washing: *~ away stains.* **be washed away**, be removed by the movement of the sea, a river, etc: *The cliffs are gradually being ~ed away.*

wash sth down, clean by washing, eg with a hosepipe: *~ down a car* | *the deck of a ship.* **wash sth down (with)**, swallow (liquid) with: *bread and cheese ~ed down with beer.*

wash sth out, clean by washing: *~ out a dress.* **washed out**, (a) (fig) exhausted; pale: *feel ~ed out.* (b) (of games, sport) cancelled because of heavy rain. (c) (of roads, etc) ruined by rain: flooded. ⇨ **wash-out** below.

wash sth up, wash plates, knives, forks, pans, etc: *~ up the breakfast things.* Hence, **the washing-up** *n* **be washed up**, carried on to the beach (by waves, etc): *The empty boat was ~ed up on the beach.* (all) **washed up**, (informal) ruined.

wash⁻³ /wɒʃ/ *US: wɔːʃ/ prefix* (often used as a substitute for washing):

'wash-basin, basin for holding water in which to wash one's face and hands.

'wash-hand-basin, = wash-basin.

'wash-out *n* (a) place in a road, etc where a flood or heavy rain has carried away earth, etc and interrupted communications. (b) (informal) useless or unsuccessful person; complete failure.

'wash-room, (US) toilet (esp in a public building, etc).

'wash-tub, large wooden bowl in which to wash clothes.

wash-able /'wɒʃəbl/ *adj* that can be washed without being spoiled.

washer /'wɒʃə(r)/ *US: 'wɔː-/ n* [C] 1 machine ('dish-~) for washing dishes, cutlery, etc. 2 small flat ring of metal, plastic, rubber or leather for making a joint or screw tight.

wash-ing /'wɒʃɪŋ/ *US: 'wɔː-/ n* [U] 1 washing

or being washed. **2** clothes being washed or to be washed: *hang out the ~ on the line to dry.*

washing-machine, machine for washing clothes.

washing-powder, powdered soap or detergent for washing clothes, etc.

the washing-up, ⇨ wash sth up.

washing-up liquid, liquid detergent for washing dishes, cutlery, etc.

washing-up machine, machine for washing dishes, cutlery, etc.

washy /'wɒʃ/ US: 'wɔ:-/ *adj* **1** (of liquids) thin, watery. **2** (of colours) looking faded; pale. **3** (of feeling) not having strength.

wasn't /'wɒznt/ = *was not*.

wasp /wɒsp/ US: 'wɔ:sp/ *n* [C] kinds of flying insect with a powerful sting in the tail.

wast-age /'weɪstɪdʒ/ *n* [U] amount wasted; loss by waste.

waste¹ /weɪst/ *adj* **1** (of land) that is not or cannot be used; no longer of use: ~ *land*, not occupied or used for any purpose. *lay sth waste*, ⇨ lay²(4). **2** useless; thrown away because not wanted; ~ *'paper*.

'waste-land, (a) barren, desolate or unused land. (b) land destroyed by war, etc. (c) (fig) life, society, looked on as culturally and spiritually barren.

waste² /weɪst/ *n* **1** [U] wasting or being wasted: *It's a ~ of time to wait any longer.* *go/run to waste*, be wasted: *What a pity to see so many ideas going to ~!* **2** [U] waste material; refuse. **3** area of waste land, etc: *the ~s of the Sahara*.

'waste-paper-basket, basket or other container for unwanted paper, etc.

'waste-pipe, pipe for carrying off (used) water.

waste-ful /-fl/ *adj* causing waste; using more than is needed: ~ *ful habits/processes*.

waste-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

waste³ /weɪst/ *vt, vi* **1** make no use of; use without a good purpose; use more of (something) than is necessary: ~ *one's time and money*. *All his efforts were ~d*, had no result. **2** make (land) waste. **3** (cause to) lose strength by degrees: *He's wasting away*.

watch¹ /wɒtʃ/ *n* **1** [U] act of watching, esp to see that all is well. *be on the watch (for)*, be watching for (a person or thing, esp possible danger). **2** (usually *sing* with *the*) (in former times) body of men employed to go through the streets and protect people and their property, esp at night. **3** (in ships) period of duty (4 or 2 hours) for part of the crew. *keep watch*, be on watch or watching.

'watch-dog, dog kept to protect property.

'watch-man, (modern use) man employed to guard a building (eg a bank, block of offices, factory) against thieves, esp at night.

watch-word, (a) password. (b) slogan.

watch-ful /-fəl/ *adj* (esp) wide-awake.

watch² /wɒtʃ/ *vt, vi* look at; keep the eyes on: *W~ me carefully.* *W~ what I do and how I do it.* *We sat there ~ing the cricket.* *I'll ~ over* (= look after) *her while you go shopping.* **watch** **'out**, be careful (used to warn against punishment or anger or as a warning of danger): *You'd better ~ out, he'll sack you if you're late again.* *W~ out!* *There's a hole in front of you!* **watch one's step**, (fig) be careful not to make an error, let a person win an advantage, etc, eg in negotiations.

watcher, person who watches.

watch³ /wɒtʃ/ *n* [C] small instrument for telling the time that can be carried in the pocket or worn on the wrist.

'watch-maker, person who makes or repairs watches.

watch-strap, strap for a watch.

water¹ /'wɔ:tə(r)/ *n* (pl only as shown in examples below) **1** [U] liquid (H₂O) as in rivers, lakes, seas and oceans: *Fish live in (the) ~.* *by water*, by boat, ship, etc. *be in deep water(s)*, experiencing difficulty or misfortune. *under water*, flooded: *The fields were under ~ after the heavy rain.* *like a fish out of water*, feeling uncomfortable, behaving awkwardly, because of unfamiliar surroundings, an unfamiliar situation, etc. *be in/get into hot water*, have/get into trouble (esp because of foolish behaviour, etc). *hold water*, (of a theory) be sound when tested. *keep one's head above water*, avoid (esp financial) troubles or misfortunes. *spend money, etc like water*, extravagantly. *throw cold water on* (a plan, etc), discourage (it). *tread water*, ⇨ tread v(4). **2** [U] the state of the tide: *at high/low ~.* **3** (pl) seas as shown by a preceding word: *Home ~s*, the seas near the country to which a ship belongs. **4** (usually pl) mass of water: *the 'head-~s of the Nile*, the lake from which it flows. **5** [U] solution of a substance in water: *'rose-~.*

'water-bird, kinds of bird that swim or wade in water.

'water-biscuit, thin, hard biscuit eaten with butter and cheese.

'water-borne *adj* (a) (of goods) carried by water. (b) (of diseases) passed on by the use of contaminated water.

'water-buffalo, the common domestic buffalo of India, Indonesia, etc.

'water-bus, boat carrying passengers on a river, lake.

'water-closet, (common abbr WC) small room with a lavatory.

'water-colour (US = -color), (a) (pl) paints (to be) mixed with water, not oil. (b) picture painted with water-colours. (c) (pl or sing) the art of painting such pictures.

'water-cress, creeping plant that grows in running water, with hot-tasting leaves used in salads.

'water-fall, fall of water, esp where a river falls over rocks or a cliff.

'water-front, land at the water's edge, esp the part of a town facing the sea, the harbour, a lake, etc.

'water-hole, shallow depression in which water collects (esp in a dry river bed, and to which animals go to drink).

'water-ice, frozen, flavoured water.

'water-level, surface of water in a reservoir, etc esp as a measurement of depth.

'water-lily, kinds of plant with broad, flat leaves floating on the surface of the water.

'water-logged, *adj* (a) (of wood) so saturated with water that it will not float. (b) (of a ship) so full of water that it will not float. (c) (of land) thoroughly soaked with water.

'water-main, main pipe in a system of water-supply.

'water-mark, (a) manufacturer's design in some kinds of paper, seen when the paper is held against light. (b) mark which shows how high water (eg the tide, a river) has risen or how low it has fallen.

'water-melon, (plant with) large, smooth-skinned melon with juicy pink or red flesh.

'water-mill, mill whose machinery is turned by water-power.

'water-pipe, one for carrying water.

'water-polo, game played by two teams of swimmers who try to throw a ball into a goal.

'water-power, power obtained from flowing or falling water, used to drive machinery or produce electric current.

'water-proof *adj* which does not let water through: *~proof material*. □ *n* [C] waterproof coat. □ *vi* make waterproof.

'water-rat/-vole, animal like a rat living in, near, water.

'water-rate, (GB) charge made for the use of water from a public water-supply.

'water-shed, (a) line of high land separating river systems. (b) (fig) division between events which take different courses.

'water-side, edge of the coast, a river-bank, etc: *go for a stroll along the ~side*.

'water-ski *n* [C], *vi* (one of a pair of skis used to) ski on water while being towed at speed by a fast motor-boat. Hence, **'water-skiing** *n* [U].

'water-supply, system of providing and storing water, amount stored, for a district, town, building, etc.

'water-table, level below which the ground is filled with water: *The ~table has been lowered by drought*.

'water-tight *adj* (a) so that water cannot get in or out: *~tight boots*. (b) (fig) (of an agreement, etc) so that there can be no escape from any of the provisions; leaving no possibility of misunderstanding.

'water tower, one supporting a large tank

which maintains the pressure for a water-supply.

'water-way, navigable channel (eg a canal).

'water-wheel, one turned by a flow of water, used to work machinery.

'water-works, (used with a *sing* or *pl verb*) (a) system of reservoirs, pumping stations, for supplying water. (b) ornamental fountains. (c) (informal) (working of the) bladder: *Are you ~works all right?* Can you pass urine normally? (d) (informal) tears: *Let's not have the ~works again!* Let's have no more crying!

'water-worn *adj* (of rocks, etc) made smooth by the action of water.

water² /'wɔ:tə(r)/ *vt, vi* 1 put water on; sprinkle with water: *~ the lawn/the plants*. 2 give water to: *~ the horses*. 3 (of the eyes or mouth) fill with water; have much liquid: *The smoke made my eyes ~*. ⇨ *mouth*¹(1). 4 **water sth down**, (a) add water to: *This whisky has been ~ed (down)*. (b) (fig) weaken: *The story was ~ed down*.

'water-ing-can, container with a long spout, used for watering plants.

'water-ing-place, (a) water-hole. (b) spa.

wat-ery /'wɔ:təri/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) 1 of or like water: (esp of cooked vegetables) containing, cooked in, too much water: *~ soup*. 2 (of colour) pale. 3 (of the eyes or lips) covered with water.

watt /wɒt/ *n* [C] unit of electrical power: *a 60 ~ light-bulb*.

wattle¹ /'wɒtl/ *n* [U] structure of woven sticks or twigs used for fences, walls, etc.

wattle² /'wɒtl/ *n* [C] red flesh hanging down from the head or throat of a bird, esp a turkey.

wave /weɪv/ *vi, vt* 1 move to and fro, up and down: *flags/branches waving in the wind*. 2 cause (something) to move in this way (eg to make a signal or request, to give a greeting, etc): *~ one's hand/a flag*. *She ~d goodbye to us*. 3 cause (a person) to move in a certain direction by waving: *He ~d us away*. **wave sth aside**, (fig) dismiss: *My objections were ~d aside*. 4 (of a line or surface, of hair) be in a series of curves (~~~): *Her hair ~s beautifully*. 5 cause to be in a series of curves: *She's had her hair permanently ~d*. □ *n* [C] 1 long ridge of water, esp on the sea, between two hollows; such a ridge curling over and breaking on the shore. *in waves*, in successive lines like waves: *The infantry attacked in ~s*. 2 act of waving(2 above); waving movement: *with a ~ of his hand*. 3 curve like a wave of the sea: *the ~s in her hair*. 4 steady increase and spread: *a ~ of enthusiasm/hatred*. ⇨ *crime-wave*, *heatwave*. 5 motion like a wave by which heat, light, sound or electricity is spread or carried.

'wave-length, distance between the highest point (the crest) of one wave(5) and that of the next. (*not*) *on the same wavelength*,

(fig) (not) in agreement.

wavy *adj* (-ier, -iest) having curves: *a wavy line; wavy hair*.

wa-ver /'weɪvə(r)/ *vi* **1** move uncertainly or unsteadily: *~ing shadows/flammes*. **2** be or become unsteady; begin to give way: *His courage ~ed*. **3** hesitate: *~ between two opinions*.

wa-verer, person who wavers.

wax¹ /wæks/ *n* [U] soft yellow substance produced by bees ('bees~) and used for making honeycomb cells; kinds of substance similar to beeswax (eg as obtained from petroleum), used for making candles, etc: (as an adjective) *a ~ candle*. ⇨ **sealing-wax**. □ *vi* cover, polish or treat with wax: *~ furniture/a wooden floor*.

wax² /wæks/ *vi* (esp of the moon, contrasted with wane) show a larger bright area.

way /weɪ/ *n* **1** [C] road, street, path, etc: *a ~ across the fields*. *There's no ~ through*. ⇨ **highway**, **railway**, etc. **pave the way for**, (fig) prepare for, prepare people to accept (reforms, etc). **2** [C] route, road (to be) used (from one place to another): *Which is the best/right/quickest/shortest ~ there? Can you find your ~ home? Which is the ~ in/out?*

go one's way(s), depart. **go out of one's way (to do sth)**, make a special effort: *He went out of his way to be rude to me/to help me*.

lead the way, (a) go in front as leader. (b) show by example how something may be done. **make one's way in life/the world**, succeed. **pay one's way**, (a) keep out of debt. (b) pay one's share of expenses instead of letting others pay. **by way of**, using a route through: *He came by ~ of Dover*.

out of the way, exceptional, uncommon: *He has done nothing out of the ~ yet*. **3 on the/one's way**, being engaged in going or coming: *They're still on the/their ~*. **by the way**, (fig) incidentally (often used to introduce a remark not connected with the subject of a conversation).

on the way out, (fig) (informal) going out of fashion. **4** [C] method or plan; course of action: *the right/wrong/best ~ to do/of doing something*. *The work must be finished (in) one ~ or another*. **Where there's a will there's a way**, (proverb) If we want to get something done, we will find a method of doing it. **ways and means**, methods, esp of providing money. **have/get one's own way**, get/do what one wants. **go/take one's own way**, act independently, esp against advice. **5** (sing only) distance between two points: *It's a long ~ off/a long ~ from here*. (also fig) *This will go a long ~ (= will be very helpful) towards the cost*. **6** [C] direction: *He went this/that/the other ~*. *Look this ~, please*. *Such opportunities never come/fall my ~, come to me*. **7** [U] advance in some direction; progress (esp of a ship or boat). **be under way**, (of a ship) be moving through the water. **get under way**, start to move for-

ward. **8** [U] space for forward movement, for passing ahead; freedom to go forward: *Don't stand in the/my ~*. **be/put sth out of harm's way**, in a safe place. **get sth out of the way**, settle it, dispose of it. **give way (to sth/sb)**, ⇨ give¹ (10). **make way (for)**, allow space or a free passage: *All traffic has to make ~ for an ambulance*. **see one's way (clear) to doing sth**, (esp) feel justified in doing something: *I don't see my ~ clear to helping you*. **9** [C] custom; manner of behaving; personal peculiarity: *English/Chinese ~ of living; the ~ of the world*, what appears to be justified by custom. *I don't like the ~ (= manner in which) he looks at me*. ⇨ **ordinary**.

mend one's ways, improve one's manners, behaviour, etc. **to my way of thinking**, in my opinion. **10** [C] respect; point or detail: *He's a clever man in some ~s*. *He's a nice man in his (own) ~*. **11** [C] condition, state, degree: *Things are/She's in a bad ~*. **in a small way**, on a small scale: *help in a small ~*. **have it both ways**, choose first one and then the other of alternatives in order to suit one's convenience, argument, etc. **12** [C] ordinary course: *do something in the ~ of business*. **13 by way of**, (a) as a substitute for or as a kind of: *say something by ~ of an introduction*. (b) for the purpose of, with the intention of: *ask questions by ~ of learning the facts*. (c) in the course of: *by ~ of business*. ⇨ also 2 above.

way-ahead *adj* (informal) ahead of current fashion: *clothes ~-ahead of the fashion*.

way-out *adj* (informal) = way-ahead: *~ out clothes*.

way-farer /'weɪfərə(r)/ *n* [C] (literary) traveller, esp on foot.

way-faring /-færɪŋ/ *adj* travelling: *a way-faring man*.

way-side *n* [C] side of a road: *by the ~*; (as an adjective) *~ flowers*.

way-lay /weɪ'leɪ/ *vt* (pt, pp -laid /-'leɪd/) (wait somewhere to) attack, rob (a person), approach (a person) unexpectedly (with a request): *He waylaid me with a request for a loan*.

way-word /'weɪwɜːd/ *adj* not easily controlled or guided: *a ~ child*.

we /wi/ *pron* (⇨ us) **1** (used by a speaker or writer referring to himself and another or others): *Can ~ all come to visit you?* **2** (used by a royal person instead of I).

weak /wiːk/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (opposite of strong) not having strength; easily broken; unable to resist strong use, opposition, etc: *too ~ to walk; ~ in the legs; a ~ team; the ~ points of an argument/plan*. **2** (of health, etc) below the usual standard: *a ~ heart*. Hence, *~sighted/~-minded/~-headed*. **3** (of mixed liquids or solutions) having little of some substance in relation to the water, etc: *~ tea/beer*. **4** not good; not efficient: *~ in spelling/grammar*.

weak-kneed *adj* (fig) weak in character.

weak form (of the pronunciation of some words), form occurring in an unstressed position, usually by the use of a different vowel sound or by the absence of a vowel sound or consonant (eg /ənd/ for *and*).

weak verb, (gram) one inflected by additions to the stem, not by vowel change (eg *walk, walked*).

weakling, weak person or animal.

weakly *adv* in a weak manner. □ *adj* delicate in health: *a ~ly child*.

weakness *n* (a) [U] state of being weak: *the ~ness of old age*. (b) [C] fault or defect of character: *We all have our little ~nesses*. (c) **have a weakness for**, a special or foolish liking for: *He has a ~ness for ice-cream/blondes*.

weaken /'wi:kən/ *vt, vi* make, become, weaken (er)

weal /wi:l/ *n* [C] mark on the skin made by a blow from a whip, etc.

wealth /welθ/ *n* [U] 1 (possession of) a great amount of property, money, etc: *a man of ~*. 2 (sing only with *a, an* or *the*) great amount or number of: *a book with a ~ of illustrations*; *the ~ of phrases and sentences to illustrate meanings in this dictionary*.

wealthy *adj* (-ier, -iest) rich.

wean /wi:n/ *vt* 1 accustom (a baby, a young animal) to food other than its mother's milk. 2 (fig) cause (a person) to turn away (from a habit, bad companions, etc): *~ a person off/away from drugs*.

weapon /'wepən/ *n* [C] something designed for, or used in, fighting or struggling (eg swords, guns, fists, a strike by workmen).

weaponry *n* [U] weapons collectively.

wear /weə(r)/ *n* [U] 1 wearing or being worn; use as clothing: *This coat is beginning to look the worse for ~*, shows signs of having been worn for a long time, so that it is no longer in a good or useful condition. 2 damage or loss of quality from use: *The carpet is showing signs of ~*. **wear and tear**, damage, loss in value, because used. 3 capacity for keeping in good condition: *There's not much ~ left in these shoes*, they cannot be worn much longer. 4 (used chiefly in compounds or in terms used by tradesmen) things to wear: *'under~; 'ladies' 'men's 'children's ~*.

wear² /weə(r)/ *vt, vi* (pt *wore* /wɔ:(r)/, pp *worn* /wɔ:n/) 1 have on the body, carry on one's person or on some part of it: *He was ~ing glasses/heavy shoes/a ring on his finger. She never ~s green*, ie green clothes. *She used to ~ her hair long*, used to have long hair. 2 (of expressions) have on the face: *~ a smile*. 3 (cause to) become less useful or to be in a certain condition, by being used: *I have worn my socks into holes. This material has worn thin. The stones were worn by the constant flow of water*. 4 make (a hole, groove, etc) in by rubbing or

attrition: *~ holes in a rug/one's socks. In time a path was worn across the field*. 5 remain in a certain condition (after use): *Good leather will ~ for years. This cloth has worn well/badly. Old Mr Smith is ~ing well*, looks well in spite of being old.

6 (special uses with *adverbial particles* and *prepositions*):

wear away. (a) become broken, thin, weak, as the result of constant use: *The inscription on the stone had worn away*, the words were difficult to read. (b) (of time) pass slowly: *as the evening wore away*. **wear sth away**, use up or damage something by constant use, etc: *The footsteps of thousands of visitors had worn away the stones*.

wear down, become gradually smaller, thinner, weaker, etc: *The heels of these shoes are ~ing down*. **wear sth down**, cause to wear down. **wear sb/sth down**, weaken by constant attack, nervous strain, etc: *These noisy children do ~ me down!*

wear off, gradually disappear: *The novelty will soon ~ off*.

wear on, (of time) pass: *Evening wore on*.

wear (sth) out, (cause to) become useless, worn thin, exhausted: *Cheap shoes soon ~ out. His patience had/was at last worn out*. **wear sb out**, exhaust, tire out: *I'm worn out by all this hard work*. Hence, **worn-out** *adj*: *a ~ worn-out coat*.

wear-able /'weərəbl/ *adj* that can be, or is fit to be, worn.

weary /'weəri/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) 1 tired: *feel ~; be ~ of his constant grumbling*. 2 causing tiredness: *a ~ journey*. 3 showing tiredness: *a ~ sigh*. □ *vt, vi* make or become weary: *~ of living alone*.

wear-ily /-ɪli/ *adv*

weari-ness *n* [U]

weari-some /'weəri:səm/ *adj* tiring; long and dull.

weasel /'wi:zl/ *n* [C] small, fierce animal with red-brown fur.

weather¹ /'weðə(r)/ *n* [C] conditions over an area and at a particular time with reference to sunshine, temperature, wind, rain, etc: *He stays indoors in wet ~*. *She goes out in all ~s* (= all kinds of ~). (Note: *climate* is used when referring to a long period of time, eg a season.) **be/feel under the weather**, (informal) unwell. **make heavy weather of sth**, find it difficult.

weather-beaten *adj* showing marks or signs which come from being in the sun, wind, rain, etc: *a ~ beaten face*.

weather-bound *adj* unable to make or continue a journey because of bad weather.

weather-chart/-map, diagram showing details of the weather over an area.

weather forecast, ⇨ forecast.

weather-man, (informal) man who reports

and forecasts the weather (on radio and TV).

'weather-proof *adj* able to stand exposure to all types of weather.

'weather-ship, one at sea to make observations of the weather.

'weather-station, building where the weather is observed.

'weather-vane, = vane(1).

weather² /'wɛðə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** (literally and fig) come through successfully: ~ a storm/crisis. **2** sail to the windward of: ~ a cape. **3** expose to the weather: ~ wood, leave it in the open air until it is properly shrunk and ready for use. **4** (cause to) discolour, become worn, by the weather: rocks ~ed by wind and rain.

weave /wi:v/ *vt, vi* (*pt* wove /wəʊv/, *pp* woven /'wəʊvən/) **1** make (by hand or by machine) (threads) into cloth, etc; make (cloth, etc) from threads: ~ cotton thread into cloth. **2** make (garlands, baskets, etc) by a similar process: ~ flowers into a wreath; ~ a garland of flowers. **3** (fig) put together, compose (a story, romance, etc): ~ a plot. **get weaving (on sth)**, (*sl*) make an energetic start (on a task, etc). **4** twist and turn: The driver was weaving (his way) through the traffic. □ *n* [C] style of weaving: a loose/tight ~.

weaver, person who weaves cloth.

web /web/ *n* [C] **1** something made of threads by a spider or other spinning creature: spider's ~. ⇨ **cobweb**. **2** (usually fig): a ~ of (= many) lies. **3** skin joining the toes of some waterbirds, eg ducks, and some water-animals, eg frogs. Hence, **web-footed** *adj*.

web-bed *adj* having the toes joined by webs.

wed /wed/ *vt, vi* (*pt* ~ed, *pp* ~ed or rare wed) **1** marry. **2** unite: simplicity ~ed to beauty. **wedded to**, devoted to; unable to give up: He is ~ed to his own opinions and nothing can change him.

we'd /wi:d/ *we had; we would*.

wed-ding /'wedɪŋ/ *n* [C] marriage ceremony (and festivities connected with it): attend/invite one's friends to a ~; the ~ dress.

'wedding breakfast, meal for the bride and bridegroom, their relatives, friends, etc between the wedding ceremony and departure for the honeymoon.

'wedding-ring, ring placed on the bride's or groom's finger at a wedding.

wedge /wedʒ/ *n* [C] **1** V-shaped piece of wood or metal, used to split wood or rock (by being hammered), to widen an opening, or to keep two things separate. **the thin end of the wedge**, (fig) a small change or demand likely to lead to big changes or demands. **2** something shaped like or used like a wedge: ~ heels (on shoes). □ *vt* fix tightly (as) with a wedge: ~ a door open, by placing a wedge under it; be tightly ~ed between two fat women on the bus.

wed-lock /'wedlək/ *n* [U] condition of being

married: born out of ~, illegitimate.

Wed-nes-day /'wenzdi/ *n* fourth day of the week.

wee¹ /wi:/ *adj* very small: I'll have a ~ drop of brandy in my coffee.

wee², **wee-wee** /('wi:) wi:/ *n* [U] (used by and to small children) urine. □ *vi* urinate.

weed /wid/ *n* [C] **1** wild plant growing where it is not wanted (eg in a garden). **2** (fig) thin, tall, weak-looking person. □ *vt, vi* **1** take weeds out of (the ground): ~ the garden. **2** remove, get rid of (what is unwanted, or of lower value than the rest): ~ out the lazy students.

weedy *adj* (-ier, -iest) **(a)** full of, overgrown with, weeds. **(b)** tall, thin, weak: a ~y young man.

weeds /widz/ *n pl* (also 'widow's ~) black clothes as (formerly) worn by a widow for mourning.

week /wi:k/ *n* [C] **1** any period of seven days; (esp) seven days from Saturday midnight to Saturday midnight: this/last/next ~; this day ~, one week forward from today; this Monday ~, one week from Monday next; for the last/next six ~s; a six ~s' holiday; tomorrow ~, eight days from today; yesterday ~, eight days ago; the working ~, (usually) Monday to Friday or Saturday. **week in, week out**, for weeks in succession. **2** the working days of the week.

'week-day, any day except Sunday: I'm always busy on ~days.

'week-end *n* [C] Saturday and Sunday (as a period of rest or holiday): spend the ~end with friends; (as an adjective) a ~end holiday. □ *vi* spend a weekend: I'm ~ending at Brighton.

week-ly *adj, adv* (happening) once a week, every week; of, for or lasting a week: a ~ly wage of £80; ~ly visits. □ *n* [C] (*pl* -ies) periodical published once a week.

weep /wi:p/ *vi, vt* (*pt, pp* wept /wept/) cry; let tears fall from the eyes: ~ for joy. She wept to see him so ill. She wept over her sad fate. She wept bitter tears.

weep-ing *adj* (of trees, eg the birch and willow) having drooping branches.

wee-vil /'wi:vl/ *n* [C] small beetle with a hard shell, feeding on stores of grain, nuts and other seeds.

weft /weft/ *n* [C] cross-threads taken over and under the warp in weaving.

weigh /wei/ *vt, vi* **1** measure (by means of a scale, balance, etc) how heavy something is: He ~ed himself on the scales. **weigh sth out**, distribute in defined quantities; take a definite quantity of: She ~ed out flour, sugar and butter for a cake. **weigh in (with)**, produce (arguments, facts, etc) triumphantly; bring (them) to bear on a discussion. **2** show a certain measure when put on a scale, etc: ~ 10 kilos/a ton/nothing. **3** (of a machine, etc) be capable of taking, designed to take, objects up

to a specified weight: *This machine will ~ up to 10 kilos.* **4** compare the importance, value, etc of (one thing and another): *~ one plan against another.* **weigh sth (up),** consider carefully, assess: *~ (up) the consequences of an action.* **5 weigh anchor,** raise the anchor and start a voyage.

6 (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

weigh sth down, pull or bring down: *The fruit ~ed the branches down.* **weigh sb down,** make tired, depressed, troubled, etc: *~ed down with sorrow/cares/anxieties.*

weigh on sb/sth, cause concern, anxiety (because of importance, seriousness): *The problem/responsibility ~s heavily on him/his mind.*

weigh with, influence: *evidence that did not ~ with the judges.*

'weigh-ing-machine, machine for weighing objects that are too large for a simple balance or scale.

weight /weɪt/ *n* **1** [U] force with which a body tends towards the centre of the earth. **2** [U] how heavy a thing is; this expressed in some scale (eg tons, kilogrammes) as measured on a scale, weighing-machine, etc: *That man is twice my ~. My ~ is 70 kilos.*

over/under weight, weighing too much/too little. **pull one's weight,** ⇨ pull² (2).

put on weight, (of a person) become heavier. **throw one's weight about,** (informal)

be conceited; try to bully people. **3** (not *pl*, but with *a, an* or *the*) load to be supported: *The pillars have a great ~ to bear/have to support the ~ of the roof. That's a great ~ (= problem) off my mind.* **4** [U] (degree of) importance or influence: *opinions that carry ~; considerations that had great ~ with me.* **5** [C] piece of metal of known weight used in scales for weighing things: *an ounce/100 grammes ~.* **6** [C] heavy object for various purposes: *keep papers down with a 'paper-~.* **7** [U] system of units, scale or notation, for expressing weight: *troy/metric ~.* ⇨ *vt* **1** put a weight (5) on; add weight to; make heavy: *~ a pendulum in a clock.* **2** (fig) give advantage: *Circumstances are ~ed in his favour.* **3 weight sb down,** burden with: *He was ~ed down with suitcases.*

'weight-lifting, gymnastic feat of lifting great weights.

weight-less *adj* having no weight, eg because of absence of gravity.

weighty *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) very heavy. (b) (fig) influential; important: *~y considerations/arguments.*

weir /wɪə(r)/ *n* [C] wall or barrier across a river or canal to control the flow of water or as a trap for catching fish.

weird /wɪəd/ *adj* **1** unnatural: *~ shrieks from the ruined castle.* **2** (informal) strange; difficult to understand or explain: *Have you seen the ~*

makeup some punks use.

weird-ly *adv*

weird-ness *n* [U]

wel-come /'welkəm/ *adj* **1** received with, giving, pleasure: *a ~ visitor/rest; ~ news; make a friend ~, show him that his coming is welcome.* **2 welcome to,** (a) allowed with pleasure to: *You are ~ to borrow my bicycle.* (b) (ironic) allowed to have something burdensome or unwanted: *If anyone thinks he can do this job any better, he's ~ to it/~ to try!* **3** (used as an interjection): *W~ home! W~ to England!* ⇨ *n* [C] greeting, response by word or action, when somebody arrives, when an offer is received, etc: *They gave us/We received a warm/cold/enthusiastic ~.* ⇨ *outstay.* ⇨ *vt* show pleasure or satisfaction at something, at the arrival of a person or thing: *~ a friend to one's home; ~ a suggestion warmly/coldly.*

weld /weld/ *vt, vi* **1** join (pieces of metal) by hammering or pressure (usually when the metal is softened by heat) or fusing; make by doing this: *~ the pieces of a broken axle; ~ parts together.* **2** (of iron, etc) be capable of being welded: *Some metals ~ better than others.* ⇨ *n* [C] welded joint.

wel-der, workman who welds.

wel-fare /'welfeə(r)/ *n* [U] condition of having good health, comfortable living and working conditions, etc: *work for the ~ of the nation; child/infant/social ~; ~ work, organized efforts to improve the welfare of those who need help.*

the 'Welfare 'State, name applied to a country with State-financed social services, eg health, insurance, pensions.

well' /wel/ *n* [C] **1** shaft, usually lined with brick or stone, for obtaining water from an underground source: *drive/sink a ~.* **2** hole bored for mineral oil: *the 'oil-~s of Iran.* **3** space in a building for a staircase or lift: *a 'stair ~.* ⇨ *vi* flow, like water from a well: *The blood was ~ing out (from the wound).* **well over,** overflow. **well up (in),** rise, like water in a well: *Tears ~ed up in her eyes.*

'well-water, water from a well.

well' /wel/ *adj* (better, best) **1** in good health: *be/look/feel/get ~. I'm quite ~, thank you.* **2** in a satisfactory condition: *All's ~ that ends ~.* **It's all very well...** (used ironically to show discontent, dissatisfaction, disagreement, etc): *It's all very ~ (for you) to suggest a holiday in Italy, but how am I to find the money?* **3** advisable; desirable: *It would be ~ to start early.*

well' /wel/ (better, best) *adv* **1** in a good, right or satisfactory manner: *The children behaved ~. They are ~behaved children. W~ done! I hope everything is going ~ (= satisfactorily) with you. Does this colour go ~ with that colour?* **do well,** succeed; make progress; prosper: *Simon has done ~ at school this term.*

be doing well, (in the progressive tense only) making a good recovery (from an operation, etc): *Both mother and baby are doing ~.*
do well out of, make a profit from. **2** with praise or approval: *think/speak ~ of a person.*
3 fortunately. **be well out of sth**, be fortunate to be out of an undertaking, commitment, etc. **well 'off**, rich; fortunate: *He doesn't know when he is ~ off*, does not realize how fortunate he is. **come off well**, (a) (of a person) have good fortune; be lucky. (b) (of an event) have a satisfactory outcome. **4** with good reason, justice; fairly; advisably: *You may ~ be surprised. I couldn't very ~ refuse to help them.* It would have been difficult, unreasonable, etc to have done so. *It may ~ be that...* It is likely or possible that... **5 may as well**, ⇨ **may (4)**. **be just as well**, with no loss of advantage, no need for regret: *It's just as ~ I didn't lend him the money.* **6** (end position) thoroughly; completely: *Examine the account ~ before you pay it.* **7** to a considerable extent: *His name is ~ up in the list*, near the top. *He must be ~ past forty/~ over forty years old.* **well away**, (a) making good progress: *We're ~ away*, have made a good start. (b) (informal) on the way to being drunk. **8 as well (as)**, in addition (to): *He gave me money as ~ as advice. Give me those as ~.* = those too. **9** (used with another adv) **pretty well**, ⇨ **pretty adv**.

well¹ /wel/ int **1** (expressing astonishment): *W~, who would have thought he'd do that?* *W~, ~!* **2** (expressing relief): *W~, here we are at last!* **3** (expressing resignation): *W~, there's nothing we can do about it.* **4** (expressing understanding or agreement): *Very ~, then, we'll talk it over again tomorrow.* **5** (expressing concession): *W~, you may be right.* **6** (used to resume a story, etc): *W~, as I was saying...*

well² /wel/ n [U] that which is good: *wish him ~*, wish him good fortune, success, etc. **let well alone**, not change what is already satisfactory.

well- /wel-/ prefix (~ + pp = adjective) fortunately, properly, thoroughly.

well-ad'vised adj wise: *You'd be ~-advised to apologize.*

well-'balanced adj sane, sensible.

well-be'haved adj behaving well.

'well-being, welfare; health, happiness and prosperity: *the ~-being of the nation.*

well-'born adj of a family with good social position.

well-'bred adj of good upbringing.

well-con'ducted adj characterized by good organization and control: *a ~-conducted 'meeting.*

well-con'ected adj connected by blood or marriage with families of good social position or to rich or influential people.

well-'earned adj fully deserved: *~earned*

'praise; a ~earned 'rest.

well-'founded adj based on good evidence, having a foundation in fact: *~founded sus'pitions.*

well-'grounded adj (a) = well-founded. (b) having a good training in or knowledge of the groundwork of a subject.

well-'heeled adj (sl) rich.

well-in'formed adj (a) having wide knowledge. (b) having access to reliable information: *in ~-informed 'quarters.*

well-in'tentioned adj showing good intentions.

well-'known adj known by many.

well-'marked adj definite; distinct.

well-'meaning adj = well-intentioned.

well-'meant adj done, said, etc with good intentions.

'well-nigh adv almost: *~nigh im'possible.*

well-'read adj having a mind full of ideas, information, as the result of reading much.

well-'spoken adj (a) speaking well, politely. (b) spoken well.

well-'thought-of adj having a good reputation.

well-'timed adj done, said, at the right or a suitable time.

well-to-'do adj wealthy; from a high social class.

well-'tried adj (of methods, remedies) tested and proved useful.

well-'turned adj (of a compliment, phrase, verse) expressed well.

'well-wisher, person who wishes (a person) good luck.

well-'worn adj (a) much used. (b) (fig) used, heard, often (and so dull).

we'll /wi:l/ = we shall; we will.

wel-ling-ton /'welɪŋtən/ n [C] (also a pair of ~s; a ~ 'boot) waterproof boot reaching to the knee.

wel-ter /'welte(r)/ vi be soaked or steeped (in blood, etc). □ n [C] general confusion; disorderly mixture or aimless conflict: *the ~ of political beliefs.*

wel-ter-weight /'welte weɪt/ n [C] boxer weighing between 135 and 147 lbs (61 to 66·6 kg).

went /went/ pt of go¹.

wept /wept/ pt, pp of weep.

were /wɜ:(r)/ pt of be¹.

we're /wɜ:(r)/ = we are.

weren't /wɜ:nt/ = were not.

were-wolf /'wɪəwʊlf/ n [C] (pl -wolves /-wʊlvz/) (in myths) human being turned into a wolf.

west /west/ n **1** the ~, point of the horizon where the sun sets. **2** [U] that part of the world, of a country, etc in this direction: *Bristol is in the ~ of England.* **3** (as an adjective): *the ~ wind*, blowing from the west; towards, at in the direction of the west: *On the ~ coast.* □

adv towards the west: *to travel* face ~. **go west**, die; become destroyed. **west of**, farther west than.

the West, (a) Europe and the continent of America (contrasted with Asia). (b) (world politics) Western Europe and America (contrasted with the socialist countries). (c) western part of a country.

the 'west country, part of England west of the Isle of Wight.

the 'West 'End, part of London with the largest and most fashionable shops, theatres, etc: (as an adjective) ~-end theatres.

westward /'westwəd/ *adj* towards the west: *in a ~ direction*.

westward(s) /-wəd(z)/ *adv*: *travel ~(s)*.

west-er-ly /'westəli/ *adj, adv* in a western position or direction; (of the wind) coming from the west.

west-ern /'westən/ *adj* of, from, living in, the west part of the world. □ *n* [C] film or novel dealing with life in the western part of the US in the times of the wars with the Red Indians, or one with cowboys, etc.

Western time, one of 4 standard time zones in the US.

the 'Western 'Hemisphere, ⇨ hemisphere.

west-erner, native of the West, esp of the west US.

west-ern-ize (also -ise) /-aɪz/ *vt* introduce western civilization into.

'west-ern-most /-məʊst/ *adj* farthest west.

wet /wet/ *adj* (-ter, -test) **1** covered or soaked with water or other liquid: ~ clothes/roads. *Did you get ~, eg in the rain?* **'wet 'through**, soaked: *Your coat is ~ through*. **2** rainy: ~ weather. **3** (sl) (of a person) without courage, strong personality, etc. □ *n* **1** the ~, rain: *Come in out of the ~*. **2** [U] moisture. □ *vt* (pt, pp ~ or ~ted) (-tt-) make wet: *The baby has ~ its bed again*. **wet one's whistle**, ⇨ whistle, *n* (2).

'wet 'blanket, (informal) person who prevents others from enjoying themselves by being gloomy or bad-tempered.

we've /wi:v/ = *we have*.

whack /wæk/ *US*: *hwæk* *vt* hit (a person or thing) with a hard blow, object. □ *n* [C] **1** (sound of a) hard blow. **2** (sl) share: *Have you all had a fair ~?*

whacked *adj* (informal) (of a person) worn out; tired.

whack-ing *n* [C] beating: *give a child a ~ing*. □ *adj* (informal) big of its kind: *a ~ing lie*. □ *adv* very: *a ~ing great lie*.

whale /weɪl/ *US*: *hweɪl* *n* [C] **1** kinds of very large sea-animal some of which are hunted for their oil and flesh. **2 have a whale of a (good) time**, a very enjoyable time. □ *vi* hunt whales: *go whaling*.

whaler /'weɪlə(r)/ *US*: 'hw-/ ,man, ship, en-

gaged in whaling.

wharf /wɔ:f/ *US*: *hwɔ:rɪf* *n* [C] (pl ~s or wharves /wɔ:vz/) wooden or stone structure at which ships are moored for (un)loading cargo.

what /wɒt/ *US*: *hwɒt* *adj* **1** asking for a selection from an indefinite number or amount: *W~ books have you read on this subject? Tell me ~ books you have read recently*. *W~ time is it?* **2** (used in exclamations): *W~ a good idea!* **3** the... that; any... that; as much/many... as: *Give me ~ books* (= the books, any books, that) *you have on the subject*. *W~ few friends* (= The few friends that) *I have here have been very kind to me*. □ *pron* **1** what thing(s): *W~ happened? Tell me ~ happened*. **what for**, for what purpose: *W~ is this tool used for? W~ did you do that for? Why did you do that?* **what... like**, (used to ask for a description, for details, etc): *W~'s the weather like this morning? what if*, what will, would, be the result if: *W~ if it rains while we are out?* **what about/of**, (a) what news is there about... (b) ⇨ about²(4), of(10). **2** that which; the thing(s) which: *W~ he says is not important*. *Do ~ you think is right*. *It's a useful book and, ~ is more* (= also), *not an expensive one*.

what-e'er /wɒt'eə(r)/ *US*: *hw-/* (poetic) = whatever.

what-ever /wɒt'evə(r)/ *US*: *hw-/* *adj* **1** (emphatic for what) of any sort, degree, etc: *W~ nonsense the newspapers print, some people always believe it*. **2** (placed after a noun in a negative context, giving emphasis to the negative): *There can be no doubt ~ about it*. □ *pron* **1** no matter what: *You are certainly right, ~ others may say*. *Keep calm, ~ happens*. **2** anything or everything that: *Do ~ you like*.

what-so-e'er /wɒtsəu'eə(r)/ *US*: 'hw-/ (poetic) = whatsoever.

what-so-ever /wɒtsəu'evə(r)/ *US*: 'hw-/ = whatever, *adj*.

wheat /wi:t/ *US*: *hw-/* *n* [U] (plant producing grain from which flour (as used for bread) is made: *a field of ~*.

wheedle /'wi:dl/ *US*: 'hw-/ *vt* be pleasant to a person, flatter, to get something one wants: *She ~d a pound out of her father/~d her father into buying her a bicycle*.

wheel /wi:l/ *US*: *hwi:l* *n* [C] **1** circular frame or disc which turns on an axle (as on carts, cars, bicycles, etc and machines). **put one's shoulder to the wheel**, work hard when doing something. **2** [C] motion like that of a wheel, esp of a line of soldiers: *a right/left ~*. □ *vt, vi* **1** push or pull (a vehicle with wheels): ~ a bike up a hill; ~ a barrow; ~ the rubbish out to the dump. **2** (cause to) turn in a curve or circle: *The seagulls were ~ing in the air above me*.

'wheel-barrow, small cart with one wheel and two handles for moving small loads.

'wheel-base, distance between the axles of a

motor-vehicle.

'wheel-chair, chair with large wheels for the use of invalids.

'wheel-wright, person who makes and repairs wheels.

wheeze /wi:z US: hwiz/ vi, vt **1** breathe noisily, esp with a whistling sound in the chest (as when suffering from asthma). **2** say with such sounds: *The asthmatic man ~d out a few words.* □ n [C] sound of wheezing.

wheezy adj (-ier, -iest) breathing, speaking, with wheezes.

whelk /welk US: hwelk/ n [C] kinds of sea-animal (like a snail) with a spiral shell, some used as food.

when /wen US: hwen/ adv **1** at what time; on what occasion: *W~ can you come? W~ did that happen? I don't know ~ that happened.* **2** (used after a preposition) what time: *Since ~ has he been missing?* □ adv (with day, time, etc) at or on which: *Sunday is the day ~ I am least busy. There are times ~ I could scream with rage.* □ conj **1** at or during the time that: *It was raining ~ we arrived. W~ he spoke everyone listened.* **2** although: *He walks ~ he could take a taxi.* **3** since; considering that: *How can I help them to understand ~ they won't listen to me?* **4** at or during which time: *The President will visit the town in May, ~ he will open the new hospital.*

whence /wens US: hwens/ adv (old use) **1** (in questions) from what place or cause: *Do you know ~ she came?* **2** (in statements) from which place: *the land ~ they are come.* **3** to the place from which: *Return ~ you came.*

when-ever /wen'evə(r) US: hw-/ adv **1** at whatever time; no matter when: *I'll discuss it with you ~ you like.* **2** on any occasion; as often as; every time that: *W~ that man says 'To tell the truth', he's about to tell a lie.* **3** or **whenever**, (informal) or at any time: *He'll arrive on Monday, or Friday, or ~, and expect to be given a meal.*

where /weə(r) US: hwəə(r)/ adv **1** in or to what place or position; in what direction; in what respect: *W~ does he live? I wonder ~ he lives.* **2** (used with a preposition following the verb) what place: *W~ does he come from? W~ are you going to?* □ adv **1** (with place, etc) in or at which: *That's the place/corner ~ the accident occurred.* **2** in, at or to the place in which; in the direction in which: *I found my books ~ I had left them. That's ~ (ie the point in respect of which) you are mistaken.*

where-a-bouts adv in or near what place: *W~abouts did you find it?* □ n ('abouts) (used with a sing or pl verb) place where a person or thing is: *Her present ~abouts is/are unknown.*

where-as conj (a) (esp legal) considering that. (b) but in contrast; while on the other hand: *Some people like fat meat, ~as others hate it.*

where-by adv by what; by which: *He devised a plan ~by he might escape.*

where-fore conj (formal) for which reason; why. □ n (pl): *the whys and the ~fores*, the reasons.

where-in adv (formal) in what; in which; in what respect: *W~in am I mistaken?*

where-so-ever /'weərsəu'evə(r), US: 'hw-/ (old use) (emphatic for) wherever.

wher-ever /'weə'evə(r) US: 'hw-/ adv in, to, at, whatever place; at those places: *Sit ~ you like. W~ you go, I'll follow you.*

where-withal /'weərwɪðəl (US): 'hw-/ adv (old use) with which. □ n **the ~**, (informal) money needed for a purpose: *I'd like to buy a car but haven't got the ~.*

whet /wet US: hwet/ vt (-tt-) **1** sharpen (a knife, axe, etc). **2** (fig) sharpen or excite (the appetite, a desire).

'whet-stone, shaped stone used for sharpening tools, eg scythes.

whether /'weðə(r) US: 'hw-/ conj (introducing an indirect question expressing doubt or choice; often replaced by *if* in informal style): *I wonder ~if it's large enough (or not). I wonder ~ we'll be in time for the last bus or ~ we'll have to walk home. I don't know ~ to accept or refuse. It's doubtful ~ we shall be able to come. The question was ~ to wait for the bus or (~) to walk. I am not interested in ~ you like the plan or not.*

whew /hwu:/ int cry used (often in joke) to express surprise, tiredness, etc.

which /wɪtʃ US: hwɪtʃ/ adj (asking for selection from two, or from a group, esp from possibilities thought of as limited in number): **1** *W~ way shall we go—up the hill or along the river? W~ languages can you speak?* **2** and this; and these: *Don't call between 1 o'clock and 2 o'clock, at ~ time I'm usually having lunch.* □ pron which thing(s), person(s): *W~ of the boys is the tallest? I never know ~ is ~, I cannot distinguish one from the other.* □ pron (of things only, not of persons) **1** (in defining or restrictive clauses which is often replaced by *that*) (a) (with *which* as the subject of the verb in the clause): *Take the book ~ is lying on that table.* (b) (with *which* as the object of the verb in the clause): *Was the book (~/that) you were reading a novel?* (c) (with *which* as the object of a preposition; replaceable by *that*): *The photographs at ~ you were looking/The photographs (that) you were looking at were all taken by my brother.* **2** (in non-defining or non-restrictive clauses which is not replaceable by *that*) (a) (with *which* as the subject of the clause): *The meeting, ~ was held in the park, was attended by five hundred people.* (b) (with *which* as the object of the verb in the clause): *This desk, ~ I bought second-hand, is made of oak.* (c) (with *which* as the object of a preposition): *His car, for ~ he paid £800, is very unreliable.*

able. (d) (referring to a clause or sentence, not to a noun): *He said he had lost the book, ~ (= but this) was untrue.*

which-ever /wɪtʃ'levə(r) US: hw-/ *adj, pron*
1 the one which: *Take ~ you like best. W~ (of you) comes in first will receive a prize.* **2** no matter which: *Does British foreign policy remain the same, ~ party is in power?*

whiff /wɪf US: 'hwɪf/ *n* [C] slight puff or breath (of): *a ~ of fresh air; the ~ (= smell) of a cigar.* □ *vt, vi* **1** blow or puff lightly. **2** get a slight smell of.

while /waɪl US: hwaɪl/ *n* [C] (period of) time: *Where have you been all this ~? I haven't seen him for a long ~. (every) once in a while,* occasionally. **worth (one's) while,** worth the time spent in doing it, etc: *It isn't worth ~ going there now. He will make it worth your ~, ie will reward you.* □ *vt* (only in) **while away,** pass the time in a leisurely way: *whiling away the time.* □ *conj* **1** during the time that; for as long as; at the same time as: *He fell asleep ~ (he was) reading his book.* **2** (used in contrasts) but: *Jane was dressed in brown ~ Mary was wearing blue.* **3** although: *W~ I admit that the problems are difficult, I don't agree that they cannot be solved.*

whilst /waɪlst US: hwaɪlst/ *conj* = while (which is more usual).

whim /wɪm US: hwɪm/ *n* [C] sudden desire or idea, often something unusual or unreasonable: *full of ~s.*

whim-per /'wɪmpə(r) US: 'hw-/ *vi, vt* **1** make weak, frightened or complaining sounds, eg like a baby when ill, a dog when frightened or hurt. **2** say, cry in this voice. □ *n* [C] sobbing sound.

whim-si-cal /'wɪmzɪkl US: 'hw-/ *adj* (formal) odd; playful: *be in a ~ mood.*

whim-si-cally /-klɪ/ *adv*

whine /waɪn US: hwaɪn/ *n* [C] long complaining cry or high-pitched sound (eg as made by a miserable dog, a child, a motor-engine). □ *vi, vt* **1** make such cries: *The dog was whining to come into the room.* **2** complain, esp about trivial things: *a child that never stops whining.*

whinny /'wɪni US: 'hw-/ *n* [C] (pl -ies) gentle cry of a horse. □ *vi* (pt, pp -ied) make such a sound.

whip¹ /wɪp US: hwɪp/ *n* [C] **1** strip (of cord, leather, etc) fastened to a handle, used for urging a horse on, or for punishing. **2** organizing secretary of a political party (in GB and US) with authority over its members to maintain discipline and secure attendance at parliamentary debates and divisions(6); order given by such a secretary to members of his party to attend a debate and vote. **a three-line whip,** urgent order of this kind, with three underlines. **3** dish of eggs, cream, etc beaten or whipped(2): *strawberry ~.*

whip² /wɪp US: hwɪp/ *vt, vi* (-pp-) **1** beat with a whip: *~ a horse/a child.* **2** beat (eggs, cream, etc) with a fork or other utensil to mix thoroughly or to make stiff: *~ped cream.* **3** (informal) defeat (in a competition). **4** take, be taken, move, be moved, suddenly: *He ~ped out a knife.*

whip-ping, beating with a whip as a punishment.

'whip-ping-boy, person (being) punished for another's offence.

whir /wɜ:(r) US: hw-/ = whirr.

whirl /wɜ:l US: hwɜ:l/ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) move quickly round and round: *The wind ~ed the dead leaves about.* **2** (cause to) move or travel quickly (off, away, etc): *Our friends were ~ed away in Jack's sports-car.* **3** (of the brain, the senses) seem to go round and round; (of thoughts) be confused: *His head ~ed.* □ *n* (sing only) **1** whirling movement: *a ~ of dust/of dead leaves.* **2** quick succession of activities, etc: *the ~ of modern life in a big city.*

'whirl-pool, place where there are circular currents in the sea, etc (drawing floating objects towards its centre).

'whirl-wind, swift circling current of air.

whirr /wɜ:(r) US: hwar/ *n* (sing only) sound (as) of a bird's wings moving quickly, or of wheels, etc turning fast: *the ~ of a helicopter's propellers.* □ *vi* (-tr-) make such sounds.

whisk /wɪsk US: hw-/ *n* [C] **1** device (eg coiled wire) for whipping eggs, cream, etc. **2** light brushing movement (eg of a horse's tail). □ *vt, vi* **1** **whisk sb/sth off/away,** brush quickly and lightly: *~ the flies off.* **2** move with a whisk(2): *The cow ~ed her tail.* **3** take (a person) quickly and suddenly: *They ~ed him off to prison.* **4** = whip(2): ~ eggs.

whisker /'wɪskə(r) US: 'hw-/ *n* **1** (pl) hair allowed to grow on the sides of a man's face. **2** one of the long, stiff hairs growing near the mouth of a cat, rat, etc.

whis-key /'wɪskɪ US: 'hw-/ *n* [C, U] (pl ~s) US and Irish spelling of whisky.

whisky /'wɪskɪ US: 'hw-/ *n* [C, U] (pl -ies) (portion of) strong alcoholic drink distilled from malted grain (esp barley or rye).

whis-per /'wɪspə(r) US: 'hw-/ *vi, vt* **1** speak, say (something), using the breath but no sound from the vocal cords: *~ (a word) to a person.* **2** tell privately or secretly: *It is ~ed that he is heavily in debt.* **3** (of leaves, the wind, etc) make soft sounds: *The wind was ~ing in the trees.* □ *n* [C] **1** whispering sound or speech: *He answered in a ~.* **2** whispered remark: *There are ~s that the firm is going bankrupt.*

whistle /'wɪsl US: 'hw-/ *n* [C] **1** (usually long) tuneful note made by forcing air or steam through a small opening (eg of the lips) or made by the wind; tuneful sound made by some kinds of bird (eg the blackbird): *We heard the ~ of a steam-engine.* **2** instrument

for producing such sounds: *the referee's ~ (in a football game)*. **wet one's whistle**, (informal) have a drink. □ *vi*, **vt** **1** make a whistle(1) (eg by blowing through rounded lips or by using a whistle(2): *whistling at the girls*). ⇨ **wolf-whistle**. **whistle for sth**, wish for it but not get it: *I owe him £10, but he can ~ for it*. **2** produce a tune in this way: *~ a tune*. **3** make a signal (to) by this means: *He ~d his dog back*. **4** pass swiftly with a whistling sound: *The bullets ~d past our ears*.

Whit /wit/ US: hwit/ *n* = Whitsun.

white¹ /waɪt/ US: hwait/ *adj* (-r, -st) of the colour of fresh snow or common salt: *as ~ as a sheet*, very white. *His hair has turned ~*. *Her face went ~*, pale.

'white ant, termite.

'white-bait, small young fish eaten fried.

'white-collar *adj* non-manual: *~collar jobs/workers*. ⇨ **blue-collar**.

'white coffee, with milk added.

'white elephant, useless, troublesome possession.

'white heat, temperature at which metals become white.

the 'White House, the official residence of the President of the US, Washington, DC.

'white lie, small lie considered to be harmless.

'white man, member of one of the races inhabiting, or from, Europe.

'white meat, poultry, veal, pork.

'white-wash, (a) mixture of powdered lime or chalk and water, used for coating walls, ceilings, etc. (b) (fig) means used to cover or hide errors, faults, etc. □ *vt* (a) put whitewash on (a wall, etc). (b) (fig) try to make (a person, his reputation, etc) appear blameless by covering up his faults, etc.

white² /waɪt/ US: hwait/ *n* **1** [U] white colour: *dressed in ~*. **2** [C, U] colourless part, eg round the yolk of an egg or the white part of the eyeball.

white-ness *n* [U]

Whit-sun /'hwɪtsn/ US: 'hw- / *n* [C] (also **'Whit Sunday**) 7th Sunday after Easter, the feast of the Pentecost.

whittle /'hwɪtl/ US: 'hw- / *vi*, *vi* **whittle sth away/down**, (a) reduce the size of by cutting away slices, etc. (b) (fig) reduce gradually: *Our membership is being slowly ~d away/down*.

whiz /wɪz/ US: hwɪz/ *vi* (-zz-), *n* [U] (make the) sound of something rushing through the air: *The bullets ~ed past*.

whizz-kid /'wɪz kɪd/ *n* [C] (sf) bright, inventive young person with progressive ideas who achieves rapid success.

who /hu:/ *pron* (used as the subject, and only of persons; object form = **whom** /hu:m/) **1** *W~ is that man/are those men?* **2** (replaceable by *whom* formal style): *W~ did you give it to?*

W~(m) did you see? □ *pron* **1** (used in defining or restrictive clauses; *that*, sometimes replaces *who*): *This is the man who/These are the men who wanted to see you*. **2** (*Whom* is often replaced by *that* except after a preposition and it can often be omitted): *That is the man (~) I met in London last year. That's the man (that) we were speaking about. I know the man you mean*. **3** (used in non-defining clauses, not replaceable by *that*): *My wife, ~ has been abroad recently, hopes to see you soon*.

whoa /wəʊ/ US: hwəʊ/ *int* (used to stop a horse).

who'd /hu:d/ = *who had*; *who would*.

who-ever /hu:'evə(r)/ *pron* any person who; the person who: *W~ says that is wrong*.

whole /həʊl/ *adj* **1** not injured or damaged; unbroken: *She swallowed the sweet ~*. *He ate the ~ loaf*, all of it. **2** entire; complete: *I waited for her a ~ half hour*. **3** (as an adjective; used with a *sing noun*, preceded by *the* or a *possessive*) all that there is of; complete: *I want to know the ~ truth about this matter*. *The ~ country* (= Everyone in the country) *was anxious for peace*. **4** (as an adjective; used with a *pl noun*) not less or fewer than; nothing less than: *It rained for three ~ days*. □ *n* (*sing* with *a*, *an* or *the*) thing that is complete in itself; all that there is of something: *Four quarters make a ~*. *He spent the ~ (of the) year in Pakistan*. **as a whole**, considered together. **on the whole**, having considered all the facts (and decided); for the most part: *On the ~ I agree with you*.

'whole-hearted(ly) *adj*, *adv* with complete attention, commitment, etc.

'whole-meal, flour with all the parts of the grain.

'whole number, undivided quantity; number without fractions.

wholly /'həʊlɪ/ *adv* completely; entirely: *I wholly agree with you*.

whole-sale /'həʊlseɪl/ *n* [U] (usually as an adjective) selling of goods (esp in large quantities) to shopkeepers, for sale to the public. □ *adj*, *adv* **1** on the wholesale plan: *Our business is ~ only*. **2** (fig) on a large scale: *There was a ~ slaughter when the police opened fire*.

'whole-saler, person who sells by wholesale.

whole-some /'həʊlsəm/ *adj* healthy; suggesting good health: *~ food/exercise*; *a ~ appearance*.

who'll /hu:l/ = *who shall*; *who will*.

whom /hu:m/ ⇨ *who*.

whoop /hu:p/ *n* [C] **1** loud cry: *~s of joy*. **2** gasping sound heard during a fit of coughing. □ *vi*, *vt* make a loud cry or yell: *to ~ with joy*.

'whoop-ing-cough, children's disease with gasping coughs and long, noisy indrawing of breath.

who're /'hu:ə(r)/ = *who are*.

whore /'hɔ:(r)/ *n* [C] prostitute.

whorl /wɔ:l/ US: hwɔ:l/ *n* [C] **1** ring of leaves,

petals, etc round a stem of a plant. **2** one turn of a spiral, eg as seen on the shell of a snail or on a fingerprint.

who's /hu:z/ = *who is; who has*.

whose /hu:z/ possessive pron (⇨ *who*, *which*) of whom; of which: *W~ house is that? I wonder ~ house that is. Is that the man ~ house was burnt down last week? Members of the Fire Service, ~ work is often dangerous, are paid less than the Police Force.*

who-so-ever /hu:səʊ'evə(r)/ pron (old use) = *whoever*.

who've /hu:v/ = *who have*.

why /waɪ US: hwaɪ/ adv for what reason; with what purpose: *W~ was he late? Do you know ~ he was late? That's (the reason) ~ I left.*

wick /wɪk/ n [C,U] **1** (length of) string through a candle. **2** (strip of) woven material by which oil is drawn up in some cigarette lighters, an oil-lamp, etc.

wicked /'wɪkɪd/ adj **1** (of a person, his acts) wrong; immoral: *It was ~ of you to hit the old woman.* **2** spiteful; intended to injure: *a ~ blow.* **3** mischievous: *She gave me a ~ look.*

wick-ed-ly adv

wick-ed-ness n [U]

wicker /'wɪkə(r)/ adj of twigs or canes woven together: *a ~ chair.*

wicket /'wɪkɪt/ n [C] (*cricket*) either of the two pairs of three sticks (*stumps*) (with cross-pieces called *bails*) at which the ball is bowled; area of grass between two wickets.

'wicket-keeper, player who stands behind the wicket to stop balls not struck by the batsman, to catch batsmen out, etc.

wide /waɪd/ adj (-r, -st) **1** measuring much from side to side or in comparison with length: *a ~ river; a road twelve metres ~.* **2** (fig) of great extent; comprehensive: *a man with ~ interests, interested in many subjects; a ~ selection of new books; in the ~st sense of the word.* **3** fully opened: *Open your mouth ~.* **4** far from what is aimed at or from a specific point: *Your answer was ~ of the mark.* ⇨ **mark**¹ (6). □ **adv** **1** far from the point aimed at: *The arrow fell ~ of the mark.* **2** fully: *He was ~ awake. The window was ~ open.* **3** over a large area: *travel far and ~.*

'wide-a'wake adj (fig) alert, watchful: *a ~ awake young woman, one who realizes what is going on, etc and is not easily deceived.*

'wide-spread adj (esp) found, distributed, over a large area.

wide-ly adv (a) at distant intervals: *~ly distributed.* (b) to a large extent or degree: *~ly different.* (c) over a large area; by many persons: *It is ~ly known that...*

widen /'waɪdn/ vt, vi make or become wide(r).

widow /'wɪdəʊ/ n [C] woman who has not married again after her husband's death.

wid-ower, man who has not married again after his wife's death.

'widow-hood /-hʊd/ n [U] state, time, of being a widow.

width /waɪθ/ n **1** [U] quality or state of being wide: *a road of great ~.* **2** [C] measurement from side to side: *a ~ of 10 metres; 10 metres in ~.* **3** [C] piece of material of a certain width: *silk of various ~s.*

wield /wɪld/ vt have and use: *~ an axe; ~ power.*

wife /waɪf/ n [C] (pl *wives* /waɪvz/) married woman, esp in relation to her husband: *Smith and his ~; the baker's ~.*

wife-ly adj of, like, suitable for, a wife: *~ly duties.*

wig /wɪg/ n [C] head-covering of false hair (as worn to hide baldness, and by actors, barristers and judges).

wiggle /'wɪɡl/ vt, vi (cause to) move with quick, short, side-to-side movements: *The baby was wiggling its toes. Stop wiggling your hips and sit down.* □ n [C] wiggling movement.

wig-gly adj wavy: *a wiggly line.*

wild /waɪld/ adj (-er, -est) **1** (of animals) not tamed or domesticated; living in natural conditions (eg lions, giraffes, wolves); (of plants) growing in natural conditions; not cultivated: *~ flowers/birds.* **2** (of persons, tribes, etc) uncivilized; savage. **3** (of scenery, areas of land, etc) not lived in and perhaps dangerous: *~, mountainous areas.* **4** stormy: *You'd better stay indoors on a ~ night like this.* **5** excited; passionate: *There were sounds of ~ laughter. He was ~ with anger.* **drive sb wild**, make him angry, mad. **6 be wild about sth/sb**, (informal) have a strong desire for; be madly enthusiastic about: *I'm still ~ about the Beatles.* **7** disorderly; out of control: *a state of ~ confusion; settle down after a ~ youth.* **run wild**, be without control or discipline: *They allow their children to run ~.* **8** done or said without thought or consideration: *a ~ guess.* □ **adv** in a wild manner: *shoot ~.*

'wild 'boar, wild pig with tusks.

'wild 'cat, (a) wild European cat. (b) (fig) uncontrolled, hot-tempered woman.

'wild-cat adj (of a strike) sudden and unofficial: *a ~cat 'strike.*

'wild-fire, (in) **spread like wild-fire**, (of rumours, etc) very fast.

'wild-fowl, game birds.

'wild-'goose-chase, hopeless, foolish search, etc.

'wild-life, wild animals, birds, insects, etc collectively.

'Wild 'West, western US during the period of early settlement.

the wilds, uncultivated (and often uninhabited) areas: *the ~s of Africa.*

wild-ly adv in a wild manner: *rush about ~ly; a ~ly (= greatly) exaggerated story.*

wild-ness n [U]

wilde-beest /'wɪldəbi:st/ n [C] = *gnu*.

wil-der-ness /'wɪldənɪs/ *n* [C] (rarely *pl*) **1** wild uncultivated land. **2** empty expanse: *a ~ of waters*.

wile /waɪl/ *n* [C] (usually *pl*) trick: *the ~s of the Devil*. □ *vt* (rare) **1** trick: *~ him away*. **2** (used for *while*): *wiling away the time*.

wil-ful (US also **will-**) /'wɪlfəl/ *adj* **1** (of a person) obstinate; determined to have one's own way: *a ~ child*. **2** intentional; for which compulsion, ignorance or accident is no excuse: *~ murder/negligence*.

wil-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

will¹ /wɪl/ *anomalous finite* (often shortened to 'll in speech; *negative will not* or **won't** /wɒnt/; *pt conditional would* /wəd strong form wʊd/ often shortened to 'd in speech; *negative would not* or **wouldn't** /'wʊdn't/) **1** (used to make the future tense): *If today is Monday, tomorrow ~ be Tuesday*. *You'll be in time if you hurry*. *I wonder whether it ~ be ready*. *I wondered whether it would be ready*. **2** (used with the first person (*I, we*) to express willingness, consent, an offer or a promise): *All right, I'll come*. *We won't do it again*. *We said we would help them*. **3** (used in questions, making requests, etc and often equivalent to *please*): *W~ you come in?* *Pass the salt, ~ you?* *Please pass the salt*. **4** (used to show insistence or inevitability; always stressed): *He ~ have his own way*, insists on this. *Accidents ~ happen*. *They are to be expected from time to time*. *That's just what you ~ would say*, what you might be expected to say. **5** (used in the negative to show refusal): *He won't/wouldn't help me*. **6** (used to show that something happens from time to time, that a person has the habit, that something is natural or to be expected): *He'll sit there hour after hour looking at the traffic go by*. **7** (used to show probability or likelihood): *This'll be the book you're looking for, I think*. **8** (*Would* is used with *I, we* to form conditional statements expressing the speaker's will or intention): *We would have come if it hadn't rained*.

will² /wɪl/ *vt* (*pt would*, no other forms used) (*old use*) **1** wish: *Let him do what he ~*. **2** (the subject *I* is often omitted) used to express wishes: *Would (that) it were otherwise!* **3** choose; desire: *the place where he would be*.

'would-be *adj* (used to show what is desired, aspired to, or intended): *would-be authors*.

will³ /wɪl/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp ~ed*) **1** make use of one's mental powers in an attempt to do or get something: *We cannot achieve success merely by ~ing it*. **2** use the will¹(1): *W~ing and wishing are not the same thing*. **3** intend unconditionally: *It's as if fate ~ed us to be happy*. **4** influence, control or compel, by exercising the will: *Can you ~ yourself to keep awake?* **5** leave (property, etc) (to a person) by means of a will⁴(6): *He ~ed most of his money to charities*.

will⁴ /wɪl/ *n* **1** the ~, mental power by which a person can direct his thoughts and actions, and influence those of others: *the freedom of the ~*. **2** [C] control exercised over oneself, one's desires, etc: *He has no ~ of his own*, is easily influenced by others. *He has a strong/weak ~*. **3** (*sing only*) determination; desire or purpose: *The ~ to live helps a patient to recover*. *of one's own free will*, without being required or compelled: *You did it of your own free ~*. **4** (*sing with a, an*) energy; enthusiasm: *work with a ~*. **5** [U] (used with a possessive) that which is desired or determined: *He has always had his ~ (or, informal, his own way)*. □ *ill-will*. **6** [C] (also *last ~ and testament*) statement of how a person's property is to be owned after death.

will-ful *adj* (US = *wilful*).

will-ing /'wɪlɪŋ/ *adj* **1** ready, agreeing, to help, to do what is needed, asked, etc: *~ workers*. **2** done, given, etc quickly, without hesitation: *~ obedience*.

will-ing-ly *adv*

will-ing-ness *n* [C]: *show ~ness to help*.

wil-low /'wɪləʊ/ *n* [C] kinds of tree or shrub with thin, easily bent branches; [U] twigs of this tree used for weaving into baskets; its wood, used for making cricket bats, etc.

wilt /wɪlt/ *vi, vt* **1** (of plants, flowers) (cause to) droop, lose freshness (through dryness). **2** (*fig*) (of persons) lose energy: *~ in the hot weather*.

wily /'waɪli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) cunning (the usual word).

win /wɪn/ *vi, vt* (*pt, pp won* /wʌn/) (-nn-) **1** get as the result of hard work, perseverance, struggle, competition, gambling, etc: *~ a race/a battle/a scholarship/second prize/fame and fortune*. **win hands down**, (*informal*) succeed easily. **2** persuade (a person) by argument; gain the favour of: *We won him over to our view*. **3** reach by effort: *~ the summit/the shore*. □ *n* [C] success in a game, competition, etc: *Our team has had five ~s this summer*.

win-ner, person, animal, thing, that wins.

win-ning *adj* (a) that wins: *the ~ing horse*. (b) producing confidence and friendship: *a ~ing smile*.

win-nings /'wɪnɪŋz/ *n pl* money won in betting, gambling, etc.

wince /wɪns/ *vt* show bodily or mental pain or distress (by a movement, sound or by loss of control): *He ~d at the insult*. □ *n* [C] wincing movement: *without a ~*.

winch /wɪntʃ/ *n* [C] machine for hoisting or pulling heavy objects. □ *vt* move by using a winch.

wind¹ /wɪnd/ *n* **1** [C,U] (often *sing* with *the*; with *much, little*, etc when the reference is to degree or force; with *a, an* or in *pl* when the reference is to the kind of wind) air in motion as the result of natural forces: *a north ~, blow-*

ing from the north. *The ~ blew my hat off.* **put the wind up sb.** (sl) cause him to feel frightened. **see/find out how the wind blows**, what people are thinking, what is likely to happen. **take the wind out of sb's sails**, (a) prevent him from doing or saying something by doing it or saying it before him. (b) take away his advantage suddenly. **2** (pl) the cardinal points: *The house stands on a hilltop, exposed to the four ~s.* **3** [U] breath needed for running or continuous exercise: *The runner soon lost his ~*, became out of breath. ⇨ **second wind.** **4** [U] scent carried by the wind (showing where something is). **get wind of**, (fig) hear a rumour of, begin to suspect. **5** [U] empty words; meaningless or useless talk: *Don't listen to the politicians—they're all ~.* **6** [U] gas formed in the bowels and causing discomfort: *The baby is suffering from ~.* **break wind**, expel wind from the bowels. **7** (sing with the) orchestral wind-instruments: *the 'wood~*, eg flutes, oboes.

'wind-bag, (informal) person who talks a lot but says nothing important.

'wind-break, hedge, fence, line of trees, etc to give protection from the wind.

'wind-cheater, jacket designed to give protection against the wind.

'wind-fall, (a) fruit (eg an apple) blown off a tree by the wind. (b) (fig) unexpected piece of good fortune, esp money coming to somebody.

'wind-instrument, musical instrument in which sound is produced by a current of air (eg an organ, a flute, a cornet).

'wind-mill, mill worked by the action of the wind on sails (2) which revolve.

'wind-pipe, passage for air from the throat to the lungs.

'wind-screen (US = **'wind-shield**), screen of glass in front of a motor-vehicle, etc.

'wind-screen-wiper, apparatus for wiping rain from a windscreen.

'wind-swept *adj* exposed to (and blown bare by) strong winds: *a ~swept hillside.*

'wind-tunnel, structure through which air is forced (at controlled speeds) to study its effects on (models of) aircraft, etc.

wind-less *adj* without wind: *a ~less day.*

wind-ward /-wəd/ *adj, adv* (side) in the direction from which the wind blows. □ *n* [U] wind-ward side.

windy *adj* (-ier, -iest) with a lot of wind: *a ~y day; ~y weather.*

wind-ily /-əli/ *adv*

windiness *n* [U]

wind² /wɪnd/ *vi* (from wind¹) (pt, pp ~ed /'wɪndɪd/) **1** know the presence of by smell: *The hounds ~ed the fox.* **2** exhaust the wind(3) of: *He was quite ~ed by the long climb/by running to catch the bus.*

wind³ /waɪnd/ *vi, vt* (pt, pp wound /waʊnd/) **1** go, (cause to) move, in a curving, spiral, or twisting manner: *The river ~s (its way) to the sea.* **2** twist (string, thread, etc) into a ball, or round or on to something: *~ (up) wool into a ball.* **3** fold or wrap closely (round): *~ a shawl round a baby. She wound her arms round the child.* **4** turn (a handle, eg of a winch); raise (something) by doing this: *~ a handle; ~ up a bucket from a well.* **5** tighten the spring of (a watch or clock), raise the weights that operate a clock: *If you forget to ~ (up) your watch it will stop.* **6 be wound up (to)**, be (emotionally) excited: *He was wound up to a high pitch of excitement.* ⇨ **unwind.** **7** come or bring to an end: *It's time for him to ~ up his speech. They wound up the evening by singing some folk-songs.* □ *n* [C] single turn in winding string, winding up a clock, etc.

wind-lass /'wɪndləs/ *n* [C] machine for pulling or lifting things (eg water from a well) by means of a rope or chain which is wound round an axle.

win-dow /'wɪndəʊ/ *n* [C] opening (usually covered with glass) in a wall or roof of a building, the side of a ship, carriage, car, etc to let in light and air: *look out of the ~; break a ~.*

'window-box, box fixed to a window-sill for plants.

'window-dresser, person whose profession is designing shop-window displays.

'window-dressing, (esp) (fig) giving a deliberately false or exaggerated image to hid the unpleasant truth.

'window-pane, pane of glass for or in a window.

'window-shopping, looking at goods displayed in shop-windows.

'window-sill, ⇨ *sill*.

windy /'wɪndi/ ⇨ *wind¹*.

wine /waɪn/ *n* **1** [U] alcoholic drink made from the fermented juice of grapes (and other fruit, vegetables): *a bottle/glass of ~.* **2** (pl) different kinds of wine: *French ~s.* □ *vt* (esp) **wine and dine sb**, entertain to a meal: *We were ~d and dined at the firm's expense.*

'wine-glass, glass for drinking wine.

wing /wɪŋ/ *n* [C] **1** either of the two organs of a bird by which it flies; one of the similar organs of an insect; one of the surfaces by which an aircraft is supported in the air. **clip a person's wings**, limit his movements, power, expenditure, etc. **take sb under one's wing**, take him under one's protection; give him care and guidance. **2** part of a building, etc which projects or is extended from one of its sides: *add a new ~ to a hospital.* **3** (GB) part of the body of a motor-vehicle covering the wheel (US = *fender*). **4** either of the flanks of an army or fleet; unit placed to guard a flank. **5** those members of a political party holding more extreme views than those of the major-

ity: *the left/right ~*. **6** (pl) unseen areas to the right and left of the stage of a theatre. **7** *on the wing*, in flight. **take wing**, start flying. **8** something like a wing in appearance or position, eg certain types of screw, seeds (esp of the maple and sycamore). **9** (also **winger**) (football, hockey) forward whose place is either side of the centre. □ *vt, vi* **1** fly: *The planes ~ed (their way) over the Alps*. **2** injure (a bird) in flight. **3** (informal) injure (a person) in the arm.

'wing-chair, one with angled extensions on a high back.

wing-collar, upright collar with corners turned down.

wing-commander, officer in the Royal Air Force.

'wing-span/-spread, measurement across wings when extended.

'wing-tip, outer edge of a wing.

wink /wɪŋk/ *vi, vt* **1** **wink (at)**, close and open (an eye); get rid of (tears) by doing this: *She ~ed at me*, eg as a private signal of some kind. **2** (of a star, light, etc) shine or flash at very short intervals: *A lighthouse was ~ing in the far distance*. □ *n* [C] **1** act of winking, esp as a signal or hint. **2** very short time: *I didn't sleep a ~/didn't have a ~ of sleep*, didn't sleep at all. **have forty winks**, a short sleep (esp during the day).

winkle /'wɪŋkl/ *n* [C] sea-snail used as food. □ *vt* extract, force or pull out.

win-ner, win-ning ⇨ win.

win-now /'wɪnəʊ/ *vi* use a stream of air to separate dry outer coverings from (grain).

win-some /'wɪnsəm/ *adj* (formal) (of a person, his appearance) attractive; pleasing.

win-ter /'wɪntə(r)/ *n* [C] season between autumn and spring (November or December to February in the northern hemisphere): *a cold ~*; *have snow in ~*; *~ sports*, eg ice-skating, skiing. □ *vi* pass the winter: *~ in the south*.

win-tery, win-try /'wɪntri/ *adj* of or like winter: *a ~y sky/day*.

wipe¹ /waɪp/ *n* [C] **1** act of wiping. **2** something used for wiping (eg for cleaning wounds).

wipe² /waɪp/ *vt, vi* **1** clean or dry (something) by rubbing with a cloth, paper, the hands, etc: *~ one's hands on a towel*; *~ plates dry*. **2** (uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

wipe sth away, remove (eg tears) by wiping.

wipe sth off, (a) remove by wiping: *~ off a drawing from the blackboard*. (b) get rid of: *~ off a debt*.

wipe sb out, (sl) murder him. **wipe sth out**, (a) clean the inside of: *~ out a jug*. (b) get rid of; remove: *~ out an insult* (esp by revenge). (c) destroy completely: *a disease that almost ~ed out the population*.

wipe sth up, (a) wipe crockery, cutlery, etc dry. (b) take up (liquid, etc) by wiping: *~ up spilt milk*; *~ up a mess*.

wire /'waɪə(r)/ *n* **1** [C,U] (piece or length of) metal in the form of a thread: *'telephone ~ (s)*; *~ netting*, made by weaving wire (used for fences, fruit cages, etc). ⇨ **barbed wire**. **2** [C] (informal, esp US) = telegram: *send off a ~*. □ *vt, vi* **1** fasten with wire: *~ two things together*. **2** install electrical circuits (in a building): *Has the house been ~d for electricity yet?* **3** (informal, esp US) telegraph: *He ~d me that he would be delayed*.

'wire-cutters, tool for cutting wire.

'wire-haired *adj* with stiff, wiry hair.

'wire-wool, pad of fine wire for cleaning with.

wir-ing, (esp) system of wires for electric current.

wiry *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) like wire. (b) (of persons) lean and with strong sinews.

wire-less /'waɪələs/ *adj*, *n* [C] (old use) = radio.

wis-dom /'wɪzdəm/ *n* [U] **1** quality of being wise. **2** wise thoughts, sayings, etc: *the ~ of the ancients/our ancestors*.

'wisdom-tooth, back tooth, usually coming through after 20 years of age.

wise /waɪz/ *adj* (-r, -st) having or showing experience, knowledge, good judgement, etc: *~ men/acts*. *He was ~ enough not to drive when he was feeling ill*. **be none the wiser**, be no better informed: *After the lecture he was none the ~, knew no more than before*.

wise-ly *adv*

wish /wɪʃ/ *vt, vi* **1** have a desire that is possible or impossible: *I ~ I knew what was happening*. *I ~ I were rich*. **2** have as a desire: *She ~ed herself home* (= wished that she was at home) again. **3** **wish sb well/ill**, hope that he may have good/ill fortune, etc: *He ~es me well*. *I ~ nobody ill*. **4** say that one hopes for: *I ~ you a pleasant journey*. **5** express as a greeting: *~ him good morning/goodbye*. **6** **wish for**, have a strong desire for (esp something unlikely to be obtained or achieved, or that can be obtained only by good fortune or in exceptional circumstances): *How he ~ed for an opportunity to go abroad! What more can you ~ for?* **7** express a desire: *Doing is better than ~ing*. **8** **wish sb/sth on sb**, (informal) transfer to a person (esp with the idea of getting rid of him or it): *I wouldn't ~ my father-in-law on anyone*, (suggesting that he is unpleasant). □ *n* **1** [C,U] desire; longing: *He ignored his father's ~es*. **2** [C] that which is wished for: *She got her ~*.

wish-ful /-fl/ having or expressing a wish; desiring. **wishful thinking**, thinking or believing that something is true because one wishes it were true.

wish-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

wisp /wɪsp/ *n* [C] small bunch, amount: *a ~*

of straw/hair/smoke.

wispy *adj* (-ier, -iest) small, vague, slight.

wist-ful /'wɪstfl/ *adj* sad and longing; having, showing disappointment: *a ~ expression*.

wist-fully /-fəli/ *adv* in a wistful manner: *She looked ~ly at the photographs of herself when she was young and beautiful.*

wit /wɪt/ *n* **1** (*sing* or *pl*) intelligence; understanding; quickness of mind: *He hadn't the ~s/ hadn't ~ enough to realize what to do in the emergency.* **at one's wit's end**, not knowing what to do or say because of worry, etc. ⇨ also **scare**. **have/keep one's wits about one**, be alert and ready to act. **live by one's wits**, live by clever, not always honest, methods. **2** [U] clever and humorous expression of ideas; liveliness of spirit: *His writings sparkle with ~.* **3** [C] person noted for his wit(2).

wit-ily /-əli/ *adv*

wit-ti-cism /'wɪtɪzəm/ *n* [C] witty remark.

wit-less *adj* stupid.

witty *adj* (-ier, -iest) full of humour: *a ~ty girl/remark.*

witch /wɪtʃ/ *n* [C] **1** woman said to use magic, esp for evil purposes. **2** (*fig*) fascinating or persuasive woman.

'witch-craft, use of magic.

'witch-doctor man believed to be able to cure disease by magic.

'witch-hunt, (*modern informal*) search and persecution (eg of persons said to be disloyal to the state).

with /wɪð/ *prep* **1** (equivalent to constructions with *have*) having; carrying; characterized by: *a coat ~ two pockets; a girl ~ blue eyes.* **2** (used to show what is used for filling, covering, etc): *Fill the box ~ sand. The hills were covered ~ snow.* **3** (used to show the means or method): *write ~ a pen; carry it ~ both hands; see it ~ your own eyes; ~ your help.* **4** (used to show accompaniment or relationship): *live ~ your parents; put one thing ~ others. Is there anyone ~ you or are you alone?* **in with**, mixed up with: *She's in ~ the wrong crowd*, eg of a girl whose companions are a bad influence. **5** (used to show antagonism, opposition): *fight/argue/struggle/quarrel ~ them.* **fall out with**, ⇨ **fall**² (14). **have it out with sb**, ⇨ **have**⁴ (9). **6** (used to show cause) because of; owing to: *trembling ~ fear; shaking ~ cold.* **7** (used to show manner): *do it ~ an effort/~ pleasure; standing ~ his hands in his pockets; fight ~ courage*, courageously. **8** in the same way or direction as; at the same time as: *A tree's shadow moves ~ the sun. Do you rise ~ the sun, ie at dawn?* **9** (used to show care, charge or possession): *Leave the child ~ (= in the care of) its aunt. I have no money ~ me.* **10** in regard to; concerning: *be patient ~ them; sympathize ~ her. What do you want ~ me? We can't do anything/can do nothing ~*

him, cannot influence, control, make use of, him. **11** (used to show separation): *He has broken ~ his best friend.* **12** (used to show agreement, harmony): *He who is not ~ me (= on my side) is against me. I (dis)agree ~ you.* **be/get 'with it**, (*sl*) become aware of what is popular and up to date: (as an adjective) *~ it clothes.* **13** in spite of: *W ~ all her faults he still liked her.*

with-draw /wɪð'drɔː/ *vt, vi* (*pt* -drew /-'druː/, *pp* -drawn /-'drɔːn/) **1** pull or draw back; take out or away: *~ money from the Bank. The workers threatened to ~ their labour, to go on strike.* **2** take back (a statement, an accusation, an offer): *He refused to ~ (the remark), eg after calling a person a liar.* **3** (cause to) move back or away: *~ troops from an exposed position; ~ from society.*

with-drawal /-əl/ *n* [U] withdrawing or being withdrawn; [C] instance of this.

with-drawn *adj* (of persons, their looks) shy; reserved and quiet.

wither /'wɪðə(r)/ *vt, vi* **1** (cause to) become dry, faded or dead: *The hot summer ~ed (up) the grass. Her hopes ~ed (away).* **2** cause (a person) to be covered with shame or confusion: *She gave him a ~ing look.*

wither-ing-ly /'wɪðərɪŋli/ *adv*

with-ers /'wɪðəz/ *n pl* highest part of the back of a horse, etc between the shoulder-blades.

with-hold /wɪð'həʊld/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -held /-'held/) keep back; refuse to give: *He tried to ~ the truth from us. I shall ~ my consent.*

with-in /wɪð'ɪn/ *prep* inside; not beyond: *remain ~ call/reach*, near by; *live ~ one's income*, not spend more than one earns; *~ an hour*, in less than an hour; *~ a mile of the station.*

with-out /wɪð'aʊt/ *prep* **1** not having; not with; free from: *You can't buy things ~ money. He was working ~ any hope of reward.* **with-out doubt**, admittedly; certainly. **without fail**, certainly. **do without**, ⇨ **do**² (14). **2** (uses before gerunds): *He can't speak German ~ making mistakes*, He speaks German incorrectly. **it/that goes without saying**, is too obvious, too well known, etc to need saying. **adv** (*old use*) to, at, or on, the outside.

with-stand /wɪð'stænd/ *vt* (*pt, pp* -stood /-'stʊd/) resist, hold out against, (pressure, attack): *~ a siege; shoes that will ~ hard wear.*

wit-less /'wɪtlɪs/ *adj* ⇨ **wit**¹.

wit-ness /'wɪtnɪs/ *n* [C] **1** (often 'eye-~) person who was actually present at an event and should, for this reason, be able to describe it; person who gives evidence under oath in a law court. **2** [U] evidence; testimony; what is said about a person, an event, etc: *give ~ on behalf of an accused person at his trial.* **bear wit-ness to sth**, be evidence of: *acts that bear ~ to her courage.* **3** person who adds his own

signature to a document to testify that another person's signature on it is genuine. **4** person or thing that is a sign or proof: *My clothes are a ~ to my poverty.* □ vt, vi **1** be present at and see: ~ an accident. **2** give evidence (in a law court): ~ (= testify) to the truth of a statement. **3** be a witness (3): ~ a signature. **4** give evidence of; show: *Her pale face ~ed the pain she felt.*

'witness-box, enclosure in a law court in which a witness stands while giving evidence.

wit-ti-cism /'wɪtɪzɪzəm/ ⇨ wit¹.

wit-ting-ly /'wɪtɪŋli/ adv knowingly; intentionally.

wives /waɪvz/ pl of wife.

wiz-ard /'wɪzəd/ n [C] **1** magician. **2** person with amazing abilities: a financial ~, person able to make money with amazing ease.

wiz-ened /'wɪznd/ adj dried up, shrivelled: a ~ tree/apple.

wobble /'wɒbl/ vi, vt **1** (cause to) move unsteadily from side to side: *Jellies ~.* **2** (fig) be uncertain (in opinions, in making decisions, etc): *I ~ed between two opinions.*

wob-bly /'wɒbli/ adj (-ier, -iest) not firm or steady: *He's still a little wobbly on his legs after his long illness.*

woe /wəʊ/ n (poetic) **1** [U] sorrow; grief; distress: a tale of ~. **2** (pl) causes of woe; troubles: poverty, illness and other ~s.

woe-ful /-fl/ adj sorrowful; causing woe: ~ful ignorance.

woe-fully /-fəli/ adv

woke, woken ⇨ wake¹.

wolf /wɒlf/ n [C] (pl wolves /wʊlvz/) wild, flesh-eating animal of the dog family. **cry wolf**, raise false alarms. □ vt eat quickly and greedily: ~ down one's dinner.

'wolf-cub, (a) young wolf. (b) (formerly) junior scout.

'wolf-whistle, whistle or other sound (eg made by a man in the street) expressing admiration of a woman's beauty. □ vt make this sound.

woman /'wʊmən/ n (pl women /'wɪmɪn/) **1** adult female human being: *men, women and children*; a single (= unmarried) ~; a ~ of the world, one with experience of society, not young and innocent. **2** (used as an adjective): a ~ driver/doctor. **3** (without a, an or the) the female sex; any woman: *W ~ is as capable as man.* **4** (sing with the) feminine emotions: *There is something of the ~ in his character.* **5** [C] man with a weak or indecisive character: *He behaves like an old ~.*

'woman-hood /-hʊd/. (a) (collective) women in general. (b) the state of being a woman: *She had now grown to/reached ~hood.*

woman-ize (also -ise) /-aɪz/ vi try to get a woman's friendship (esp for casual relationships).

'woman-kind, women in general.

women-folk /'wɪmɪnfəʊk/ n pl women, esp of one's own family.

'women's lib, ⇨ lib.

womb /wʊm/ n [C] (anat) organ in a female mammal in which offspring is carried and nourished while developing before birth.

wom-bat /'wɒmbæt/ n [C] Australian animal (looking like a small bear), the female of which has a pouch for its young.

won /wʌn/ ⇨ win.

won-der /'wʌndə(r)/ n **1** [U] feeling caused by something unusual, surprising or that cannot be explained; surprise combined with admiration, etc: *They were filled with ~.* **no/little/small wonder**, it is not surprising: *No ~ you were so late.* **2** [C] thing or event that causes such feeling: *Walking on the moon is one of the ~s of our times.* **work wonders**, work with remarkable results. **It is a wonder (that)**, It is surprising that: *It's a ~ (that) you didn't lose your way in the dark.* □ vi, vt **1** be filled with wonder (1); feel surprised: *I don't ~ at her refusing to marry him.* **2** feel curiosity; think: *I was ~ing about that. I was just ~ing. I ~ who he is.*

'won-der-land, (a) fairyland. (b) country that is remarkable in some way (eg because of many natural resources).

won-der-ful /-fl/ adj causing wonder; surprising: *We've had ~ful weather.*

won-der-fully /-fəli/ adv

won-der-ment n [U] (formal) = surprise.

wonky /'wɒŋki/ adj (GB sl) unsteady; unreliable: a ~ chair, one that might break.

wont /wəʊnt/ n (sing only) (dated) what a person is accustomed to doing: *He went to bed much earlier than was his ~, than he usually did.*

won't /wəʊnt/ = will not.

woo /wu:/ vt (pt, pp ~ed) **1** (old use) = court² (1). **2** (modern use) try to win (fame, success): ~ voters.

wooer, person who woos.

wood /wʊd/ n **1** [U] (with a, an, and pl only when meaning kind, sort, variety) hard solid substance of a tree below the bark: *Tables are usually made of ~.* Put some more ~ on the fire. *Teak is a hard (kind of) ~ and pine is a soft (kind of) ~.* ⇨ touch² (1). **2** [C] (often pl) area of land covered with growing trees (not so extensive as a forest): a house in the middle of a ~; go for a walk in the ~(s). **out of the wood**, (fig) free from troubles or difficulties: *We're not yet out of the ~, still have difficulties to face.* **be unable to see the wood for the trees**, (fig) be unable to get a clear view of the whole because of too many details. **3** (sing with the) **in/from the wood**, the cask or barrel: wine in the ~.

'wood-cut, print from a design, drawing, picture, etc cut on a block of wood.

'wood-cutter, man who cuts down trees.

'wood-land, land covered with trees.

'wood-man, forester; woodcutter.

'wood-pecker, kinds of bird that cling to the bark of trees and tap or peck it to find insects.

'wood-wind, wind-instrument made of wood.

'wood-work, (a) things made of wood, esp parts of a building. (b) carpentry.

'wood-worm, (damage from) wood-eating larva.

wooded *adj* covered with trees: *a thickly ~ed country*.

wooden /'wʊdn/ *adj* (a) made of wood: *a ~en leg*. (b) stiff, clumsy, awkward (as if made of wood): *a ~en (= inexpressive) smile*.

woody *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) wooded: *a ~y hillside*. (b) of or like wood: *the ~y stems of a plant*.

wooler /'wʊ:ə(r)/ *n* ⇨ **woo**.

woof /wʊf/ *n* [C] cry made by a dog.

wool /wʊl/ *n* [U] 1 soft hair of sheep, goats and some other animals; thread, yarn, cloth, clothing, made from this. ***pull the wool over sb's eyes***, deceive or trick him. 2 material similar in appearance or texture to wool: *cotton-~, raw cotton pad*.

wool-len (US = **woolen**) /'wʊlən/ *adj* made of wool: *~len cloth/blankets*.

wool-ens (US = **woolens**) *n pl* woollen cloth, clothes, blankets, etc.

woolly (US also **wooly**) /'wʊli/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) (a) covered with, made of, looking like, wool: *~ly hair*; *a ~ly coat*. (b) (fig) (of the mind, ideas, decisions) confused; not clear. □ *n* [C] (*pl -ies*) (*informal*) woollen clothes, esp a sweater: *Put an extra ~ly on when you go out*.

word /wɜ:d/ *n* [C] 1 sound or combination of sounds (or the written or printed symbols) forming a unit of the grammar or vocabulary of a language: *When we speak we put our thoughts into ~s. I have no ~s to (= cannot adequately) express my gratitude. a play on words*, a pun. ***word for word***, literally. ***in a/one word***, briefly; to sum up. ***by word of mouth***, in spoken, not written, words. 2 [C] something said; remark or statement: *He didn't say a ~ about it. I don't believe a ~ of the story. eat one's words*, admit that one was wrong. ***have a word with sb***, speak to him. ***have words with sb***, quarrel. ***have the last word***, make the final remark in an argument. ***put words into sb's mouth***, (a) tell him what to say. (b) suggest falsely that he has said something. ***say a few words***, make a short speech. ***say/put in a good word (for sb)***, speak on his behalf (to support or defend). ***say the word***, give the order. ***take the words out of sb's mouth***, say what he was about to say. ***the last word (in sth)***, the latest, most up-to-date, etc in: *Our tours of Greece are the last ~ in comfort*

and convenience. 3 (*sing*, without *the*) news; information: *Please send me ~ of your safe arrival. W~ came that I was wanted at the office*. 4 (*sing only*) promise; assurance. ***be as good as one's word***, do what one promises. ***give sb one's word (that...)***, promise: *The goods will arrive on time—I give you my ~. take sb's word for it*, believe what he says: *I have no proof, but you may take my ~ for it. take sb at his word*, believe that he is telling the truth, that he will keep a promise. 5 (*sing only*) command; order; spoken signal: *The officer gave the ~ to fire. His ~ is law. His orders must be obeyed*. ⇨ **password**. 6 (in the Christian religion) the Scriptures, esp the Gospel. □ *vt* express in words: *a well-~ed letter*.

'word-division, dividing of the spelling of a word, eg at the end of a line of writing. (*Note*: correct places for word-division are shown by (-) in this dictionary.)

'word-perfect *adj* knowing, able to repeat, a poem, a part in a play, etc without reading.

'word-power, ability to express oneself well.

'word-splitting, making of distinctions of meaning, etc that are (too) subtle.

word-ing *n* (*sing only*) way in which something is expressed; choice of words to express meaning: *A different ~ing might make the meaning clearer*.

wordy *adj* (-ier, -iest) using, expressed in, a large number of words, esp unnecessary words: *a ~y telegram*.

wore /wɜ:(r)/ *pt* of wear².

work /wɜ:k/ *n* 1 [U] use of bodily or mental powers with the purpose of doing or making something (esp contrasted with play or recreation): *Are you fond of hard ~? The ~ of building the new garage took six months. It was terribly hard ~ getting to the top of the mountain. This is the ~ of an enemy. An enemy has done this. set/get to work (on sth/to do sth)*, begin; make a start. ***at work (on sth)***, busy or occupied with. ***all in the day's work***, (used to show that something is) normal; what is usual or to be expected. 2 [U] what a person does to earn a living; employment: *What time do you get to (your) ~ every day? The men were on their way to ~. in/out of work*, employed/unemployed ***at work***, at one's place of employment: *She's at ~ now, but she'll be back at six*. 3 [U] something to be done, not necessarily connected with a trade or occupation, not necessarily for payment: *I always find plenty of ~ that needs doing in my garden*. 4 [U] things needed or used for work: *She took her ~ (eg her sewing materials) into the garden*. 5 [U] that which is produced by work: *The ~ of famous sculptors may be seen in museums*. ⇨ **stonework**, **woodwork**. 6 (*pl*; also *sing* with *a*) product of

the intellect or the imagination: *the ~s of Shakespeare; the ~s of Beethoven*. **7** [U] use of energy supplied by electricity, etc: *Many machines now do the ~ of men*. **8** (pl, and used with a pl verb) moving parts of a machine: *the ~s of a clock or watch. There's something wrong with the ~s*. **9** (pl in form but often treated as a sing noun) building(s) where industrial or manufacturing processes are carried on: *a 'gas-~s; an 'iron-~s; a 'brick-~s*.

'work of 'art, (excellent) painting, piece of sculpture, etc.

'work-bench, table at which a mechanic does his work.

'work-book, book with questions to be answered (in empty spaces provided), for notes, etc.

'work-day, day which is not a Sunday or a holiday.

'work force, total number of men working in a factory, etc.

'work-in, occasion when workers continue to work in a factory to protest against a proposed closure of the factory, etc.

'work-man, (a) man who earns a living by physical labour or at machines, etc. (b) person who works in a specified way: *a skilled ~man*.

'work-man-like *adj* characteristic of a good workman.

'work-man-ship /-mənʃɪp/, quality as seen in something made: *articles of poor/excellent ~manship*.

'work-out, (a) practice, trial, test. (b) period of exercise (esp by athletes).

'work-room, room in which work is done.

'work-shop, room or building in which things (esp machines) are made or repaired.

'work-shy *adj* not liking to work; lazy.

'work-study, study of how work may be done efficiently and economically.

'work-table, (esp) table with drawers for sewing materials, etc.

work² /wɜ:k/ *vi, vt* (pt, pp ~ed) ⇨ wrought. (For uses with *adverbial particles and prepositions*, ⇨ 9 below.) **1** do work; engage in physical or mental activity: *I've been ~ing hard all day. The men in this factory ~ 40 hours a week. work to rule*, ⇨ rule(1). **2** (of a machine, apparatus, bodily organ, plan, method, etc) do what it is designed to do; have the desired result: *The lift/telephone is not ~ing. This machine ~s by electricity. My brain doesn't seem to be ~ing well today. Will this new plan/ method ~?* **3** cause to work; set in motion: *He ~s his wife/himself too hard. It ~s by electricity*. **4** produce or obtain as the result of effort: *~ wonders. work one's way (through college, etc)*, have a paid job, while studying to meet costs: *He's ~ing his way through medical school. work one's passage*, pay for a journey on a ship by work: *He ~ed his*

passage to New York. **5** operate; control; manage: *~ a mine*. **6** (cause to) move into, reach, a new state or position, usually by degrees or with a succession of small movements: *Your shirt has ~ed out*, has come out from above the top of your trousers. *One of the screws has ~ed loose*. **7** make or shape by hammering, mixing, squeezing, pressure, etc: *~ clay*, (when making pottery); *~ dough*, (when making bread). **8** make by sewing; embroider: *~ a design on a cushion-cover*.

9 (special uses with *adverbial particles and prepositions*):

work away (at sth), continue to work: *He's been ~ing away at this job since breakfast*.

work sth in/into, introduce; find a place for: *Can't you ~ in a few jokes? ~ a few jokes into your lecture?*

work sth off, get rid of; dispose of; deal with: *~ off extra energy/excess weight*.

work on sb/sth, excite, influence: *The information about the treatment of prisoners ~ed on the consciences of the United Nations representatives*. ⇨ also 1 above: *~ on a novel*.

work out, (a) be capable of being solved: *This sum/problem will not ~ out*. (b) be, turn out, in the end: *The situation ~ed out quite well*. (c) ⇨ 6 above. (d) exercise, train (for a contest): *The champion is ~ing out in the gym this morning*. Hence, **'work-out** *n* [C] period, form, of training. **work sth out**, (a) calculate: *I've ~ed out your share of the expenses at £5*. (b) get results for: *I can't ~ out these algebra problems*. (c) devise; invent: *They've ~ed out a method of sending a spacecraft to Mars*. (d) solve: *He was ~ing out some coded messages*. (e) (modern use) solve problems in a relationship, marriage: *We can ~ it out*, solve our problems together. (f) (usually passive) exhaust by using, operating, etc: *That silver-mine is now ~ed out*, has no more ore.

work up to sth, advance steadily to a high level: *The orchestra was ~ing up to a crescendo*. **work sth up**, excite; stir up: *~ up the feelings of an audience. work sb/oneself up (into)*, encourage to a high point (of excitement, etc): *He ~ed himself/everyone up into a state of hysteria*.

work upon sb/sth, ⇨ work on sb/sth.

work-able /'wɜ:kəbl/ *adj* that can be worked; that will work; practicable: *Is the proposed scheme ~, feasible?*

worker /'wɜ:kə(r)/ *n* [C] person who works.

worker ant/bee, undeveloped female kind. ⇨ drone.

work-ing /'wɜ:kɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] mine, quarry, etc or part of it, which is being, or has been, worked: *The boys went exploring in some disused ~s*. **2** [C] the way something works, or the result of this: *the ~s of the human mind*. **3** (as an adjective) **a working majority**, one that is

sufficient to be sure of winning when voting: *The Government has a ~ majority.* **the working day.** (a) workday (as opposed to a day of rest). (b) number of hours worked on a normal day: *a ~ day of eight hours.* **in working order,** able to function properly, do what is required; going smoothly: *put a machine in ~ order. Everything is in ~ order.* □ *adj* engaged in work.

the working classes, those engaged in manual work. Hence, **'working-class** *adj* **'working party,** (esp) committee appointed to secure efficiency in an industry, or one appointed (eg by a government department) to study and report on a question.

world /wɜ:ld/ *n* [C] **1** the earth, its countries and people; heavenly body that may look like it: *make a journey round the ~. The whole ~/All the ~ knows...* It is widely or generally known... **2** (as an *adjective*) affecting, used by, intended for, extending over, the world: *We've had two ~ wars in this century.* **3** time, state or scene of existence: *this ~ and the next, life on earth and existence after death.* **man of the world,** ⇨ **man**¹(1). **4** the universe; everything: *Is this the best of all possible ~s? in the world,* in existence: *Nothing in the ~ would please me more.* **for (all) the world,** for any reason: *I wouldn't hurt her feelings for the ~.* **think the world of sb,** think very highly of him. **be/feel on top of the world,** elated (because of success, good health, etc). **sth out of this world,** something magnificent. **a world of sth,** a great number or quantity of; very much/many: *My holiday did me a ~ of good. There's often a ~ of difference between promise and achievement.* **5** the material things and occupations of life (contrasted with the spiritual). **make the best of both worlds,** the material and spiritual. **6** human affairs; active life: *know/see the ~, have experience of life; a man of the ~, person who has had a great experience of life.* **7** persons, institutions, etc connected with a special social class or special interests: *the ~ of sport/art; the racing/scientific ~.* **8** average society, fashionable society, their opinions, customs, etc: *What will the ~ say? What will people say?* **World Cup,** international football competition every four years. **world-famous** *adj* known throughout the world. **world-power,** nation influencing international politics. **world-weary** *adj* tired of life. **world-wide,** affecting, throughout, the world. **world-ly** *adj* (a) material: *my ~ly goods, my pursuit of.* (b) of the affairs of this life (esp the pursuit of pleasure, contrasted with *spiritual*). (c) concerned with, interested in, material things.

world-li-ness *n* [U]

worm /wɜ:m/ *n* [C] **1** kinds of small, boneless, limbless, creeping creature. ⇨ **earthworm, hookworm, tapeworm.** **2** (used in compounds) name for larvae, insects, etc: *'silk~; 'glow~.* **3** (fig) insignificant or contemptible person. □ **vt** **1** move slowly, or by patience, or with difficulty: *He ~ed himself/his way through the undergrowth. He ~ed himself into her confidence.* **worm sth out of sb,** extract (by persistent questioning, etc): *He ~ed the secret out of me.* **2** rid of parasitic worms: *I think we'd better ~ the cat.*

worn /wɔ:n/ *pp* of wear².

worri-some /'wɒrɪsəm/ *US:* 'wɔ:-/ *adj* causing worry.

worry /'wɒrɪ/ *US:* 'wɒrɪ/ *vt, vi* (*pt, pp* -ied) **1** trouble; give (a person, oneself) no peace of mind; cause anxiety or discomfort to: *The noise of the traffic worried her. What's ~ing you? He'll ~ himself to death, make himself ill by worrying.* **2** be anxious, uneasy, troubled: *You have no cause to ~. What's the use of ~ing?* **3** (esp of dogs) seize with the teeth and shake: *The dog was ~ing the rat.* □ *n* (*pl* -ies) **1** [U] condition of being troubled: *show signs of ~.* **2** [C] (usually *pl*) something that worries; cause of anxiety: *Is your life full of worries? Money has always been a ~ to her.*

wor-ried *adj* troubled; anxious: *a worried look.*

worry-ing *adj* full of, causing, worry: *have a ~ing time. Her lateness is ~ing.*

worse /wɜ:s/ *adj* (⇨ **bad, worst**) **1** more bad; more evil: *Your work is bad but mine is much ~. He escaped with nothing ~ than a broken arm.* **the worse for wear,** (a) badly worn as the result of long wear. (b) (fig) exhausted: *He looks the ~ for wear after only a year in office.* **2** (into) less good health or condition or circumstances: *The doctor says she is much ~ today.* □ *adv* (⇨ **badly, worst**) **1** more badly: *He is behaving ~ than ever. He has been taken ~, has become more seriously ill.* **none the worse,** not less: *I like a man none the ~ for being outspoken.* **worse off,** in worse circumstances; poorer. **2** (used to intensify): *It's raining ~ (= more heavily) than ever. She hates me ~ (= more strongly) than before.* □ *n* worse thing(s): *I have ~ to tell. The first news was bad, but ~ followed.*

worsen /'wɜ:sn/ *vt, vi* make, become, worse.

wor-ship /'wɜ:ʃɪp/ *n* [U] **1** reverence and respect paid to God: *places of ~, churches and chapels.* **2** admiration and respect shown to or felt for a person or thing: *the ~ of success; 'hero ~.* □ *vt, vi* (-pp; *US* -p-) give worship to: ~ God.

wor-ship-per (*US* = **wor-shiper**), person who worships.

worst /wɜ:st/ *adj* (⇨ **bad, worse**) the most bad, evil, ill: *the ~ storm for five years; the ~*

behaviour; the ~ condition. □ *adv* (⇒ **badly**, **worse**) most badly: *Tom played badly, Harry played worse and I played ~*. □ *n* **the ~**, worst part, state, event, etc: *You must be prepared for the ~*, the worst possible news, outcome, etc. **get the worst of**, suffer most. □ *vt* (*rare*) get the better of: *He ~ed his enemy*.

worth /wɜːθ/ *adj* **1** having a certain value (money or ability, etc); of value equal to: *It's not ~ more than two pounds*. **worth (one's) while**, ⇒ **while**. **for what it is worth**, without any guarantee or promise concerning it. **2** possessing; having property to the value of: *What's the old man ~? for all one is worth*, (*informal*) with all one's energy; making every effort: *He was running for all he was ~*. **3** giving a satisfactory or rewarding return for: *The book is well ~ reading*. *It's hardly ~ troubling about*. □ *n* [U] **1** value; what a person or thing is worth: *know a friend's ~*. **2** (usually /wəθ/) quantity of something of a specified value: *a ~ pound's ~ of apples*.

worth-less *adj* having no value.

worth-while *adj* that is worth the time, etc needed: *a ~ while experiment*. ⇒ **while**.

worthy /'wɜːði/ *adj* (-ier, -iest) **1** deserving: *a cause ~ of support*; *a man who is ~ of a place in the team/to be in the team*. **2** (often *ironic*) having merit; deserving respect: *a ~ gentleman*.

worth-ily /-əli/ *adv*

worthi-ness *n* [U]

-worthy /-wɜːði/ *suffix* deserving of: *praise-worthy*.

would ⇒ **will**¹.

wound¹ /wuːnd/ *n* [C] **1** hurt or injury to the living tissue of the body, caused by cutting, shooting, tearing, etc, esp as the result of attack (*injury* being more usually for the result of an accident): *a ~ bullet ~*. **2** injury to a plant, tree, etc in which the bark is cut or torn. **3** injury to a person's feelings: *a ~ to his pride/vanity*. □ *vt* give a wound to: *Ten soldiers were killed and thirty ~ed*.

wound² /waʊnd/ *pt, pp* of **wind**³.

wove, **wo-ven** ⇒ **weave**.

wow /waʊ/ *n* [C] (*sl*) tremendous success: *The new play at the National Theatre's a ~*. □ *int* expressing wonder, admiration, etc: *W~, what a girl!*

wrangle /'ræŋgl/ *vi* *n* [C] (take part in a) noisy or angry argument.

wrap /ræp/ *vt, vi* (-pp-) **1** put round; cover or roll up (in): *~ a child in a shawl*; *~ up a present in tissue paper*; *~ oneself in a blanket*. **2** wind or fold as a covering or protection: *W~ plenty of paper round it*. **3 be wrapped up in**, (a) (fig) be hidden in: *The affair is ~ped (up) in mystery*. (b) be deeply interested in: *He is ~ped up in his work/studies*. (c) be deeply devoted to: *She is ~ped up in her children*, devotes all her time, care, etc to them. □ *n* [C] outer clothing or covering (eg a scarf, cloak,

fur or rug).

wrap-per, (a) loose paper cover for a book. (b) cloth tied round the body as a long skirt.

wrap-ping, (a) [C] something used for covering or packing: *'sweet ~pings*. (b) [U] material for covering or packing something: *Put plenty of ~ping round the cups*.

wrath /rɒθ US: ræθ/ *n* [U] (*literary*) great anger (esp caused by misconduct, injustice).

wreak /rɪk/ *vt* give expression to: *~ havoc/vengeance on her*.

wreath /rɪθ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s /rɪːðz/) **1** flowers or leaves twisted or woven together into a circle (as placed on a coffin, a grave, a memorial to the dead, etc). **2** curling line (of smoke, mist, etc).

wreathe /rɪð/ *vt, vi* **1** cover, encircle: *~d with flowers*; *hills ~d in mist*; *a face ~d in smiles*. **2 wreathe sth into...**, make (flowers, etc) (into a wreath). **3** (of smoke, mist, etc) move in the shape of a wreath.

wreck /rek/ *n* **1** [U] ruin or destruction, esp of a ship by storms: *save a ship from ~*; [C] instance of this: *The storm caused ~s all along the coast*. **2** [C] ship that has suffered wreck(1): *Robinson Crusoe obtained food and supplies from the ~*. **3** [C] vehicle, building, etc that has been badly damaged or fallen into ruin: *The car was a worthless ~ after the collision*. **4** [U] (fig) ruin (of hopes, etc). **5** [C] person whose health has been destroyed: *If you worry too much, you'll become a nervous ~*. □ *vt* cause the wreck of: *The ship/train was ~ed*. **wreck-age** /'rekɪdʒ/ *n* [U] wrecked object, material: *The ~age (of the aircraft) was scattered over a wide area*.

wren /ren/ *n* [C] kinds of small songbird.

wrench /rentʃ/ *n* [C] **1** sudden and violent twist or pull: *He gave his ankle a ~*, twisted it by accident. **2** (pain caused by a) sad parting or separation: *Separation from her children was a terrible ~*. **3** tool for gripping and turning nuts, bolts, etc; spanner. □ *vt* **1** twist or pull violently: *~ the door open*; *~ a door off its hinges*. **2** injure (eg one's ankle) by twisting.

wrest /rest/ *vt* **1** take (something) away with force: *~ a knife from him*; *~ it out of his hands*. **2** get by effort: *~ a confession of guilt from a person*.

wrestle /'resl/ *vi* **1** struggle with a person (as a sport) and try to throw him to the ground without hitting him. **2** (fig) struggle: *~ with a problem*; *one's conscience*.

wres-tler, /'reslə(r)/, person who wrestles.

wretch /retʃ/ *n* [C] **1** unfortunate and miserable person. **2** contemptible, mean person.

wretched /'retʃɪd/ *adj* **1** miserable: *living in ~ poverty*. **2** causing misery: *~ houses*. **3** (*informal*) of poor quality: *~ weather/food*.

wretched-ly *adv*

wriggle /'rɪgl/ *vi, vt* **1** move with quick, short, twistings; move along in this way: *Small chil-*

dren ~ in their seats when they are bored. The eel ~d out of my fingers. **2** move with a wriggling motion: *~ one's toes; ~ one's way out.* □ **n** [C] wriggling movement.

wring /rɪŋ/ **vt** (pt, pp wrung /rʌŋ/) **1** twist; squeeze: *~ a hen's neck, to kill it.* **wring one's hands**, squeeze them together (to show sorrow, etc). **2** twist and squeeze something tightly (to force out water): *~ out wet clothes.* **wringing wet**, very wet. **3** (fig) force a person to confess, by persuasion, threats, etc: *~ the truth out of him.* □ **n** [C] squeeze: *Give it another ~.*

wringer /'rɪŋə(r)/, machine for wringing (2).

wrinkle /'rɪŋkl/ **n** [C] small fold or line in the skin (esp of the kind produced by age) or on the surface of something: *She's beginning to get ~s round her eyes. She ironed out the ~s in her dress.* □ **vt, vi** make, get, have, wrinkles in: *~ up one's forehead, eg when worrying; ~d with age.*

wrinkly /'rɪŋkli/ **adj**

wrist /rɪst/ **n** [C] joint between the hand and the arm: *He took me by the ~.*

wrist-band, band of cloth worn round the wrist, eg by tennis-players.

wrist-watch, watch worn on the wrist.

writ /rɪt/ **n** [C] **1** written order issued in the name of a ruler or an official to do or not to do something: *a ~ for the arrest of a suspected criminal.* **2** **Holy W~**, the Bible.

write /raɪt/ **vi, vt** (pt wrote /rəʊt/, pp written /'rɪtn/) **1** make letters or other symbols (eg ideographs) on a surface, esp with a pen or pencil on paper: *learn to read and ~. I've been writing (for) three hours. Are we to ~ in ink or (in) pencil?* **2** put down (on paper) by means of words, etc: *~ words/Chinese characters/shorthand; ~ one's name; ~ a cheque/a book; ~ an application* (by filling in the spaces with words, figures, etc). **3** do the work of an author; compose for publication: *~ a novel; ~ for the newspapers; make a living by writing.* **4** write and send a letter (to, or informal, without to): *He promised to ~ (to) me every week. He ~s home/~s to his parents regularly.* **5** (usually passive) show clear signs of: *He had pain/honesty written on his face.*

6 (special uses with adverbial particles and prepositions):

write sth down, put down (on paper) in words: *You'd better ~ the address down before you forget it.*

write in for sth, apply by letter for.

write off (for sth), order by post: *~ off for an application form.* **write sth off**, (a) compose quickly and easily: *~ off a report.* (b) cancel; recognize that something is a loss or failure: *~ off a debt. He has just written off a new car, damaged it beyond repair, so that the insurers regard it as a loss. Hence, 'write-off n: The burnt-out airliner was a complete ~-off,*

had no value whatever.

write sth out, write the whole of; write in full: *~ out a copy of an agreement; ~ out an abbreviation, write the actual words.* **write out a cheque**, fill one in.

write sth up, complete: *~ up one's diary. I must ~ up my notes of the lecture.* Hence, **'write-up n** [C] written account of an event.

writer /'raɪtə(r)/ **n** [C] **1** person who writes: *the ~ of this letter.* **2** author.

writer's cramp, cramp of the muscles in the hand, causing difficulty in writing.

writhe /raɪð/ **vi** twist or roll about (in pain) (mental or physical): *writhing under insults.*

writ-ing /'raɪtɪŋ/ **n** **1** [U] (in the senses of the verb write): *busy with his ~; put something down in ~.* **2** = handwriting. **3** (pl) literary work: the ~s of Swift.

'writing-ink, ink for writing (contrasted with printing-ink).

'writing-paper, (esp) paper cut to the size usual for letters.

writ-ten /'rɪtn/ ⇨ write.

wrong /rɒŋ **US: rɔŋ** / **adj** (contrasted with right) **1** not morally right; unjust: *It is ~ to steal.* **2** mistaken; unsuitable; improper: *He has six ~ answers in his arithmetic. You've dialled the ~ number* (when telephoning). *Can you prove that I am/that my opinions are ~?* *We got into the ~ train. Go the ~ way.* **be caught on the wrong foot**, ⇨ foot¹ (1). **3** out of order; in a bad condition: *There's nothing ~ with the engine—perhaps there's no petrol in the tank.* □ **adv** in a wrong manner: *guess ~. You've spelt my name ~. You've got it ~, have misunderstood, miscalculated, etc.*

go wrong, (a) take the wrong path or road. (b) have a bad or poor result; fail: *All our plans went ~.* (c) (informal) (of a machine, etc) break down. (d) take to immorality: *What's the best way to help young girls who go ~?* □ **n** **1** [U] what is morally wrong; [C] wrong action: *know the difference between right and ~; do ~, sin. Two ~s don't make a right.* **2** [U] injustice; unjust treatment; [C] instance of this; unjust action: *suffer ~; do ~ to her.* **3 in the wrong**, responsible for an error, for having caused a quarrel, etc: *He admitted that he was in the ~.* □ **vi** treat unjustly; be unfair to: *He ~ed me when he said that I was envious.*

wrong-ful /-fl/ **adj** unjust; unlawful: *~ful dismissal* (from employment).

wrong-fully /-fəli/ **adv**

wrong-ly **adv** in a wrong manner (used esp before a pp): *~ly informed/directed/accused.*

wrong-doer /'rɒŋduːə(r)/ **n** [C] person who does wrong; criminal.

wrote /rəʊt/ ⇨ write.

wrought /rɔ:t/ **pt, pp** of work²; beaten into shape: *~ iron.* ⇨ also overwrought.

wrought-up **adj** over-excited; extremely agitated.

wrung /rʌŋ/ ⇨ wring.

wry /raɪ/ *adj* (wrier, wriest) pulled or twisted out of shape: *a ~ smile*, a forced smile that shows disappointment.

wry-ly *adv*

Xx

X, x /eks/ (*pl* X's, x's /'eksɪz/) **1** the 24th letter of the English alphabet. **2** symbol for the Roman numeral 10. **3** (*algebra*) first unknown quantity.

xeno-phobia /zenə'fəʊbiə/ *n* [U] great hatred or fear of strangers or foreigners.

Xmas /'krɪsməs/ *n* (common abbr for) Christmas.

X-ray /'eks reɪ/ *n* [C] (apparatus for using a) form of short-wave ray that penetrates solids and makes it possible to see into or through them; photograph taken by this means. □ *vi* examine, treat, photograph, with X-rays.

xylo-phone /'zailəfəʊn/ *n* [C] musical instrument of parallel wooden bars, of different lengths, which produce different notes when struck with small wooden hammers.

Yy

Y, y /waɪ/ (*pl* Y's, y's /waɪz/) the 25th letter of the English alphabet.

yacht /jɒt/ *n* [C] **1** light sailing-boat built specially for racing. **2** (usually motor-driven) vessel kept by a wealthy person for pleasure-cruising. □ *vi* travel or race in a yacht.

yacht-ing, the art, sport, of sailing yachts.

yak /jæk/ *n* [C] long-haired ox, wild or domesticated, of Central Asia.

yam /jæm/ *n* [C,U] (edible tuber of) kinds of tropical climbing plant.

yank /jæŋk/ *vt* give a sudden sharp pull to: ~ *out a tooth*.

yap /jæp/ *vi* (-pp-) **1** (esp of dogs) make short, sharp barks. **2** (*sf*) talk noisily or foolishly. □ *n* [C] short, shrill bark.

yard¹ /jɑ:d/ *n* [C] **1** (usually unroofed) enclosed or partly enclosed space near or round a building or group of buildings: *a 'farm~*. **2** (usually in compounds) enclosure for a special purpose: *the 'railway ~*; *a 'dock~*.

yard² /jɑ:d/ *n* [C] **1** unit of length, 3 feet or 36 inches: *Can you still buy cloth by the ~ in Britain?* **2** long, piece of wood like a pole fastened to a mast for supporting and spreading a sail.

'yard-stick, (*fig*) standard of comparison.

yarn /jɑ:n/ *n* **1** [U] fibres which have been spun for knitting, weaving, etc. **2** [C] (*informal*) story; traveller's tale. *spin a yarn*, tell a story (often untrue). □ *vi* tell yarns.

yash-mak /'jæʃmæk/ *n* [C] veil worn in public by some Muslim women.

yawn /jɔ:n/ *vi* **1** (usually involuntarily) open the mouth wide and inhale as when sleepy or bored. **2** be wide open: *a ~ing gap*. □ *n* [C] act of yawning (**1**).

yaws /jɔ:z/ *n pl* contagious tropical skin disease.

year /jɜ:(r) US: jɪər/ *n* [C] **1** time taken by the earth in making one revolution round the sun, about 365½ days. **2** period from 1 January to 31 December (also called the *calendar ~*): *in the ~ 1865*; *last ~*; *this ~*; *next ~*; *the ~ after next*. **year in year 'out**, year after year. **'all the 'year 'round**, at all times of the year. **3** any period of 365 consecutive days: *It is just a ~ since I arrived here. He's twenty ~s of age/ twenty ~s old*. **4** period of one year associated with something: *the academic ~*, for schools, colleges and universities (beginning, in GB and US, in the autumn); *the financial ~*, for making up accounts. **5 for years**, for a long time: *We've been friends for ~s*.

year-ly *adj, adv* (taking place) every year; once a year.

year-ling /'jɜ:ln/ *n* [C] animal between one and two years old.

yearn /jɜ:n/ *vi* long for with great, tender feeling, affection, etc: *He ~ed for home*.

yearn-ing *n* [U] (also *pl*) strong desire.

yeast /jɪst/ *n* [C] substance used in fermenting beer, wine and in making bread rise.

yeasty *adj*

yell /jel/ *vi, vt* **1** make a loud sharp cry or cries as of pain, excitement, etc: ~ *with fright/ laughter*. **2** say in a loud voice: ~ (*out*) *an order*. □ *n* [C] loud, sharp cry: *a ~ of terror*.

yel-low /'jeləʊ/ *n* [U], *adj* **1** (of) the colour of gold or the yolk of a hen's egg. **2** (*informal*) cowardly: *He has a ~ streak in him*. □ *vi, vt* (cause to) become yellow: *The leaves of the book were ~ed/had ~ed with age*.

'yellow 'fever, infectious tropical disease causing the skin to turn yellow.

'yellow 'pages, (section of a) telephone directory listing businesses, professions and services.

yellow-ish /-ɪʃ/ *adj* a little yellow.

yellow-ness *n* [U]

yelp /jelp/ *vi, n* [C] (make a) short, sharp cry (of pain, anger, excitement, etc).

yes /jes/ *particle* (contrasted with *no*) expressing agreement, affirmation, consent, etc: *'Can you read this?' 'Y~.'* *'Don't you like it?' — 'Y~.'* (= 'Yes, I do like it') *'Isn't she beautiful?' — 'Y~, isn't she?'* □ *n* [C]: *Answer with a plain 'Y~' or 'No'.*

yes-ter-day /'jestədi/ *adv*, *n* [C] (on) the day just past; (on) the day before today: *He arrived ~. Y~ was Sunday. Where's ~'s newspaper?*

yet /jet/ *adv* **1** by this or that time; up to now; up to then: *They are not here ~/not ~ here. At 2 o'clock they had not ~ decided how to spend the afternoon.* **2** so far; up to this/that time: *Has your brother arrived ~? We needn't do it just ~.* ⇨ **already**, **still**. **3** still (the usual word): *Go at once while there is ~ time*, while it is not too late. **4** at some future time; before all is over: *He may surprise us all ~.* **5 as yet**, up to now or then: *As ~ we have/had not made any plans for the holidays.* □ *conj* but at the same time: *He worked hard and ~ he failed.*

yew /ju:/ *n* [C] (also ~-tree) tree with dark-green leaves and red berries, often used for garden hedges; [U] wood of this tree.

yield /ji:ld/ *vt, vi* **1** give a natural product, a result or profit: *trees that ~ fruit.* **2** give way (to); cease opposition: *We will never ~ to force. He ~ed to temptation.* □ *n* [C,U] amount produced: *a good ~ of wheat.*

yield-ing *adj* (a) easily giving way or bending. (b) (fig) not obstinate.

yip-pee /'jɪpi/ *int* expression of joy.

yodel /'jɒdl/ *vt, vi* (-ll-; US also -l-) sing (a song), make a musical call, with frequent changes from the normal voice to high falsetto notes, in the manner of Swiss mountaineers. □ *n* [C] such a song or call.

yodel-ler (US also **yodeler**), person who yodels.

yoga /'jəʊgə/ *n* [U] Hindu system of meditation and self-control intended to produce mystical experience and the union of the individual soul with the universal spirit.

yogi /'jəʊgi/ *n* [C] (pl ~s) teacher of, expert in, yoga.

yo-gurt, yo-ghurt, yo-ghourt /'jəʊgət/ *US*; /'jəʊgərt/ *n* [U] semi-solid food made from fermented milk.

yoke /jəʊk/ *n* [C] **1** shaped piece of wood placed across the necks of oxen pulling a cart, plough, etc. **2** (fig) symbol of defeat, etc: *throw off the ~ of servitude*, rebel; refuse to obey. **3** shaped piece of wood to fit a person's shoulders and support a pail at each end. **4** (dress-making) part of a dress, etc fitting round the shoulders from which the rest hangs. □ *vt, vi* **1** put a yoke on (oxen). **2** unite: *~d to an unwilling partner.*

yokel /'jəʊkl/ *n* [C] simple countryman.

yolk /jəʊk/ *n* [C,U] yellow part of an egg: *Beat up the ~s of three eggs.*

yon-der /'jɒndə(r)/ *adj*, *adv* (literary) (that is, that can be seen) over there.

yoo-hoo /ju: 'hu:/ *int* (informal) (used to call a greeting to a friend, etc).

you /ju:/ *personal pron* **1** the person(s) addressed: *Y~ are my friend. Does he know ~?* **2** (informal) one; anyone: *It is much easier to*

cycle with the wind behind ~.

you'd /ju:d/ = *you had*; *you would*.

you'll /ju:l/ = *you will*.

young /jʌŋ/ *adj* (-er, -est) **1** (contrasted with old) not far advanced in life, growth, development, etc; of recent birth or origin: *a ~ woman/tree/animal/nation.* **2** still near its beginning: *The evening/century is still ~.* **3** (used before a person's name to distinguish, esp, a son from his father): *Y~ Jones is always ready to help his parents.* **4** (used as a form of address): *Now listen to me, ~ man/my ~ lady!* **5** having little practice or experience (in something): *~ in crime.* ⇨ **old** (2). □ **n** **1** the ~, young people; children: *books for the ~.* **2** [U] offspring; young animals, birds: *The cat fought to defend its ~.*

young-ish /'jʌŋɪʃ/ *adj* fairly young.

young-ster /'jʌŋstə(r)/, child, youth, esp a boy.

your /jɔ:(r) *US*; /jʊə/ *possessive adj* belonging to, relating to, you: *Show me ~ hands. You'll see the post office on your right*, i.e. the right side.

you're /jɔ:(r) *US*; /jʊə/ = *you are*.

yours /jɔ:(r) *US*; /jʊəz/ *possessive pron* **1** of, belonging to, you: *Is that book ~? I borrowed a book of ~.* **2** (used to end a letter). ⇨ affectionately/faithfully/sincerely/truly.

your-self /jɔ:(r)self *US*; /jʊə'self/ *pron* (pl -selves /-'selvz/) **1** (reflexive): *Did you hurt ~?* **2** (used for emphasis): *You ~ said so. You said so ~.* (all) **by yourself**, (a) alone. (b) without help.

youth /ju:θ/ *n* (pl ~s /ju:ðz/) **1** [U] the state or time of being young: *the friends of one's ~*; *in my ~*, when I was young. **2** [C] young man: *Half a dozen ~s were standing at the street corner.* **3** (collective) young men and women: *a ~ centre/club*, for the leisure time activities of young people.

youth-ful /-fl/ *adj* young; having the qualities, etc of young people: *a ~ful appearance.*

youth-fully /-fəli/ *adv*

youth-ful-ness *n* [U]

you've /ju:v/ = *you have*.

yowl /jəʊl/ *vi* howl.

yule /ju:l/ *n* (dated) Christmas.

Zz

Z, z /zed *US*; /zi:/ (pl **Z's**, **z's** /zeds *US*; /zi:z/) the 26th and last letter of the English alphabet.

zany /'zeɪni/ *adj* pleasantly foolish; odd.

zeal /zi:l/ *n* [U] great interest and effort: *work with great ~.*

zeal-ous /'zeləs/ *adj* enthusiastic (the usual word).

zebra /'zebrə/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) wild animal of Africa like a horse, with dark stripes on its body.

zebra crossing, street-crossing marked with broad white stripes, at which pedestrians have priority over traffic.

Zen /zen/ *n* [U] form of Buddhism, teaching that enlightenment comes from meditation and intuition, with less dependence on the scriptures.

zen-ith /'zeniθ/ *US*: 'zi:nθ/ *n* [C] **1** part of the sky directly overhead. **2** (*fig*) highest point (of one's fame, fortunes, etc): *at the ~ of his career*.

zero /'ziərəʊ/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) **1** the figure 0. **2** the point between the positive (+) and negative (−) on a scale, esp on a thermometer: *The thermometer fell to ~ last night. It was ten degrees below ~ (eg −10°C or −10°F)*. ⇨ absolute zero.

'zero hour, time at which (military) operations are to begin: *Z~ hour was 3am*.

zest /zest/ *n* [U] **1** great interest or pleasure: *He entered into our plans with ~*. **2** (often with *a, an*) pleasing or stimulating quality or flavour: *Garlic adds ~ to a stew*.

zig-zag /'zigzæg/ *n* [C] line or path which turns right and left alternately at sharp (equal or unequal) angles: (as an *adjective*) *a ~ path up the hillside*. □ *adv* in a zigzag. □ *vi* (-gg-) go in a zigzag: *The drunken man ~ged down the street*.

zinc /zɪŋk/ *n* [U] hard, bluish-white metal (symbol **Zn**) used in alloys and in coating iron sheets, etc to protect against rust.

zip /zip/ *n* [C] **1** sound as of a bullet going through the air, or of the sudden tearing of cloth. **2** = zip-fastener. □ *vt* (-pp-) open or close by means of a zip-fastener.

zip-fastener /'zip fɑ:snə(r)/ *US*: fæz-/ *n* [C] (*informal* = **zip-per** /'zipə(r)/) device for locking together two toothed metal or plastic edges by means of a sliding tab, used for fastening articles of clothing, bags, etc.

zip code /'zip kəʊd/ *n* (US) = postcode.

zither /'ziðə(r)/ *n* [C] musical instrument with many strings on a flat sounding-board, played with a plectrum or the fingers.

zo-diac /'zəʊdiæk/ *n* belt of the heavens extending about 8° on each side of the path followed by the sun and containing the path of the planets, divided into 12 equal parts known as the *signs of the ~*, named after 12 groups of stars.

zone /zəʊn/ *n* [C] **1** belt, band or stripe going round, and distinguished by colour, appearance, etc. **2** one of the five parts into which the earth's surface is divided by imaginary lines parallel to the equator. **3** area with particular features, purpose or use: *the war ~; the 'danger ~; a smokeless ~*, (usually urban) areas in

which only smokeless fuels may be used. **4** (US) particular area in which certain postal, telephone, etc rates are charged. □ *vi* encircle, divide, mark, with, into, or as with a zone.

zonal /-nl/ *adj* relating to, arranged in, zones.

zoo /zu:/ *n* [C] (*pl* ~s) zoological gardens.

zo-ologi-cal /,zəʊ'blɒdʒɪkl/ *adj* of zoology: ~ gardens, place where many kinds of animals are kept for exhibition.

zo-ol-ogist /zəʊ'blɒdʒɪst/ *n* [C] student of, expert in, zoology.

zo-ol-ogy /zəʊ'blɒdʒɪ/ *n* [U] science of the structure, forms and distribution of animals.

zoom /zu:m/ *n* [U] (low, deep humming sound of the) sudden upward flight of an aircraft. □ *vi* **1** (of aircraft) move upwards at high speed. **2** (of a camera with a zoom lens): ~ *in/out*, cause the object being photographed to appear nearer/further.

'zoom lens, (on a camera), one with continuously variable focal length.

zuc-chini /zu:'ki:ni/ (*pl* ~s or unchanged) (*esp US*) = courgette.



Appendix 1 Irregular Verbs

Note: Full phonetic transcriptions of the irregular past tense and past participle forms are given in the entries on the infinitive forms in the dictionary.

Infinitive	Past Tense	Past Participle
abide	abode, abided	abode, abided
arise	arose	arisen
awake	awoke	awake, awoke
be	was	been
bear	bore	borne, born
beat	beat	beaten
become	became	become
befall	befell	befallen
beget	begot	begotten
begin	began	begun
behold	beheld	beheld
bend	bent	bent, bended
bereave	bereaved, bereft	bereaved, bereft
beseech	besought	besought
beset	beset	beset
bet	bet, betted	bet, betted
bid	bade, bid	bidden, bid
bind	bound	bound
bite	bit	bitten, bit
bleed	bled	bled
blend	blended	blended
bless	blessed, blest	blessed, blest
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
breed	bred	bred
bring	brought	brought
broadcast	broadcast	broadcast
build	built	built
burn	burnt, burned	burnt, burned
burst	burst	burst
buy	bought	bought
cast	cast	cast
catch	caught	caught
chide	chid	chidden, chid
choose	chose	chosen
cleave	clove, cleft	cloven, cleft
cling	clung	clung
clothe	clothed	clothed
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
creep	crept	crept
crow	crowed	crowed
cut	cut	cut
dare	dared	dared
deal	dealt	dealt
dig	dug	dug
do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn
dream	dreamed, dreamt	dreamed, dreamt
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
dwelt	dwelt	dwelt
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feed	fed	fed
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought

Infinitive

find
flee
fling
fly
forbear
forbid
forecast
foresee
foretell
forget
forgive
forsake
forswear
freeze
get
gild
give
go
grind
grow
hamstring
hang
have
hear
heave
hew
hide
hit
hold
hurt
inlay
keep
kneel
knit
know
lay
lead
learn
leave
lend
let
lie
light
lose
make
mean
meet
melt
mislay
mislead
misspell
mistake
misunderstand
mow
outdo
overcome
overdo
overhang
overhear
overlay
override
overrun

Past Tense

found
fled
flung
flew
forbore
forbade, forbad
forecast, forecasted
foresaw
foretold
forgot
forgave
forsook
forsook
froze
got
gilded, gilt
gave
went
ground
grew
hamstrung
hung, hanged
had
heard
heaved, hove
hewed
hid
hit
hold
hurt
inlaid
kept
knelt
knitted, knit
knew
laid
led
learnt, learned
left
lent
let
lay
lighted, lit
lost
made
meant
met
melted
mislaid
misled
misspelt
mistook
misunderstood
mowed
outdid
overcame
overdid
overhung
overheard
overlaid
overrode
overran

Past Participle

found
fled
flung
flown
forborne
forbidden
forecast, forecasted
foreseen
foretold
forgotten
forgiven
forsaken
forsook
frozen
got, (US) gotten
gilded
given
gone
ground
grown
hamstrung
hung, hanged
had
heard
heaved, hove
hewed, hewn
hidden, hid
hit
held
hurt
inlaid
kept
knelt
knitted, knit
known
laid
led
learnt, learned
left
lent
let
lain
lighted, lit
lost
made
meant
met
melted, molten
mislaid
misled
misspelt
mistaken
misunderstood
mown, (US) mowed
outdone
overcome
overdone
overhung
overheard
overlaid
overridden
overrun

Infinitive

oversee
 overshoot
 oversleep
 overtake
 overthrow
 overwork
 partake
 pay
 prove
 put
 read
 rebuild
 recast
 redo
 relay
 remake
 rend
 repay
 rerun
 reset
 retell
 rewrite
 rid
 ride
 ring
 rise
 run
 saw
 say
 see
 seek
 sell
 send
 set
 sew
 shake
 shave
 shear
 shed
 shine
 shoe
 shoot
 show
 shred
 shrink
 shut
 sing
 sink
 sit
 slay
 sleep
 slide
 sling
 slink
 slit
 smell
 smite
 sow
 speak
 speed
 spell
 spend

Past Tense

oversaw
 overshot
 overslept
 overtook
 overthrew
 overworked
 partook
 paid
 proved
 put
 read/red/
 rebuilt
 recast
 redid
 relaid
 remade
 rent
 repaid
 reran
 reset
 retold
 rewrote
 rid, ridden
 rode
 rang
 rose
 ran
 sawed
 said
 saw
 sought
 sold
 sent
 set
 sewed
 shook
 shaved
 sheared
 shed
 shone /ʃɒn/ (US) /ʃəʊn/
 shod
 shot
 showed
 shredded
 shrank, shrunk
 shut
 sang
 sank
 sat
 slew
 slept
 slid
 slung
 slunk
 slit
 smelt
 smote
 sowed
 spoke
 sped, speeded
 spelt, spelled
 spent

Past Participle

overseen
 overshot
 overslept
 overtaken
 overthrown
 overworked, overwrought
 partaken
 paid
 proved, proven
 put
 read/red/
 rebuilt
 recast
 redone
 relaid
 remade
 rent
 repaid
 rerun
 reset
 retold
 rewritten
 rid, ridden
 ridden
 rung
 risen
 run
 sawn (sawed)
 said
 seen
 sought
 sold
 sent
 set
 sewn
 shaken
 shaved, shaven
 shorn, sheared
 shed
 shone /ʃɒn/ (US) /ʃəʊn/
 shod
 shot
 shown, showed
 shredded
 shrunk, shrunken
 shut
 sung
 sunk, sunken
 sat
 slain
 slept
 slid, slidden
 slung
 slunk
 slit
 smelt
 smitten
 sown, sowed
 spoke
 sped, speeded
 spelt, spelled
 spent

Infinitive

spill
spin
spit
split
spoil
spread
spring
stand
stave
steal
stick
sting
stink
strew
stride
strike
string
strive
swear
sweep
swell
swim
swing
take
teach
tear
tell
think
thrive
throw
thrust
tread
understand
undertake
undo
upset
wake
waylay
wear
weave
wed
weep
win
wind
withdraw
withhold
withstand
work
wring
write

Past Tense

spilt, spilled
spun, span
spat
split
spoilt, spoiled
spread
sprang
stood
staved, stove
stole
stuck
stung
stank, stunk
strewed
strode
struck
strung
strove
swore
swept
swelled
swam
swung
took
taught
tore
told
thought
throve, thrived
threw
thrust
trod
understood
undertook
undid
upset
woke
waylaid
wore
wove
wedded
wept
won
winded, wound
withdrew
withheld
withstood
worked
wrung
wrote

Past Participle

spilt, spilled
spun
spat
split
spoilt, spoiled
spread
sprung
stood
staved, stove
stolen
stuck
stung
stunk
strewn, strewed
stridden
struck, stricken
strung
striven
sworn
swept
swollen, swelled
swum
swung
taken
taught
torn
told
thought
thriven, thrived
thrown
thrust
trodden
understood
undertaken
undone
upset
woken
waylaid
worn
woven
wedded, wed
wept
won
winded, wound
withdrawn
withheld
withstood
worked
wrung
written

Appendix 2 Common abbreviations

- A-bomb** atomic bomb
A/A Alcoholics Anonymous; Automobile Association
AA/A Amateur Athletics Association
a/c account
acc(t) account
ad(vt) advertisement
A/D *Anno Domini* in the year of the Lord
add(r) address
A/G/M Annual General Meeting
a'm *ante meridiem* before noon
amp ampere(s)
anon anonymous
ANZAC /'ænzæk/ Australia and New Zealand Army Corps
appro /'æprəʊ/ approval
approx approximately
Apr April
arr arrival; arrives
ASEAN Association of South East Asian Nations
assoc associate; association
asst assistant
Aug August
A/V Audio-Visual; Authorized Version (of the Bible)
Av(e) Avenue
A W O/L absent without leave

b born
b & b bed and breakfast
B/A (GB) Bachelor of Arts; British Airways
B/B/C British Broadcasting Corporation
B/C Before Christ; British Council
bk book
bldg(s) building(s)
b/o body odour; box office
Br Brother
Brig Brigadier
Brit Britain; British
Bro(s) Brother(s)
B Sc /bi: es 'si:/ (GB) Bachelor of Science
B/S/T British Summer Time

C Centigrade; (Roman) 100
c cent(s); century; *circa* about; cubic
ca *circa* about, approximately
Capt Captain
Cath Catholic
c/c cubic centimetre(s)
cc *capita* chapters; centuries
C/D *Corps Diplomatique* Diplomatic Service
Cdr Commander
cert certificate; certified
c/f *confer* compare with
cg centigram
ch central heating
ch(ap) chapter
ch/w constant hot water
CI/A (US) Central Intelligence Agency
CI/D (GB) Criminal Investigation Department

C-in-1C Commander-in-Chief
cl class; centilitre(s)
cm centimetre(s)
Co (*commerce*) Company
c/o care of
C O/D Cash on Delivery
C of 'E /,si: əv 'i:/ Church of England
COI (GB) Central Office of Information
Coll College
concl concluded; conclusion
Cons (GB) Conservative (political party)
cont contents; continued
Co-op /'kəʊ ɒp/ Co-operative (Society)
Corp Corporation
cp compare with
Cpl Corporal
Cres(c) Crescent
cu cubic
cwt hundredweight

D Roman 500
d died
D/D Doctor of Divinity
D/D/T *Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane* insecticide
Dec December
dec deceased
deg degree(s)
dep departs; departure; deputy
Dept Department
diag diagram
diff difference; different
Dip Diploma
Dip Ed /,dɪp 'ed/ Dipoma in Education
Dir Director
***DIY** do it yourself ⇨ **do²(1)**
D/J dinner jacket; disc jockey
D N/A *deoxyribonucleic acid* basic constituent of the gene
dol dollar(s)
doz dozen
D Phil /,di: 'fɪl/ Doctor of Philosophy
Dr Doctor; Drive (i.e. small road)
dr dram(s)

E east
EE/C European Economic Community (the Common Market)
EFTA /'eftə/ European Free Trade Association
e/g *exempli gratia* for example, for instance
encl enclosed
E N E east northeast
Eng Engineer(ing); England; English
E/R *Elizabeth Regina* Queen Elizabeth
E S E east southeast
ES/P Extra-Sensory Perception
Esq Esquire
eta estimated time of arrival
et al /et 'æl/ *et alii* and other people;
et alia and other things
etc /et 'etɹə/ *et cetera* and the rest; and all the others

Appendix 2 Common abbreviations

etd estimated time of departure

eve evening

excl excluding; exclusive

F Fahrenheit; Fellow

f foot; feet; female; feminine

F/A Football Association

FA/O Food and Agricultural Organization

FBI (US) Federal Bureau of Investigation;

Federation of British Industries

Feb February

Fed Federal; Federated; Federation

fem female; feminine

FIFA /'fi:fə/ International Federation
of Football Associations

fig figurative; figure

fl fluid; floor

F/O (GB) Foreign Office

fol(l) following

for foreign

Fr Father; Franc; France; French

Fri Friday

FR/S Fellow of the Royal Society

ft foot; feet

furn furnished

fwd forward

gal(l) gallon(s)

G/B Great Britain

Gdn(s) Garden(s)

Gen General

G/I (US) enlisted soldier

Gk Greek

gm gram(s)

GMT Greenwich Mean Time

gov(t) government

G/P General Practitioner ⇨ **general**

GPO General Post Office

gt great

h hour; height

H-bomb Hydrogen bomb

H/M His/Her Majesty

HM/S His/Her Majesty's Ship

HMS/O His/Her Majesty's Stationery Office

H of C House of Commons

H of L House of Lords

Hon Honorary; Honourable

hosp hospital

H/P Hire Purchase; Horse Power

HQ Headquarters

hr hour(s)

H R H His/Her Royal Highness

I Island; Roman *one*

ib; ibid *ibidem* in the same place

i.e *id est* which is to say, in other words

ILO International Labour Organization

IM/F International Monetary Fund

in inch(es)

Inc Incorporated

incl including; inclusive

info /'ɪnfəʊ/ information

Inst Institute

int interior; internal; international

intro introduction

IO/U I owe you

IQ *Intelligence Quotient* comparative
measure of intelligence

IR/A Irish Republican Army

Is Islands

IT/V (GB) independent television

Jan January

Jnr; Jr Junior

Jul July

Jun June; Junior

kg kilogram(s)

KG/B the USSR Committee for State Security

km kilometre(s)

K/O knock-out

k p/h kilometres per hour

kw kilowatt(s)

L lake; little; Roman 50

Lab (GB) Labour (political party)

lang language

lat latitude

lb pound(s) (weight)

Lib (GB) Liberal (political party); Liberation

L/P long-playing (record)

LS/D *lysergic acid diethylamide*
drug inducing hallucinations

Lt Lieutenant

Ltd Limited

lux luxury

m male; married; metre(s); mile(s); million

M/A Master of Arts

Mar March

masc masculine

math /mæθ/ (US) mathematics

maths /mæθs/ (GB) mathematics

max maximum

Mc Megacycle(s)

METO /'mi:təʊ/ Middle East Treaty
Organization

mg milligram(s)

MI/5 (GB) National Security Division of
Military Intelligence

min minimum

misc miscellaneous

mkt market

ml mile(s), millilitre(s)

mm millimetre(s)

M/O Mail Order; Medical Officer;
Money Order

mod moderate; modern

mod cons /,mɒd 'kɒnz/ modern conveniences

Mon Monday

MO/T (GB) Ministry of Transport (vehicle
test)

M/P Member of Parliament (House of
Commons); Military Police

mpg miles per gallon

- mph** miles per hour
Mr, Mrs, Ms ⇔ dictionary entries
MSc /em es 'si:/ Master of Science
Mt Mount
N north
NATO /'neɪtəʊ/ North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NB *nota bene* take special note of
NE northeast
NHS (GB) National Health Service
NNE north northeast
NNW north northwest
no(s) number(s)
Nov November
nr near
NSPCC (GB) National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
NT New Testament
NW northwest

OAS (US) Organization of American States
OAU Organization for African Unity
Oct October
OHMS On Her/His Majesty's Service
ono or nearest offer
OPEC Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
opp opposite
OT Old Testament
oz ounce(s)

p page; penny, pence; per
pa *per annum* (for) each year
para(s) paragraph(s)
P/C Police Constable; (GB) Privy Councillor; (US) Peace Corps
pd paid
PDSA People's Dispensary for Sick Animals
P/E physical education
P/G Paying Guest
PhD /pi: etf 'di:/ Doctor of Philosophy
Pk Park
pkt packet
Pl Place
P/M Prime Minister
p/m *post meridiem* after noon; per month
PO Post Office; Postal Order
PO Box Post Office Box
pop popular; population
poss possible; possibly
POW Prisoner of War
pp pages
pr pair; price
P/R Public Relations
Pres President
pro /prəʊ/ professional
PRO Public Records Office; Public Relations Officer
pro tem /prəʊ 'tem/ *pro tempore* for the time being
Prof (*informally* /prof/) Professor
pron pronounced; pronunciation

Prov Province
Ps Psalm
P/S Postscript
pt part; payment; pint; point
P/T Physical Training
P/TA Parent-Teacher Association
PTO Please turn over

qt quart
Qu Queen; Question
qv *quod vide* which may be referred to

R River; Royal
r radius; right
R/A Rear-Admiral; Royal Academy; Royal Academician
RAC Royal Automobile Club
RAF (*also* /ræf/) Royal Air Force
R/C Red Cross; Roman Catholic
Rd Road
rec(d) received
ref referee /ref/; reference; refer(red)
Rep repertory /rep/; Representative; Republic(an)
ret(d) retired
rev revolution
Rev(d) Reverend
RIP *requiescat/requiescant in pace* may he/they rest in peace
rm room
RM Royal Marines
R/N Royal Navy
rpm revolutions per minute
RSVP *répondez s'il vous plaît* please reply
RSPCA Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
rt right
Rt Hon Right Honourable
Rt Rev Right Reverend

S south
sae stamped addressed envelope
SALT /sɔ:lt/ Strategic Arms Limitation Talks
Sat Saturday
s/c self-contained
Sch School
SE southeast
SEATO /'si:təʊ/ South East Asia Treaty Organisation
sec second(ary); secretary
SEN State Enrolled Nurse
Sen Senate; Senator; Senior
Sept September
S/F Science Fiction
sgd signed
SHAPE Supreme Headquarters of Allied Powers in Europe
Sn(r) Senior
Soc Society
Sq Square
Sr Senior; Sister
SRN State Registered Nurse
SSE south southeast

Appendix 2 Common abbreviations

- SSW** south southwest
St Saint; Street
Str Strait; Street
sub(s) subscription; substitute
Sun Sunday
Supt Superintendent
SW southwest
- T'B** Tuberculosis
Tech /tek/ Technical (College)
tel telephone
temp temperature; temporary /temp/
Ter(r) Terrace; Territory
Thurs Thursday
TN'T *Trinitrotoluene* explosive
trans translated
TU Trade Union
TU'C (GB) Trades Union Congress
Tues Tuesday
T'V television
- U'D'I** unilateral declaration of independence
UEFA /ju:'eifə/ Union of European Football Associations
UFO /'ju:fəʊ/ unidentified flying object
U'K United Kingdom
U'H'F ultra high frequency
U'N United Nations
UNCTAD /'ʌnktæd/ United Nations Conference on Trade Development
UNESCO /ju:'neskəʊ/ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF /'ju:nisef/ United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (or United Nations Children's Fund)
Univ University
UNO /'ju:nəʊ/ United Nations Organization
- UNRWA** /'ʌnwə/ United Nations Relief and Works Agency
- V** Roman 5; Victory; Volt
vac /væk/ vacation
VAT /væt/ Value Added Tax, ⇨ value(3)
V'C Vice Chairman; Vice Chancellor
V'D Venereal Disease
V'H'F very high frequency
V'I'P very important person
viz /vɪz/ *videlicet* namely
vol volume
vs versus
V'S'O (GB) Voluntary Service Overseas
- W** west
w watt(s); week; width; with
w'c water closet
WCC World Council of Churches
W'H'O (also /hu/) World Health Organization
wk week; work
WNW west northwest
wpm words per minute
WRA'C Women's Royal Army Corps
WRA'F Women's Royal Air Force
WRN'S (also /renz/) Women's Royal Naval Service
WSW west southwest
wt weight
- X** Roman *ten*; a kiss; an unknown number, thing, name, etc
Xmas Christmas
- YH'A** Youth Hostels Association
YMCA Young Men's Christian Association
yr year; your
YWC'A Young Women's Christian Association

Appendix 3 Numbers, weights and measures

Note: a/one (as in 'a/one hundred'): 'a /ə/ hundred' is a less formal usage than 'one /wʌn/ hundred'.

Cardinal

1 one /wʌn/
2 two /tu:/
3 three /θri:/
4 four /fɔ:(r)/
5 five /faɪv/
6 six /sɪks/
7 seven /'sevn/
8 eight /eɪt/
9 nine /naɪn/
10 ten /ten/
11 eleven /'levn/
12 twelve /twelv/
13 thirteen /'θɜ:'ti:n/
14 fourteen /'fɔ:'ti:n/
15 fifteen /'fɪf'ti:n/
16 sixteen /'sɪk'sti:n/
17 seventeen /'sevn'ti:n/
18 eighteen /'eɪ'ti:n/
19 nineteen /'naɪn'ti:n/
20 twenty /'twenti/
21 twenty-one /'twenti 'wʌn/
22 twenty-two /'twenti 'tu:/
23 twenty-three /'twenti 'θri:/
30 thirty /'θɜ:ti/
38 thirty-eight /'θɜ:ti 'eɪt/
40 forty /'fɔ:ti/
50 fifty /'fɪfti/
60 sixty /'sɪksti/
70 seventy /'sevn'ti/
80 eighty /'eɪti/
90 ninety /'naɪnti/
100 a/one hundred /ə, wʌn 'hʌndrəd/
1000 a/one thousand /ə, wʌn 'θaʊznd/
10 000 ten thousand /ten 'θaʊznd/
100 000 a/one hundred thousand /ə, wʌn 'hʌndrəd 'θaʊznd/
1 000 000 a/one million /ə, wʌn 'mɪljən/

Vulgar Fractions

$\frac{1}{8}$ an/one-eighth /ən, wʌn 'eɪtθ/
$\frac{1}{4}$ a/one quarter /ə, wʌn 'kwɔ:tə(r)/
$\frac{1}{3}$ a/one third /ə, wʌn 'θɜ:d/
$\frac{1}{2}$ a/one half /ə, wʌn 'ha:f US: 'hæf/
$\frac{3}{4}$ three-quarters /θri: 'kwɔ:təz/

Ordinal

1st first /fɜ:st/
2nd second /'sekənd/
3rd third /θɜ:d/
4th fourth /fɔ:θ/
5th fifth /fɪfθ/
6th sixth /sɪksθ/
7th seventh /'sevnθ/
8th eighth /eɪtθ/
9th ninth /naɪnθ/
10th tenth /tenθ/
11th eleventh /'levnθ/
12th twelfth /twelfθ/
13th thirteenth /'θɜ:'ti:nθ/
14th fourteenth /'fɔ:'ti:nθ/
15th fifteenth /'fɪf'ti:nθ/
16th sixteenth /'sɪk'sti:nθ/
17th seventeenth /'sevn'ti:nθ/
18th eighteenth /'eɪ'ti:nθ/
19th nineteenth /'naɪn'ti:nθ/
20th twentieth /'twentɪəθ/
21st twenty-first /'twenti 'fɜ:st/
22nd twenty-second /'twenti 'sekənd/
23rd twenty-third /'twenti 'θɜ:d/
30th thirtieth /'θɜ:tiəθ/
38th thirty-eighth /'θɜ:ti 'eɪtθ/
40th fortieth /'fɔ:tiəθ/
50th fiftieth /'fɪftɪəθ/
60th sixtieth /'sɪkstiəθ/
70th seventieth /'sevn'tɪəθ/
80th eightieth /'eɪtɪəθ/
90th ninetieth /'naɪntɪəθ/
100th a/one hundredth /ə, wʌn 'hʌndrədθ/
1000th a/one thousandth /ə, wʌn 'θaʊzndθ/
10 000th ten thousandth /ten 'θaʊzndθ/
100 000th a/one hundred thousandth /ə, wʌn 'hʌndrəd 'θaʊzndθ/
1 000 000th a/one millionth /ə, wʌn 'mɪljənθ/

Decimal Fractions

0.25 (nought) point two 'five
0.33 (nought) point three 'three
0.5 (nought) point 'five
0.75 (nought) point seven 'five

Collective Numbers

6 a half dozen/half a dozen
12 a/one dozen (24 is two dozen not two dozens)

20 a/one score
144 a/one gross /grəʊs/

Time of day

GB

- 7.00 *seven o'clock/seven am* /,eɪ 'em/
or *seven pm* /ɪ pi: 'em/
8.15 *a quarter past eight/eight fifteen*
9.45 *a quarter to ten/nine forty-five*
4.30 *half past four/four thirty*
(informal) *half four*
5.10 *ten (minutes) past five/five ten*
6.25 *twenty-five (minutes) past six/five and*
twenty past six/six twenty-five
6.35 *twenty-five (minutes) to seven/five and*
twenty (minutes) to seven/six thirty-five
5.40 *twenty (minutes) to six/five forty*
3.50 *ten (minutes) to four/three fifty*
7.55 *five (minutes) to eight/seven fifty-five*
9.57 *three minutes to ten/nine fifty-seven*
2.03 *three minutes past two/two oh three*

US

- After* is usual where *GB* has *past*:
5.10 *ten after five*
5.15 *a quarter after five*
9.30 'nine thirty' is more usual than 'half past nine'
Of is common where *GB* has *to*:
7.45 *a quarter of eight*
7.55 *five of eight*

Twenty-four hour clock

- 07.00 (,oh) ,seven 'hundred hours
= 7.00 a.m.
12.00 ,twelve 'hundred hours
= midday/noon
13.45 ,thirteen 'forty-'five = 1.45 p.m.
19.00 ,nineteen 'hundred hours = 7.00 p.m.
24.00 ,twenty-'four 'hundred hours
= midnight

Dates

- 55 BC *fifty-five* BC /ɪ bi: 'si:/
AD 55 AD /,eɪ 'di:/ *fifty-five*
GB
3(rd) January 1985, often abbreviated to
3 Jan. '85 or to 3/1/85
US
January 3(rd) 1985, or Jan. 3, 1985 or 1/3/85

The Metric system

METRIC	length	GB & US
10 millimetres (mm)	= 1 centimetre (cm)	= 0.3937 inches (in)
100 centimetres	= 1 metre (m)	= 39.37 inches or 1.094 yards (yd)
1000 metres	= 1 kilometre (km)	= 0.62137 miles or about $\frac{5}{8}$ mile

surface

100 square metres (sq m)	= 1 are (a)	= 0.0247 acres
100 ares	= 1 hectare (ha)	= 2.471 acres
100 hectares	= 1 square kilometre (km ²)	= 0.386 square miles

weight

10 milligrams (mg)	= 1 centigram (cg)	= 0.1543 grains
100 centigrams	= 1 gram (g)	= 15.4323 grains
1000 grams	= 1 kilogram (kg)	= 2.2046 pounds
1000 kilograms	= 1 tonne	= 19.684 cwt

capacity

1000 millilitres (ml)	= 1 litre (l)	= 1.75 pints (= 2.101 US pints)
10 litres	= 1 dekalitre (dl)	= 2.1997 gallons (= 2.63 US gallons)

Avoirdupois weight

GB and US		METRIC
437½ grains	= 1 grain (gr)	= 0.0648 grams (gm)
16 drams (dr)	= 1 ounce (oz)	= 28.35 grams
16 ounces	= 1 ounce	= 28.35 grams
14 pounds	= 1 pound (lb)	= 0.454 kilograms (kg)
2 stone	= 1 stone	= 6.356 kilograms
4 quarters	= 1 quarter	= 12.7 kilograms
112 pounds	= 1 hundredweight (cwt)	= 50.8 kilograms
100 pounds	= 1 cwt	= 50.8 kilograms
20 cwt	= 1 short cwt	= 45.4 kilograms
2000 pounds	= 1 ton	= 1016.04 kilograms
2240 pounds	= 1 short ton	= 0.907 metric tons
	= 1 long ton	= 1.016 metric tons

Linear measure

GB and US		METRIC
12 inches	= 1 inch (in)	= 25.3995 millimetres (mm)
3 feet	= 1 foot (ft)	= 30.479 centimetres (cm)
5½ yards	= 1 yard (yd)	= 0.9144 metres (m)
22 yards	= 1 rod, pole, or perch	= 5.0292 metres
220 yards	= 1 chain (ch)	= 20.1168 metres
8 furlongs	= 1 furlong (fur)	= 201.168 metres
1760 yards	= 1 mile	= 1.6093 kilometres (km)
3 miles	= 1 mile	= 1.6093 kilometres
	= 1 league	= 4.8279 kilometres

Time

60 seconds	= 1 minute	4 weeks, or 28 days	= 1 lunar month
60 minutes	= 1 hour	52 weeks, 1 day; or 13	
24 hours	= 1 day	lunar months, 1 day	= 1 year
7 days	= 1 week	365 days, 6 hours	= 1 (Julian) year

GB Money

£ p (pounds and pence) 100 pence (100p) = 1 pound (£1)

amount	coin
½p	a halfpenny /'heipni/, half a penny
1p	a penny, (<i>informal</i>) one p /pi:/
2p	twopence /'tʌpəns/, two pence, (<i>informal</i>) two p /pi:/
5p	a fivepenny piece
10p	a tenpenny piece
50p	a fifty pence piece

	note
£1	a pound note
£5, £10, £20	a five/ten/twenty pound note;
£3.82	(<i>£</i>) a fiver/a tenner
	three pounds eighty-two pence

Appendix 4 Punctuation

- full stop** (.) (US = period), used to mark the end of a sentence:
Edward walked into the hotel.
- question mark** (?) used at the end of a direct question:
Who was the last to arrive?
 (Note: It is not used at the end of an indirect question:
He asked who had been the first to arrive.)
- exclamation mark** (!) (US also exclamation point), used at the end of a sentence expressing anger, amazement or other strong emotion:
Get out!
What a wonderful surprise!
- comma** (,) **1** used to separate items in a list:
Red, pink, yellow and white flowers filled the vase.
2 used after adverbial clauses and phrases, and phrases without a verb, that come before the main clause:
When the sun shines brightly, the world seems a happier place.
Happy and contented, she fell asleep.
3 used before and after any element that interrupts the sentence:
The fire, although it had been put out, was still very hot.
4 used before and after a part of a sentence which gives more information about the subject:
The Alps, which are the highest mountains in Europe, are a popular centre for skiers.
5 sometimes used to separate main clauses joined by a conjunction.
We looked forward to meeting him, but found him very unpleasant.
- colon** (:) (*formal*) **1** used after a main clause where the following statement illustrates the content of the clause:
The garden had been neglected: it was full of weeds.
2 used before a long list:
Your shopping list should include the following items: sugar, bread, coffee, meat, vegetables.
- semicolon** (;) **1** used to separate two parts of a sentence which are closely related.
He had never been to Russia; it had always been his ambition.
2 used to separate parts of a sentence already separated by commas.
There are two facts to consider: first, the weather; second, the expense.
- dash** (—) **1** used instead of a colon or semicolon to make the writing more dramatic:
People crowded in, ambulances arrived, flames roared into the air—it was chaos.

2 used to isolate part of a sentence as a comment or for extra information:

The idea—so I believe—came from my brother.

apostrophe (') **1** used with 's' to indicate the possessive:

(a) singular noun: *the dog's* /dɒgz/ *bone*.

(b) singular noun ending in 's':

the princess's /prɪn'sesɪz/ *smile*.

(c) singular proper noun ending in 's' (two possible forms):

King Charles's /ˈtʃɑːlɪz/ *crown*; *King Charles'* /ˈtʃɑːl/ *crown*.

(d) plural noun: *students'* /ˈstjuːdnts/ *books*.

irregular plural: *men's* /menz/ *jackets*.

2 used in a contracted form to indicate the omission of letters or figures:

I'm (= I am); *he's* (he is/has); *they'd* (= they would/had);
In '77 (= 1977).

3 used with 's' to form the plural of a letter, a figure or an abbreviation, when these are used as words in their own right.

In modern usage it is often omitted after a figure or a capital letter:

In the 1960's/the 1960s;

MP's/MPs;

He can't pronounce his r's.

hyphen (-) (Note: It must not be confused with the dash, which separates parts of a sentence. The hyphen is half the length of the dash.)

1 used to form a compound from two other words:

hard-hearted; *radio-telescope*; *fork-lift truck*.

2 used to form a compound from a prefix:

pre-recorded; *ex-president*; *anti-Fascist*.

3 used to form a compound word from two other words which are separated by a preposition:

mother-in-law; *out-of-date*.

4 (esp GB) sometimes used to separate a prefix ending in a vowel from a word beginning with that same vowel:

co-ordination; *re-elect*; *pre-eminent*.

5 used in word-division at the end of a written line.

quotation marks (") (Note: (GB) usually 'Fire!' (single); (US) normally "Fire!" (double). Also called *inverted commas* or *speech marks*.)

1 used to enclose words spoken:

'Come home soon,' he said.

2 used to enclose a word or phrase that is unusual, uncommon, or to separate it from the other words:

Next, the clay pot had to be 'fired'.

We can use 'make up a story' or 'make up an excuse'.

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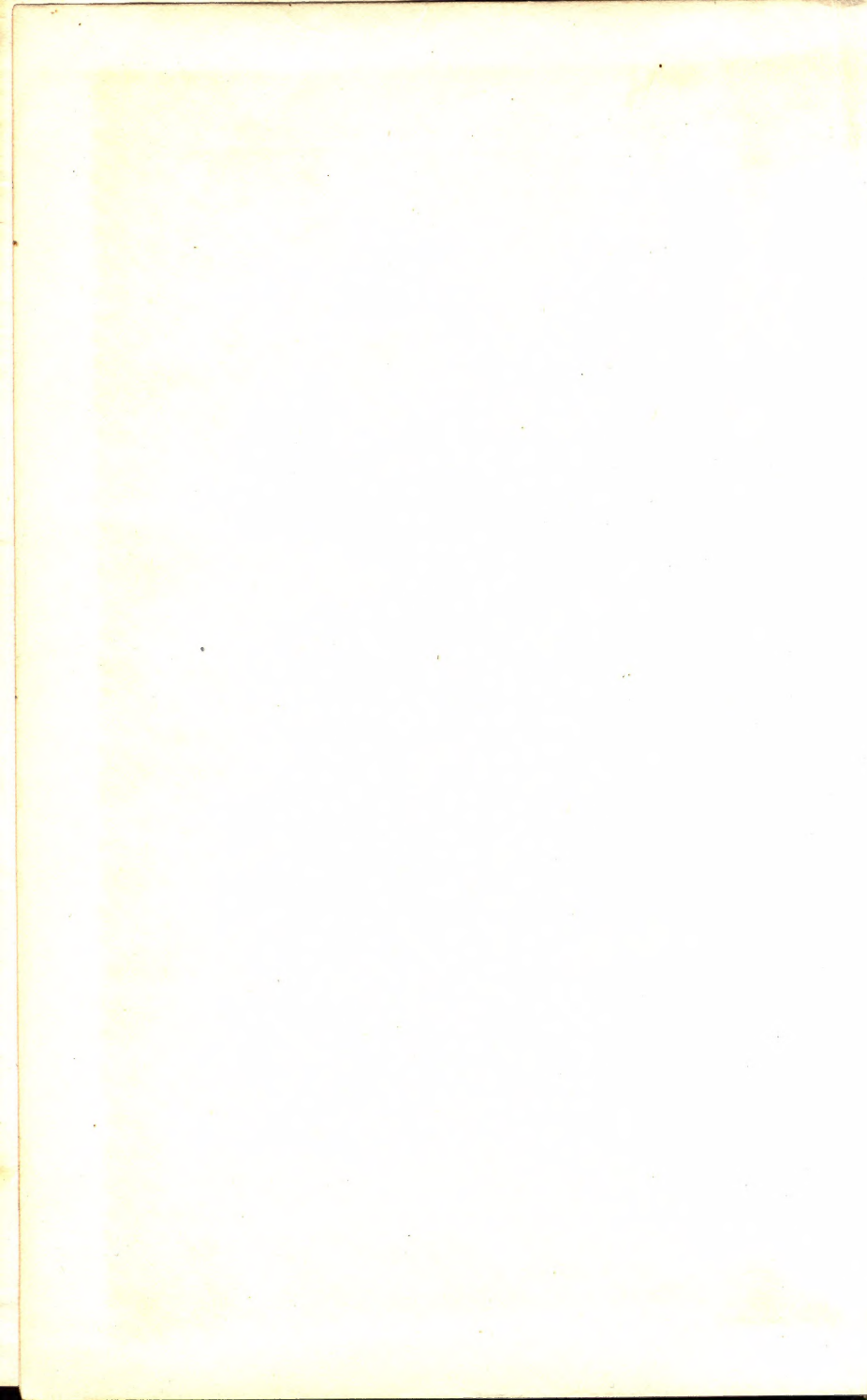
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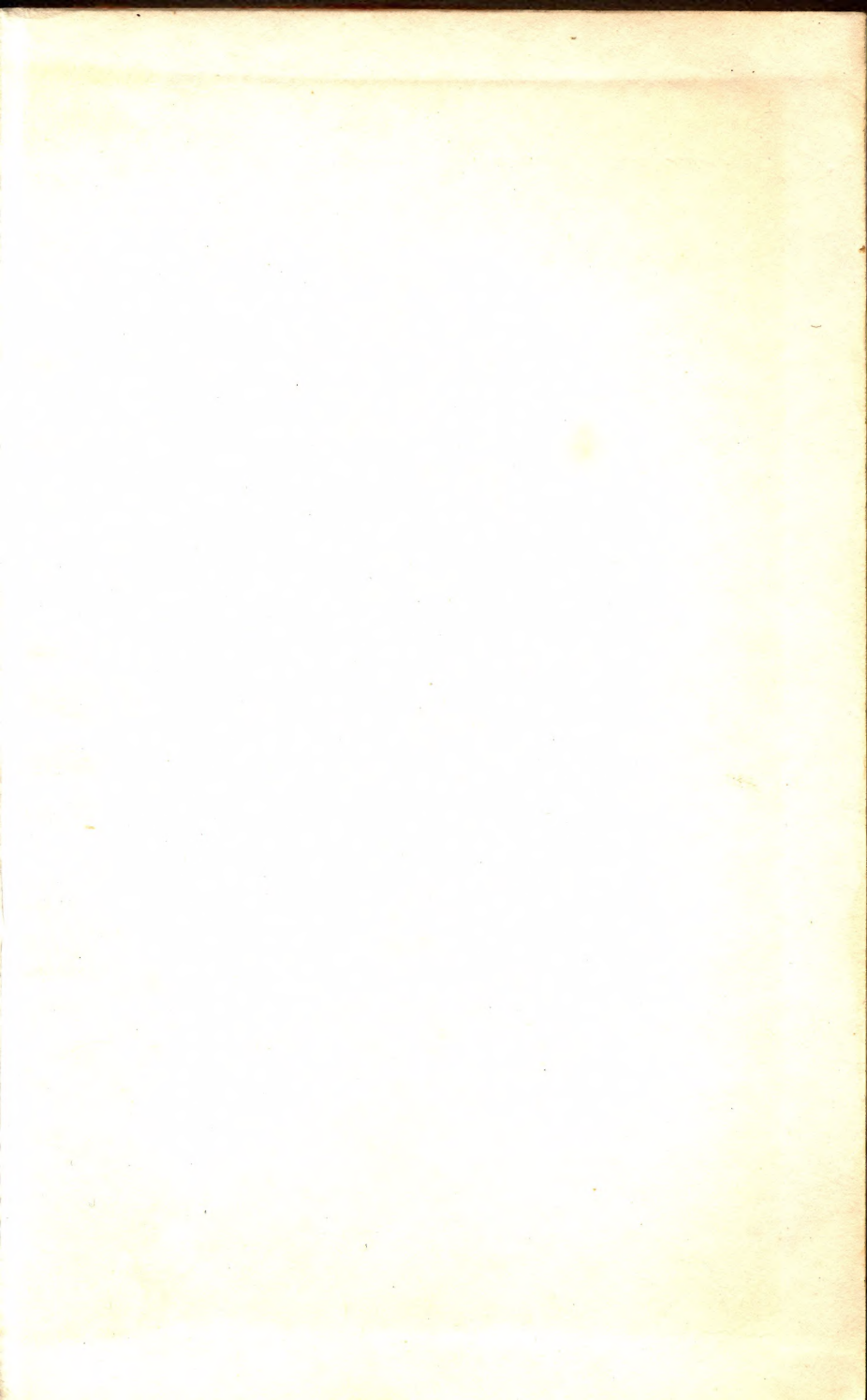
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